

What God Hath Joined Together

#0589

Study given by W.D. Frazee—June 5, 1970

“Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”
Matthew 19:6.

I would like to study a number of twins God has put together. In every case the Devil is seeking to separate that which God has joined together. Each one of us is either helping God to keep these things together that belong together, or we are working with the enemy to separate and divide and put asunder that which God has joined.

In the character of God we have the attributes of justice and mercy. We think of justice as revealed in God’s law, but in the Second Commandment we read:

“And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me,
and keep My commandments” Exodus 20:6.

Justice and mercy has always been blended in the character of God. It is Satan’s effort to confuse human minds and lead them to see one of the other of these attributes and miss the blend. The man who sees only the justice of God may look upon Him as stern and unforgiving. The man who sees only the mercy of God may become presumptuous and think, Whatever I do God will find some way to save me.

At the cross justice and mercy meet together. As we see God in Christ giving His life we see a justice which is so strict that when the One to be punished is the Son of God Himself, there is no relenting. On the other hand we see mercy so wonderful that God in Christ will give Himself to die in order that the worse sinner may be forgiven and cleansed. So it is written:

“Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace
have kissed each other” Psalm 85:10.

What a glorious revelation of the justice and mercy of God joined in eternal union.

The next team I would like to have you notice relates to human beings. As we reflect our concepts of the character of God, and as parents we deal with our children, as teachers we deal with our students, as administrators in the church we deal with those associated with us. It is God’s plan that in all our administration in the home, the school, the church, the institution love and discipline shall be closely united. In fact we are told:

“Love and kindness are worth nothing unless united with the discipline that God has said should be maintained”
Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 265.

So it isn't enough for one person to say, I will do the loving and let someone else do the discipline. Or someone else may say, I guess it calls me to do the discipline, but I don't seem to have very much love. Dear ones, God intends that in each human heart there shall be blended these precious attributes. As we look to God and see the blend in His life and character we may become changed and become like Him.

“While you seek to administer justice, remember that she has a twin sister, which is mercy. The two stand side by side and should not be separated” *Child Guidance*, page 262.

Let's not separate them. What do you say? What God has joined together let not man put asunder.

The third team I would like to have you notice is the union of youth and age.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” Malachi 4:5-6.

The curse has come. It is the curse of separation. But Elijah has come to draw us together. Parents and children, teachers and students, old and young, we need one another.

“There is a blessing in the association of the old and the young. The young may bring sunshine into the hearts and lives of the aged. ... And the young may be helped by the wisdom and experience of the old. Above all, they need to learn the lesson of unselfish ministry” *Ministry of Healing*, page 204.

Let's not buy one nickel of the Devil's merchandise today in these ideas of pulling things apart. Let's not buy a bit of it. We are working with Jesus to bring together and hold together that which He has planned. What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Not too long ago I was a teenager. I know it is very difficult for many young people not to feel restless inside. I suppose most young people feel that their parents don't understand them. This isn't strange, for sometimes we don't understand ourselves.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it” Jeremiah 17:9.

So dear young friend, if sometime you think you are not understood by some administrator in the home or school, it might be true that you don't understand yourself. But there is One who does understand. It is the Lord Jesus Christ. He knows every emotion of the heart, every thought of the mind. And He is in the business of bringing us together that we may help one another.

When you are dealing with someone you think doesn't understand you, why not just kneel down and pray together that God will give you both the gift of understanding. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.

I love the experiences in the Bible that show the blessings of the association of youth with those older. I think of Joshua with Moses. For forty years that young man stood by the side of Moses. When Moses turned the leadership over to him, there stood a man who already knew his job.

Forty years might seem a long time to serve as an apprentice. I doubt if there is any danger that any of you will have that long a term. Things are stepping faster in this last generation. But friends, it is a wonderful thing when a young man or woman has the patience and love to serve in apprenticeship until God sees fit to arrange something different.

Think of Elisha with Elijah. Elisha stuck with the prophet until he saw him going away in the chariot. Then he took over his work and went right ahead in the leadership of the schools of the prophets.

Think of Timothy with Paul, faithful, loving, humble. And Paul writes from his prison cell to Timothy, Keep at what I have taught you. Get some others and train them like I have trained you.

Yes, youth and age working together is heaven's plan. We are told that this is the best way to train young people in soul winning evangelism today. What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

Another union is the medical with the evangelistic. I want you to see the pattern in the life of Jesus, the greatest evangelist and the greatest physician of the ages:

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people” Matthew 4:23.

He sent His disciples to do the same thing—to preach and to heal (Matthew 10). He even sent His lay helpers out to do it (Luke 10). They were to spread the gospel and heal the sick. In His work today He desires that every one of His workers shall unite ministry to the soul and ministry to the body. Notice this beautiful statement:

“Successful evangelistic work can be done in connection with medical missionary work. It is as these lines of work

are united that we may expect to gather the most precious fruit for the Lord" *Medical Ministry*, pages 26-27.

If you want to gather some precious fruit, the program is the medical and the evangelistic. The two are together.

Just a few weeks ago half way around this world a wonderful demonstration of this plan was given in the Philippine Islands. One of the leaders of our ministerial work in the General Conference linked with one of our health educators from our college at Loma Linda, and a program of health evangelism was put on in the Philippines. Twenty-four ministers from the Philippine Islands were brought in to watch and share in the personal work in these meetings. Through the years there have been a great many meetings held in the Philippines. The experience has been that they would get a good crowd, but the crowd melted away as testing truths were presented. But in this series of meetings the doctors and ministers sat down ahead of the meetings and planned the subjects. They were put together as one message from the beginning all the way through. Every night there was something on health. Every night there was something from the Bible. And every night the two fitted together as one message.

The attendance held up all the way through. They have already baptized over two hundred people. This makes my heart rejoice. One of the leading ministers from the General Conference says he is so impressed with this that he will never be satisfied again to hold an evangelistic effort without health work in it.

This is a fulfillment in what I read in *Medical Ministry*. Jesus did it this way. He sent His disciples to do it this way. The gospel commission needs no reform. We are safe in following in the Savior's footsteps.

To carry out such plans calls for companies of workers. Ministers and physicians, nurses and Bible workers, colporteurs and teachers, cooks and health food workers. Those who present the literature and those who do house to house work, and various other types of workers.

One of the greatest reasons why the Lord arranges for companies of workers isn't just because one worker has been trained in this line and another in another line, both of which are needed. It is that the personalities of people differ. Our capacities differ. When the lord passed out talents he gave one man five talents and another two and another one.

Someone says, "I guess I am one who has only one talent. I don't amount to much."

I have some good news for you. Did you know there is a place for you to fill that no one else could fill? Speaking of those who may be accounted deficient in some lines, and who may not be as talented or educated as some others:

"Such workers are to be encouraged. The Lord brings them into connection with those of more marked ability, to fill up the gaps that others leave. Their quickness to see

what is to be done, their readiness to help those in need, their kind words and deeds, open doors of usefulness that otherwise would remain closed. They come close to those in trouble, and the persuasive influence of their words has power to draw many trembling souls to God. Their work shows what thousands of other might do, if they only would” *Ministry of Healing*, page 151.

Friends, I am thankful for people who have more talents than I have. If there are those who have fewer than I do, I am thankful for them too. The Lord needs us all. Yes, He does.

If we had a box of apples we were shipping overseas, and were anxious to make use of every cubic inch of it, what might we do besides putting the apples in the box? Someone says put raisins in. What would they do? They would fill the gaps that the apples left.

Is there anyone here who is a little raisin? Fill your gap, brother, sister. Thank God, your small size means that you have a special place to fill. A place that someone who is bigger couldn't fill. It would be impossible. The Devil is the one who brought in the idea that there should be special honor given to the highest position. He had the highest position in heaven, but that wasn't enough when he got that foolish idea. He wanted something still higher. He wanted to take God's place.

Oh, let us cherish and appreciate the goodness of God that in His plan of life there is a place for every human being. What do you say? And what God has joined together—the people of great talents and people of fewer talents—let not man put asunder.

What we need isn't a program that picks out a few bright, talented people and put them up to be worshiped. What we need is more teams of workers in which the stronger and weaker, the more experienced and less experienced, those with greater and fewer talents work together like well oiled machinery. There is a place for you.

There is the union of conference work and self-supporting work. I hear people discuss the matter of the place of conference work and the place of self-supporting work as if you had to be a partisan of one or the other. Dear friends, the same God who established the conference work established the self-supporting work, and the same God who established the self-supporting work established the conference work. I wonder why He did it that way? Well, if we will get our job done, pretty soon He will explain it all. I know some of the reasons, and I think it is a wonderful plan. But whether we understand all the reasons for it or not there is a formula in this union for the finishing of the work:

“The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers” *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 9, page 117.

This work can never be finished by ministers alone. Equally true it will never be finished by the laity alone. I hear some words that disappoint me. I hear individuals wax eloquent telling about the loud cry being a laymen's movement. You don't find that reference in either the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy. What I have just read tells us in plain language that the finishing of the work of God depends on the close union of ministers and lay members.

We in the self-supporting work are like the gleaners in the Old Testament economy. Back there the lords arranged for the gathering of the harvest by reapers, but they knew that the reapers wouldn't get everything, so they arranged for gleaners.

Ruth was a gleaner. Self-supporting workers need to be like Ruth. Good gleaners. Their job isn't to take over the reaping. It isn't to manage the field. Just be content to be a gleaner. But I have some good news for you. Like Ruth, we are gleaning in the field of near kinsman. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, is the owner and manager of the field. Like Boaz, He sometimes tells the reapers let fall a sheaf now and then for the gleaners to pick up. Oh, let's never waste one minute in exalting one of these branches at the expense of the other. What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Let us unite for the finishing of the work. And in this, as in all the pairs I have brought, there is not to be the swallowing up of the identity of one in the blending of the other. This is not true in the union of the husband and wife. Each preserves his individuality. In the blending of justice and mercy in the character of God, justice does not do away with mercy, and mercy does not set aside justice. So with each of these pairs. Thank God for a blending that leaves each partner doing his full share of the united job.

Now I come to a union that is most interesting. It is the union of city and rural work. I have told you of the burden that rests upon my heart for the great centers of population. New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, and other great cities of this continent, and other parts of this world, how shall they be reached? There are many things that must be done. But a very important plan to reach these cities is to have outpost centers linked with the city work. Those who are laboring in the cities need the blessing of retired locations where they may recharge their batteries physically and spiritually. Those who are in the country need to sense their responsibility to reach out into the cities, pull people out, and help them to learn how to live.

"We must learn to labor from outpost centers. We must make wise plans to warn the cities, and at the same time live where we can shield our children and ourselves from the contamination and demoralizing influences so prevalent in these places" *Review and Herald*, July 5, 1906.

"The cities are to be worked from outpost. Said the messenger of God, 'Shall not the cities be warned? Yea, not by God's people living in them, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth.' As God's commandment-keeping people, we must leave the

cities. As did Enoch, we must work in the cities, but not dwell in them. *Evangelism*, pages 77-78.

I want to show you another interesting combination. Here in the life of Jesus we see illustrated a great union:

In Matthew 18 we are told that Jesus took Peter, James, and John, his brother, and brought them up into an high mountain. He took these from their fellow disciples and began to go up that mountain path. Jesus knew how to hike. He led those three men up the mountain. Finally they got to the place that Jesus had selected and there He began to pray. He poured out His heart to God. They prayed with Him, but they got sleepy. Finally they woke up, for the mountain was ablaze with glory. Moses and Elijah had come from heaven. Jesus was transfigured. There stood Jesus in God-like majesty with Moses on one side and Elijah on the other. The disciples were amazed.

The thing that interests me is that Peter said, Lord, it is good for us to be here. We would like to build some tabernacles and stay here. Jesus didn't accept that suggestion. He took them right back down to the plain. Why? There was some work to do down there. There were some people who needed help from medical missionaries.

This illustrates the wonderful combination of the mountain and the multitude. The life of Jesus was spent between the two. He spent much time alone with God in prayer and study of the Scriptures, and contact with nature. He didn't spend all His time there. He spent much of His time with the multitude, pouring out His life in service. Back and forth, like the shuttle of the waver, back and forth from the mountain to the multitude. I read this wonderful comment:

“Not alone on the mountain top with Jesus in hours of spiritual illumination is the life of Christ's servants to be spent. There is work for them down in the plain. Souls whom Satan has enslaved are waiting for the word of faith and prayer to set them free” *The Desire of Ages*, page 429.

Oh, I wish I could help some folks who think they should pray more and study more to get down off the mountain and get to working hard for souls. There are others I wish I could get them to stop a little and catch their breath and recharge their battery. We need both. The purpose of recharging the battery is that the energy from God may be used in reaching the problems and needs of suffering humanity. But everyone who has virtue going out as Jesus did must retire to the secret place with God. And we shouldn't wait until we become so fully charged that we think we can go for a hundred years or even a hundred days. Let's get something every day, and give something every day.

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? For as the body without

the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”
James 2:17-18, 20, 26.

You have hear people discuss righteousness by faith. You have heard people discuss justification by faith. I am not a theologian, but I know that whoever has the experience God wants us to have will have faith, for without faith it is impossible to please Him. And he will also have works, for faith without works is dead. It is that simple.

You can study it all your life, but never study it so much in one direction that all you think there is to it is faith. And certainly don't think that all there is to it is works. Faith and works are two oars in pushing the boat upstream to the kingdom of God.

If you were in a lake or river and used only one oar you would go around in a circle. Suppose you quit that oar and start using the other oar, you would go around in a circle, but in the other direction. Ah friend, if we want to go, what shall we do? Use both. Faith is so good it works. And faith without works is dead.

What would a dead faith be? It would be no faith at all.

If you will stand and witness for God it will bring a blessing to yourselves and to those who listen.

Copyright 2019. All rights reserved.

W.D. Frazee Sermons
P.O. Box 129, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org