



What God Has (And Has Not) Joined Together

Introduction (1)

Pursuing Sound Doctrine

Our 2026
Theme

Introduction

- Today, we begin our 2026 theme, What God Has (and has not) Joined Together
- This theme is based on **Matthew 19:6**, where Jesus was addressing God's intent for the permanency of marriage.
- We will address the context of this passage in a future lesson

Introduction

- But, in this lesson, I want to focus on the phrase, “What God has joined together.”
- In scripture we find things that God joined together. These are doctrines and actions that are compatible with one another. For example:
 - **Acts 2:38** – Repent AND be baptized
 - **Mark 16:15** – Go AND preach
 - **Matthew 26:41** – Watch AND pray
 - **Luke 10:37** – Go AND do likewise
- BUT, within the religious world, many of these doctrines are not viewed as compatible or reinterpreted.

Introduction

- So, this year I want to study some doctrines found within scripture.
- Our focus will be on things that God HAS joined together that we should not separate.
- This will be followed up with some things God has NOT joined together.

Introduction - What God Has Joined Together

- ✓ Man and woman for life – **Matthew 19:8-9**
- ✓ God and Christ – Is Jesus really the Son of God?
- ✓ The grace of God and obedience
- ✓ Faith and works – Does our faith include works?
- ✓ Attitudes and actions – must our works be accompanied by the right attitude?
- ✓ Water baptism and salvation

Introduction - What God Has Joined Together

- ✓ Christ and His church – do we need the church in our lives?
- ✓ Christ and the apostles – Why do we follow the teachings of the apostles?
- ✓ The Gospel and doctrine of Christ – some want to make a distinction between the saving gospel and doctrinal issues
- ✓ God's blessings and obedience – is obedience necessary to receive God's blessings?

Introduction - What God Has NOT Joined Together

- Creation and general evolution – why are they incompatible?
- Fellowship with unbelievers (and error)
- Denominations – examining why denominationalism is contrary to the Bible
- Church leadership and women
- God and mammon – materialism & faith
- Light and darkness

Introduction - What God Has NOT Joined Together

- Man-man/woman-woman - same-sex marriage, homosexuality & transgenderism
- The local church and general benevolence
- Human and divine wisdom
- The Lord's return and Jerusalem
- The old and new covenants
- Completed revelation and ongoing revelation

Why this study?

- Because what we believe matters – **2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 4:11**
- To give an answer for our faith and hope – **1 Peter 3:15**
- To ground us in the truth – **Ephesians 4:11-16**
- Because false doctrine is being promoted today and is easily accessible - **2 Peter 2:1-3.**
- Because doctrinal error is NOT being addressed – **2 Timothy 4:2-4, cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1-8, Revelation 2:12-29** – Pergamos and Thyatira

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- Doctrine – διδασκαλί (didaskalia) means teachings. Bullinger – “teaching, esp. The substance or result of teaching.”
- Doctrine is addressing what God’s word says about a given subject (topic)
It is teaching that grounds our beliefs based upon what God’s word actually teaches.
- To be grounded we need to know what truth is and is not!
- Two contradictory teachings CANNOT both be correct! How do we discern?

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- Discern – to evaluate a teaching and determine whether or not it is true and how it applies.
- **Hebrews 4:12** – the word of God *discerns* the thoughts and intents of the heart
- **Hebrews 5:14** the mature are able to *discern* both good and evil
- **Philippians 1:9** – prayers that they abound in knowledge and *discernment*
- **1 Corinthians 2:13-14** – God's wisdom is spiritually *discerned*

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- Discern – to evaluate a teaching and determine whether or not it is true and to be applied.
- **Acts 17:11** – the Bereans *searched* the scriptures
- **1 Corinthians 9:3** – those who *examine* me in this
- **1 Corinthians 2:15, 4:3-4** – he who is spiritual *judges* all things...; He who *judges* me is the Lord
- If we want to be right we need to discern God's will doctrinally.

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- Sound doctrine –
- Found 4 times in NT
- **1 Timothy 1:10**, *...for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is **contrary to sound doctrine**,*
- **2 Timothy 4:3**, *For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;...*

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- Sound doctrine –
- Found 4 times in NT
- **Titus 1:9**, *holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.*
- **Titus 2:1**, *But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:*

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- Sound doctrine –
- The word *sound* is ὑγιαίνω, *hygiainō* from which we get our English word, *hygiene*.
- Means, healthy. **Cf. Luke 5:31**, those *well* have no need of a physician.

1 Timothy 6:3, *wholesome* words

2 Timothy 1:13, *sound* words

Titus 1:13, *sound* in the faith

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- We need sound (healthy) doctrine –
- **John 7:16-17**, it originates with God the Father
- **1 Timothy 6:3**, the wholesome words of Jesus
- **John 14:25-26**, the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth.
- Sound doctrine originates with the Godhead.

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- We need sound (healthy) doctrine –
- **Acts 2:42**, the apostle's doctrine – which they received through the Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 2:13, Galatians 1:11-12**, etc.)
- **Romans 6:17**, they obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which they were delivered
- **1 Timothy 4:11**, God's word is something to be commanded and taught
- **1 Timothy 4:13**, give attention to ... doctrine

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- We need sound (healthy) doctrine –
- **1 Timothy 4:16**, take heed to yourself and the doctrine (live it)
- **2 Timothy 3:10**, it is to be carefully (attentively) followed
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, all scripture inspired is profitable for doctrine... can make us complete
- **Titus 2:1**, teach what is proper (fitting, suitable) for sound doctrine

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- We need sound (healthy) doctrine –
- **Titus 2:7**, doctrine to be kept with integrity, reverence and incorruptibility
- **Titus 2:10**, bondservants... showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God...
- **2 John 9-11**, we must abide in the doctrine of Christ AND reject all who do NOT.
- **Acts 5:28-29**, it is to be shared with others

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- We need sound (healthy) doctrine –
- In matters of salvation – **Romans 1:16-17, Acts 16:30**
- In our worship - **John 4:23-24**
- In the church – **1 Timothy 3:15**
- In matters of morality and godly living– **Titus 2:11-12**

The pursuit of sound doctrine

- Can we know what God wants doctrinally?
- **Romans 1:16-17** – His word reveals His righteousness, from faith to faith.
- **2 Timothy 4:2-3** – through preaching in season and out of season we keep some from no longer enduring it
- **John 7:16-17** – if anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine...

The pursuit of sound doctrine


- Can we know what God wants doctrinally?
- **John 8:31-32** – if you abide in His word, you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.
- **2 John 9-11** – we can know the doctrine of Christ. How? By testing it – **1 John 4:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:21**
- **1 Timothy 1:3** – instruct that men teach no other doctrine.

Concluding thoughts

- It ought to be our goal to go to heaven when this life is over.
- **John 14:6**, it will ONLY be through the way Jesus has established. There is NO other way.
- IF that be true, then what He teaches (and other inspired men teach through Him) must be carefully considered.

Concluding thoughts

- We may not have perfect understanding of everything.
- But we keep studying and as we mature in our faith, we know more and more.
- THEN, we are better prepared to defend our faith to others AND live with greater assurance.



**Are you firmly grounded in
the doctrine of Christ?**

Is your doctrine sound?



Let us pray!