

## ANY OBJECTION, THAT THESE SHOULD NOT BE WED

Bryan Matthew Dockens

While not a biblical requirement, traditionally, a wedding officiant would ask those “dearly beloved” who are “gathered here today” if there is “any objection, that these should not be wed.” If so, those concerned were urged to “speak now or forever hold your peace.” It would be appropriate for that tradition to make a come-back, minus the “forever hold your peace” bit, but objections can be, and deserve to be, lodged well in advance of the ceremony. There are good reasons to object to pending nuptials.

Thirty-five countries permit homosexual couples to marry, but a Christian is obligated to object because *“The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God, including “homosexuals”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-10). Male-on-male or female-on-female coupling is sinful regardless of marriage, but a wedding lends an air of legitimacy to the immorality.

Most cultures allow divorcées to wed again, but, unless the divorce was for the cause of fornication, the Lord denounces subsequent marriage. He preached, *“Whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery”* (Matthew 19:9). Weddings where one or both parties were put away by their previous spouses for any reason or in which one or both parties put away spouses for causes other than fornication merit serious objection.

In eighty countries, polygamy is either legal or tolerated, yet inspiration confirms that *“a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”* (Matthew 19:5). Just two; no more. Any wedding in which one party already has a spouse ought to be objected to by the faithful.

Those who regard Scripture as the standard by which every soul will one day be judged must not attend weddings that God would disapprove unless they intend to voice objection, but that seems unnecessary when the same objections could be said in conversation ahead of time. To attend without objecting is unconscionable. To give a gift, to offer congratulations and best wishes, to celebrate an event in which the Lord is dishonored and souls commit themselves to debauchery is not only unwarranted, but altogether unrighteous.

*“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them”* (Ephesians 5:11).

## DEAR “JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES”

Author Unknown

Dear Jehovah’s Witnesses,

I am currently not at home, but would like to request these back issues:

- “In the coming 26 years, all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved” (Studies in the Scriptures, 1889).
- “The end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but for the end of the time of trouble” (Zion’s Watchtower, July 15, 1894).
- “We consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the kingdom of God, will be accomplished near the end of A.D. 1915” (The Time Is At Hand, 1915).
- “In the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions” (The Finished Mystery, 1917).
- “Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old” (Millions Now Living Will Never Die, 1920).
- “The period must end in 1925... The Scriptures clearly indicate that the climax is the fall of Satan’s empire and the full establishment of the Messianic kingdom. This climax being reached by 1925” (Golden Age, January 4, 1922).
- “Those... who now contemplate marriage, it would seem, would do better if they wait a few years, until the fiery storm of Armageddon is gone” (Face the Facts, 1938).
- “Man cannot by airplane or rockets or other means get above the air envelope which is about our earthly globe” (The Truth Shall Make You Free, 1943).
- “This millennium must be preceded immediately by the most destructive war in all human history. We can now see the political rulers... being gathered... for that War of all wars” (Watchtower, July 1, 1974).
- “If the wicked system of this world survived until the turn of the century (the year 2000), which is highly improbable” (The Watchtower, October 15, 1980).

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.

Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"Strange how people believe they will be with God in Heaven one day, but do not want to be inconvenienced by the relationship while on earth!"

– Francis Webster

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

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**"WHOEVER SLAPS YOU"**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Jesus preached, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away" (Matthew 5:38-42).

Some read into Jesus' statement far more than He ever intended, concluding that self-defense is sinful in all circumstances. That cannot be what the Lord was teaching insomuch as a slap in the face is not at all comparable to a deadly force scenario. A slap in the face is insulting, not a lethal threat. What Christ said here is echoed by the apostle Paul: "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men" (Romans 12:17). Christians ought to know how to endure suffering, accept insults, and refrain from vengeance.

Facing mortal danger is something else. Jesus taught the disciples to buy swords and was satisfied to know they were already carrying (Luke 22:36-38). He said that "a strong man, fully armed, guards his own" (Luke 11:21). The Scripture authorizes the use of deadly force against evildoers (Romans 13:4).

Getting smacked around is something the righteous must learn to tolerate, but life-threatening violence is not the same.

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