

Things That Don't Mix!

Introduction:

In Deuteronomy 22, we have a series of laws that the Israelites were given and commanded to keep. I'm particularly interested in the laws set forth in vers. 9-11. The prohibitions here are simply. The Israelites were not to combine certain things together. Why? Because some things just don't mix! When is the last time you decided to pour a pound of sugar into your gas tank? You would never do that, would you? Why not? Because you know some things just don't mix. Now while we know this to be true in regard to physical things, may I suggest that it is true in regard to spiritual things too. Spiritually speaking, some things just do not mix (**2 Cor. 6:14-17**). Let's take a few minutes talking about **Things That Don't Mix**.

Lesson:

I. Christianity And Worldliness Don't Mix!

Worldliness is an attribute or characteristic that is satanic in origin. **The devil uses wordiness to decimate the souls of men, and to destroy the societies in which we live.** And as far as this country is concerned, we would all have to admit that Satan is winning the battle, for we are being torn apart by the sinful attitude of worldliness. Now it behooves us to remember that this is not just a problem with people outside the church; worldliness has raised its ugly head even within the body of Christ. **And so it is the job of every preacher, Bible class teacher, elders, deacon and every member of every local church to teach and fight against worldliness.** Why? Because some things just don't mix and Christianity and worldliness are just two of those things (**1 Jn. 2:15; Rom. 12:1, 2; Jas. 4:4**). Now let's observe, quickly, a few ways in which worldliness are manifested:

- A) **By Materialism** - Listen to me! We must put God first in our lives; and when we allow material things to surge to the forefront of our lives, we have violated God's prohibition against worldliness, and we cease to be Christians (**Matt. 6:19-24**).
- B) **The Recreation We Choose** - All recreation is not bad. But certainly some of it demonstrates worldliness. **Does your recreation jeopardize your influence for Christ? Does it involve you in anything immoral (drinking, dancing or doing drugs)? Does it take you into places where God is not glorified? Does it involve any kind of immodest dress?** Listen to me! If we cannot attend a place or event as a Christian, we shouldn't attend it at all.

- C) By Our Conversation** – Jesus tells us that what comes out of the mouth proceeds forth from the heart. This is how He put it:

Luke 6:45

45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

So then, there are some things that don't mix and being a Christian and cussing and cursing are two of those things (**Eph. 4:29**).

II. The Word of God And The Doctrines of Men Don't Mix!

Man has constantly tried to blend his opinions with the Word of God. Paul said, *"For we are not as many which corrupt the word of God..."* (2 Cor. 2:17). Paul, however, would have none of that. Paul preached only that which was inspired and revealed by God (**Gal. 1:1-12; Eph. 3:1-3**). How do some corrupt the Word of God?

A) Some Mix the Gospel with Judaism –

That was certainly a huge problem in the first century (**Gal. 5:1-4**). Why were these Christians in danger of getting mix up with the law? They were being led astray by Judaizing teachers who were mixing Judaism with the faith (**Gal. 6:11-13**). **The Judaizing teachers were trying to persuade these Christians to be circumcised for one reason.** Not because they felt a certain loyalty towards the old ordinances of Judaism. Not because they felt the old law had to be kept, for they weren't keeping it themselves (**ver. 13**). **But it was simply because they wanted to escape suffering for the cross.** They knew that if they insisted on complete dependence on the blood of the cross, renouncing the Law of Moses completely, then they would have faced persecution. But they realized, however, that they didn't have to abnegate Christianity altogether; they merely had to preach enough Judaism to appease unconverted Jews and they would be safe. That's what these Judaizing teachers were doing. They were trying to mix Judaism with Christianity. They wanted to hold on to some portions of the law, while still claiming allegiance to Christ. And please understand people are still trying to combine the Old Testament with the New; trying to mix Judaism with Christianity. What are some of the things people are trying to carry over from the Old to the New Testament: **Musical instrument, Tithing, Sabbath keeping, etc.** It won't work! Why? Because some things just don't mix. Christianity is not a continuation or an off-shoot of Judaism. Christianity is a replacement of Judaism. The law of Christ replaced the Law of Moses (**Eph. 2:14; Col. 2:14; Heb. 8:13; Rom. 7:1-4**).

B) Some Mix God's Plan of Salvation with Human Ideas –

Some say that belief is all that is necessary for salvation, but that's a corruption of the Word of God (**Jas. 2:19**). **Some say that baptism keeps one saved instead of being a part of getting saved (Acts 2:38)**. Some say that one isn't saved unless he has spoken in tongues. That again is a corruption of the Word (**Acts 8:12-17, 35-39**). What does the unperverted Word say? It says that one must **hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized**.

III. The Church and Denominations

In the Old Testament, God's people wanted to be like the other nations around them, so they requested that God give them a human king. Today the church is making the same mistake. We want to be like denominations in many ways so we mix the work of the church with denominational concepts (**Recreation, Entertainment, Secular Education, etc.**). What is the work of the church? It is simple – evangelism, edification and benevolence (**Eph. 4:11-12**). **When we attempt to do other things it is nothing more than an attempt to be like denominational churches but we should remember that some things just don't mix.**

But it gets worse. **Now there are some churches that are even extending the right hand of fellowship to denominational churches.** In the HOBBS NEWS, Hobbs, New Mexico, there was an article entitled “*Churches to Host Harvest Carnival.*” The article stated,

“On Sunday, Oct. 30, Taylor Street Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church and First Baptist Church will host a Harvest Carnival near the churches...This is going to be an exciting event, particularly for this area of town,” said Tim Day, Taylor Street family life minister. “The fact that three different denominations are working cooperatively to bring this event to the neighborhood makes it more exciting.”

Max Lucado, popular preacher of a church of Christ in San Antonio, TX has for many years now advocated fellowship with denominations. Listen to him:

Speaking of the various denominations, “There is only one ship; with only one captain, having only one destination...”

On another occasion Lucado has said,

“When I see someone calling God Father and Jesus Savior, I meet a brother or a sister, regardless of the name of their church or denomination.”

Coming from a preachers who claim to be a members of the Lord's church, this is just plain pitiful. The religious world today doesn't need our assimilation into their

ranks; it needs to see our distinctiveness. We don't help people who are in the world's denominations by extending to them the right hand of fellowship; we help them by exposing the error that is going to keep them out of heaven.

Listen to me Brethren, the Lord's church is not a denomination and those who are in denominational churches are not our brethren! Why not? It is simple—they have not been born again because they haven't obeyed the gospel of Christ. Have we forgotten that every person who has reached the age of accountability and hasn't obeyed the gospel of Christ is lost (**2 Thess. 1:7-9**)? But that is not all. Every person who obeys the gospel and then leaves the church in favor of some denomination is lost too (**Rev. 2:10**). That is not true because I'm saying it. I'm saying it because it is true. And if we love people in denominational churches we will tell them the truth too. Some things don't mix. And the church of Christ and denominational churches are two of those things. Congratulations

Conclusion:

Let's learn this lesson well -- some things just don't mix! And as we have seen this applies to the religion of our Lord, as well as to the physical realm.