

LESSON 13

Topic: What God has joined together, let not man put asunder

Text: Matthew 19:3-6; Mark 10:9; Malachi 2:16 (LB)

Aim: To remind believers of God's intentions for marriage.

Introduction: The word asunder means apart or into pieces. To put asunder means to separate, divide or tear apart, either literally into pieces or figuratively into disconnected parts. Putting asunder in marriage means to deliberately and forcefully separate a married couple from each other. Jesus said 'what God has joined together, let not man put asunder' because the intention of the father was for married couples to remain together till death parts them, not any other circumstances or men as the Pharisees that asked Him the question about Moses' teaching on divorce wanted to know. Jesus clearly told them that Moses taught them to put away their spouse on certain grounds because of the hardness of their heart, but Jesus knew better and so he responded with the topic of this discussion. As a believer, our walk with God is completely dependent on trust and obedience to His commands and careful thoughts on how to please Him in every aspect of our lives, including our marriage. If we regard God as our father and master, we will seek to do His will at all times. In this study, we shall consider what it means to put asunder in a marriage, how it happens, what to do to prevent them and how to tackle it if it happens.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God institute marriage? Gen. 2:18; Mark 10: 7 – 8; Mal. 2:15 (LT); Gen. 1:27 – 28.
2. How is a Christian marriage instituted? Discuss. Gen. 2:21 - 24; Gen. 24: 1 – 4; 52 – 53; 58-60
3. Discuss what it means to put asunder and how do men put asunder in marriage?
4. What is His God's mind about divorce, and how can it be prevented? Discuss. Mark 10: 2-9; Mal. 2:16

Conclusion: What God has joined together, let not man put asunder signifies that marriage, is a divine institution and should not be broken by human interferences. If the level of interference threatening the peace of the marriage is caused by job, friends, relatives or bad attitude, pause, rethink and make every effort to resolve them as quickly as possible. Marriage is a blessing! It is to be enjoyed not endured. As an institution established by God, it is meant to be without pain. Pain comes as a result of wrong decisions before and in marriage. To everyone considering this lifetime commitment, ensure you embark on it with God. He has a solution for any troubled marriage if invited in.

Memory Verse: Mark 10:9 – "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder".