

The Gospel According to John

11-11-2020

1. Last week I taught in part the *Sermon on The Mount* by way of the *Kingdom of God*. When time “expired” we were studying Joh 4:8-19 by way of the *Doctrine of Divorce*.

NIV

Joh 4:8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

Joh 4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Joh 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Joh 4:11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

Joh 4:12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

Joh 4:13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

Joh 4:14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Joh 4:15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

Joh 4:16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

Joh 4:17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

Joh 4:18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

Joh 4:19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet."

2. Before returning where we left off last week, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.

3. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material on page three.

4. These verses no doubt confused the apostles just as they have confused a large number of church age believers today.

Doctrine of Divorce

1. Now we are ready to consider the subject of divorce.

1.1 Divorce has always presented a serious problem. It is important that pastor-teachers teach what the Bible has to say about marriage and divorce. In the earliest teachings of the Bible man and woman were to “marry” and stay together refraining from sexual relations with any other; anything other than monogamy was forbidden.

1.1.1 But mankind being what mankind “was and is” has found staying married a difficult task; given mankind’s wayward nature, God authorized divorce.

1.1.2 Men began to have multiple wives and concubines; women were often divorced and family problems prevailed. Even kings were not spared incest, rape, murder, family rebellion etc. and all because they didn’t heed God’s call for monogamy.

1.1.3 So the New and the Old Testaments are replete with accounts of misadventures in marriage.

1.1.4 Christ in His Kingdom teachings explained that God permitted divorce only because of the hardness of man’s heart and He further added that the only grounds for divorce was adultery.

1.1.5 Our Lord then expanded His teaching about adultery and fornication by saying if a man lusted in his heart for a woman, he was guilty. This then complicated everything, for what healthy red-blooded male could avoid adultery and/or fornication by that definition.

1.1.6 Fortunately, the epistles urged mankind to attack all sin in the privacy of the mind by using 1Jo 1:9, i.e., confession. The epistles, however, also stressed the heinous nature of sexual sins because sexual sins affect both the body and the soul of the believer.

1.1.7 The body said Paul, is the temple of the Holy Spirit and therefore it was blasphemous to think of the body being joined to a harlot – a not so kindly description of a sexual union between two people outside of marriage.

1.1.8 So much for an introduction to the subject of divorce.

1.2 It was only because of the hardness of men's hearts that Moses allowed a bill of divorcement, but such was not says our Lord the original plan. (Mat 5:31-32; 19:8-9; Mar 10:2-9 and Luk 16:18)

Mat 5:31 "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.'

Mat 5:32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

Mat 19:8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

Mat 19:9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Mar 10:2 Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

Mar 10:3 "What did Moses command you?" he replied.

Mar 10:4 They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

Mar 10:5 "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied.

Mar 10:6 "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'

Mar 10:7 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,

Mar 10:8 and the two will become one flesh.' So, they are no longer two, but one.

Mar 10:9 Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Luk 16:18 "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

1.3 Marriage is to be abolished only for marital unfaithfulness.

1.4 This means that a divorce could be allowed only when there had been sexual intercourse with another person other than the betrothed either in premarital sex or afterward in marriage.

1.5 Christ pointed out that a man could commit adultery just as well as a woman, by forcing an unjust divorce. This was contrary to the views of the Jews, who saw the woman as the only possible offender.

1.6 There are several interesting metaphors using marriage to teach various subjects. I want to take one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.

The Old Testament

1.7 Hosea forgave and took back his adulterous wife Gomer because God commanded; not once but twice and each time it was to remind the prophet Hosea and us of God's love for Israel and His future family. A synopsis of the events will suffice:

Hos 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Hosea:

Hos 1:2 When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife ..., because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD."

Hos 1:3 So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim ...

Hos 2:5 ... She said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink ...

Hos 2:7 She will chase after her lovers ... she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.'

Hos 2:10 God said I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers;

Hos 3:1 The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."

1.7.1 And Hosea accepted God's plan. The Lord used the analogy to teach the error of Israel and God's ever-present unrequited love for His people.

2. Now we are ready for a review of a most interesting metaphor: "*Christ the Bridegroom and the Church the Bride.*"

1. Introduction:

1.1 First, I want to preview the differences between marriage today and the institution of marriage which existed at the time of Christ and the early church.

1.1.1 Most of you know about marriage today. You find your right man or right woman, go down to the court house, get a license, find a preacher or a J.P. and have them say a few words over the deal and bingo you are married.

1.2 It was quite different in antiquity. Marriages were arranged. Often the groom would find a girl to his liking, enlist the help of a friend and then a negotiation took place with the father of the bride.

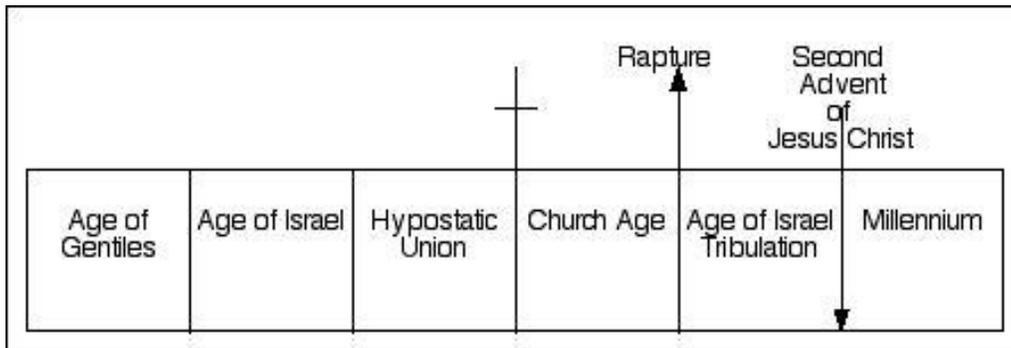
1.3 The bridegroom's friend would act as the bridegroom's agent. The agent would go to the home of the young lady, speak with the parents and a deal would be struck.

1.4 The dowry in most cases would be exchanged or promised and thus a marriage contract was recognized.

1.5 As part of the marriage contract the groom agreed at some undetermined time to come for his bride. The groom would first acquire a house and all that was needed for a secure home.

2. The bride, in our metaphor, is the universal church of the Church Age and the Bridegroom is Christ. Christ is at this moment building a home in heaven for us as His future bride.

2.1 Our agent is the Holy Spirit and the undetermined period is the length of the Church Age.



2.2 As was the marriage custom of Christ's day, we too as the bride now wait until our Bridegroom the Lord Jesus Christ, is ready to take us to His home in Heaven.

2.3 The shout of our Lord and the blast from the trumpet of God will signal the Bridegroom's readiness. We, as the bride are to wait expectantly for the call of the Bridegroom.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

2.4 Now let's look further at how the Bible uses the analogy of Christ the Bridegroom, and the bride the church.

2.5 The metaphor is first used by John the Baptist in Joh 3:26-29.

2.5.1 John is the agent of the Messiah Jesus, the Bridegroom, and Israel is the potential bride. Unfortunately, Israel will not accept the proposal made by John and thus there is [at this point] no marriage. There was an offer but no acceptance.

Joh 3:26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan--the one you testified about--well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

Joh 3:27 To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven.

Joh 3:28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.'

Joh 3:29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.

2.5.2 Wycliffe in his Bible Encyclopedia has the following to say about Joh 3:26-29. I will first quote and then comment:

"John makes clear early on that he is not the Bridegroom ... Rather, he makes clear he is a friend of the Bridegroom. It was the function of such a man to act as go-between in making the marriage arrangements. This is the way it is still done in many Muslim nations.

"A friend, an agent, will contact the family of the prospective bride and discussions will ensue and then in many cases a meeting is set up under a most controlled situation. Usually the meeting is short and casual. After that first meeting many marriages are then arranged. John was such an agent for Israel. He introduced them to their Messiah."

2.6 Our agent, who arranges our marriage, is not John the Baptist but the Holy Spirit of God.

2.7 We, as believers of the Church Age, unlike Israel accepted the proposal of marriage communicated by the Holy Spirit and we, as the Bride of Christ, are now waiting for our Bridegroom to come and take us to His home.

3. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 4:20-26.

Joh 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Joh 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Joh 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Joh 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

Joh 4:26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

4. I think the best way to study these verses is to study the *Doctrine of God—The Supreme Christ*.

The Son of God-The Supreme Christ

1. Christ came to rule over every square inch of the universe. He has always been there never was a time when He was not supreme.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Joh 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own (Israel), and his own received him not.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2. From what we learn from Scripture there is nothing more glorious than knowing that Christ reigns over every creature and over every power in creation.

3. So much of the Christian life is discovering and savoring the fundamental truth that everything hangs on Christ and his plan for all things.

4. Much of what we stress in this local church is first discovering and then daily rediscovering and re-savoring the truth that everything hangs on Jesus Christ.

4.1 And we know from Rom 8:28, that all things do indeed work together for our good.

4.2 I want to review my *Doctrine of the Prayer Formula*.

Doctrine of the Prayer Formula

Introduction

1. The purpose of this doctrine is to strengthen your understanding of how powerful and successful are a believer's prayers.

2. Additionally, it should also remind you of the important role of God the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

3. There is a divine process for even the most insouciant believer. Now for the formula.

The Formula

1. The Problem: "We know not about what to pray"

Rom 8:26a In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray.

2. Problem Resolution – A Divine Prayer: The Holy Spirit intercedes and prays for us.

Rom 8:26b but the Spirit Himself intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

3. Divine Presentation: Christ is delighted to receive a perfect prayer from God the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:27a And Christ who searches our hearts knows the perfect mind of the Spirit.

4. Result: The Father accepts the perfect prayer and provides a perfect answer and plan for the same believer who earlier did not know about what to pray.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for the good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

5. Just as we were saved by grace, we must also live by grace. What is grace?

6. Grace according to Col. R. B. Thieme is all that God is free to do for you and me on the basis of the cross without in any way compromising His integrity. Jesus really did pay it all.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

7. In times like these where most American's despise God's four divine institutions: Volition, Marriage, Family and Nationalism, there is need for review.

Doctrine of the Four Divine Institutions

Introduction

1. The four divine institutions are volition, marriage, family and nationalism.

VOLITION

Free to choose

Free to succeed

Free to fail

MARRIAGE

Leave and Cleave

Husbands Love Your Wives

Wives Obey Your Very Own Husbands

FAMILY

Father

Mother

Children

NATIONALISM

1. Governments must implement policies which provide unfettered protection for each of these institutions if the nation is to prosper.

2. In the case of volition a nation must support and maximize freedom. Freedom to succeed and freedom to fail; thus, a minimum amount of Government will maximize freedom, and promote volition.

3. If a nation wants to have stability and longevity, the nation will support marriage between a man and a woman. The man must be the leader in the home and the woman is the subordinate and help-meet.

3.1 This is marriage and not “shacking-up” as was the custom in the formative years of our baby boomers and now our millennials, a practice so common and justified under the mistaken premise that the Bible doesn’t require a piece of paper, just sincerity. Many a woman has learned sincerity was rather short lived.

3.2 The Bible in both the Old and the New Testament has always taught marriage. There is a Greek word **Gamos** meaning the civil ceremony of marriage. Christ often used the analogy of Himself as the Groom and the believers of the Church Age as the Bride of Christ.

Psa 128:3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.

Psa 128:4 Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.

Heb 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

4. Family is the basic unit in the Scripture going back as far as the period of the Patriarchs when the family head was to teach the members of the family.

4.1 It was his job to see to it that the family attended first the service at the Tabernacle, and later the Temple and then much later the Synagogue. The family is the fabric upon which the ensign of civility is woven.

4.2 The man is to lead and support the woman and the two of them are to demand obedience from the children and the children are to be disciplined: "For what Father does not discipline his children" says the Scripture.

Pro 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

5. The fourth divine institution, nationalism is a foundation upon which good limited government should be built.

5.1 Believers living in this country should love and support the United States of America and desire its prosperity with undying loyalty. We must show no loyalty to any other organization be it the United Nations or some foreign power.

5.2 We also however should want other people in other nations to love their country with a nationalistic fervor.

5.3 Bible believing Americans should want other nations to be independent and prosperous but never at the expense of the United States of America. We must never give up our sovereignty.

5.4 This is God's program and God's plan and remember Isa 14:12 tells us it is Satan who desires to weaken the nations.

5.5 Satan's first impotent attempt at internationalism was the tower of Babel. Politicians have ever since devised schemes to usurp nationalism. All such attempts were wrapped in the "noblest" of blankets and given euphemistic names.

5.6 Proponents of internationalism have deluded themselves into believing that by uniting as one they could eliminate wars. It was General Patton who noticed that mad men, like criminals don't follow either international or national laws. I believe his quote was "we will always have wars because the world has no shortage of mad men."

6. Let me again give you a listing of each institution with comment and Scripture.

6.1 Volition: This institution was promulgated in the garden as the mechanism for resolving the Angelic Conflict. God could have made us all believers but He didn't.

Joh 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Joh 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Acts 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household."

Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

Eph 2:9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

6.2 Marriage: This institution is designed to protect the weaker vessel and the children of the marriage.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Eph 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

Psa 128:3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.

Heb 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

6.3 Family: The family is an organization and the husband is the Chairman of the Board and the wife is the President and Chief Operating Officer. Children are precious assets worthy of discipline, training, love and protection.

Deu 6:6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

Deu 6:7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Exo 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

1Ti 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Ti 5:4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

6.4 Nationalism: It is an institution provided by God to protect people within certain geographical boundaries. According to the Scriptures the borders were uniquely established for the needs of Israel.

Gen 10:5 By these were the borders of the nations divided in their lands; everyone after his tongue after families in their nations.

Gen 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

Gen 11:6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

Gen 11:7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Isa 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who weakened the nations!

Deu 32:8 When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.

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