

CAN I BE WRONG BUT RIGHT? (PT. 1)
(Matthew 7:21-23)

I. Can I be in a wrong marriage and be right with God?

- A. We must first see what the Bible says is a right marriage.
 - 1. Matthew 19:4-9.
 - 2. Jesus goes back to the Garden of Eden to define marriage.
 - a. It is to be between a man and a woman.
 - (1) Homosexuality is an abomination.
 - (2) Romans 1:26-27.
 - b. It is to be for life.
 - c. It can only be broken by death or fornication (Romans 7:3).
 - 3. From this we see that a right marriage is between a man and a woman who have either never been married, widowed or their former spouse committed adultery.
- B. There are those in our brotherhood that teach different than this.
 - 1. Some teach adultery is simply a breaking of the marriage vows and that someone can repent of this and remarry.
 - a. Adultery is always defined in sexual terms.
 - b. For instance, Jesus said those that look on a woman to lust have committed adultery in their heart (Matthew 5:28): no one lusts over breaking the marriage vows.
 - 2. Some say that Paul gave another reason for remarriage in regards to a Christian who was deserted by a non-Christian.
 - a. Paul did no such thing.
 - b. He simply tells us that a Christian is not in slavery to his/her spouse to the point of leaving Jesus to keep the marriage.
 - c. 1 Corinthians 7:15 does not give a right of remarriage to anyone.
 - 3. Some just say that once you are single, whether it be by divorce, death or never having been married, you are free to marry.
 - a. This defies Matthew 19:9.
 - b. The only ones who have a right to marry are the ones never married, whose spouse died or whose spouse committed fornication.
- C. Other errors are taught but what matters is the truth.
- D. The statements of Matthew 19:9 and Matthew 5:32 are very plain.
- E. As much as we might like to find ways around this, truth is truth and we are going to be judged by this truth (John 12:48).
- F. If we are going to do the whole will of God, which it takes to please Him, then we must be in a right marriage or in no marriage at all.

II. Can I be taught wrong but baptized right?

- A. This is something that comes up quite frequently.
- B. A situation may be that someone was baptized in a denominational setting and are later taught the truth found in God's word.
 - 1. When shown what the scriptures say about the one true church and

- the essentiality of being a member of it this person sees the need to change.
2. When shown what the Bible says one must do to be saved this person says "I have been baptized already."
- C. What does the one teaching do at this point?
1. Some say, "That is wonderful. Welcome to the Lord's church."
 2. Others say, "Well you need to be baptized into the Lord's church because your baptism is not valid."
 3. Others say, "Let's talk about what you did to obtain salvation."
 4. Which is the right thing to say?
- D. First, let's realize that there are a few denominations that say that they immerse individuals for the remission of their sins.
- E. Though this may be the case, the vast majority of denominations do not do so.
1. Note this quote from Dr. G. Arthur Weniger, a noted Fundamentalist Baptist author and teacher: "Two misconceptions exist at the point of baptism which must be cleared up once again before the world, and one is that Baptists believe that baptism is essential to salvation. This we repudiate with all our being. It has never been so believed and is not now."
 2. This is one example of others that could be given.
 3. Some religions only allow you to be baptized after a vote of the members which cannot be scripturally justified.
 4. Some baptisms are done by the wrong action.
 - a. Baptism is immersion which is the meaning of the word.
 - b. Sprinkling and pouring are not biblical.
 - c. You can immerse someone but you cannot sprinkle them unless you dice them into pieces.
 - d. Baptism is done to someone, it doesn't describe the water.
 5. Some are baptized for the wrong reasons.
 - a. Some are baptized to remove original sin which does not exist.
 - b. Some to gain denominational membership.
 - c. Some to show they have already been saved which is impossible.
 6. Some are baptized with no confession or without having repented of their sins.
- F. Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).
- G. In order for one to be forgiven that must be the purpose of their baptism.
1. If one has been taught other purposes than this for baptism then they have a complete misunderstanding about their baptism.
 2. One must not know all there is to know about the New Testament in order to be baptized but there has to be understanding of the actions one does.
 3. Acts 8:12 shows that the Samaritans believed what Philip taught them - this indicates understanding.

- H. There is a clear case in the New Testament of people being taught wrong and baptized and then taught correctly.
 - 1. Acts 19:1-5.
 - 2. After being taught correctly, these men were then baptized for the remission of their sins.
- I. As stated in the introduction, we know the safe ground on this subject and is it not much better to be safe than sorry spiritually speaking?
- J. The “Searching For Truth” Bible study has a lesson entitled “How do I obey the gospel?”, and I want to read this section to you.
- K. As one cannot be in a wrong marriage and be right, one cannot be taught wrong but baptized right.