

It Takes Both

John Isaac Edwards

Your attention is being directed to some areas of a spiritual nature in which it takes both.

Belief and Baptism. The Lord proclaimed, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Faith without baptism is no better than baptism without faith. Upon whatever basis you eliminate baptism from being essential to salvation, upon that same basis you eliminate faith from being essential as well. It takes both!

Spirit and Truth. The conversation of Jesus with the woman of Samaria records, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). To worship with the right attitude but not according to the word of God (John 17:17), or to worship in truth but not in spirit, is to worship in vain (Matthew 15:8-9). It takes both!

Zeal and Knowledge. The record of Paul concerning Israel was, “...that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge” (Romans 10:2). The same problem exists today. Some have zeal, but no knowledge. Others have knowledge, but no zeal. Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). There’s knowledge. In Titus 2:14 we read, “...zealous of good works.” There’s zeal. It takes both!

Grace and Faith. Some would have us believe that we are saved by grace alone or by faith alone. The Bible teaches, “For by grace are ye saved through faith...” (Ephesians 2:8). When you learn that grace saves (Titus 2:11) and that faith saves (John 8:24), you will learn it takes both. Otherwise, you have a man being saved without something the Lord said saves, and such is impossible.

Repentance and Baptism. As it takes both belief and baptism to save in Mark 16:16, so it takes both repentance and baptism to receive the remission of sins in Acts 2:38. Peter said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” In Acts 3:19, a parallel passage, Peter said, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” One could have the remission of sins without being baptized no more than he could have his sins blotted out without being converted!

Faith and Works. Some may try to separate faith and works, but the Bible puts them together. A reading of James 2 will show that faith must be coupled with works to be of value. “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:20). It takes both!

One is no good without the other!

Togetherness in Marriage

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God's design for male and female, from the beginning, was for them to dwell together in marriage. Today, with the man and woman keeping different schedules, many couples are like two ships passing in the night, with very little time together.

Not Good That the Man Should Be Alone.

One reason God created the woman and brought her unto the man was, "It is not good that the man should be alone..." (Genesis 2:18). How can man have the companionship he needs, when he is one place and she is another most of the time?

Leave and Cleave. There is to be leaving and cleaving in marriage as Genesis 2:24 points out. Some young couples (and their parents) need to learn what "leave" and "cleave" mean. Some have it backwards as they leave their husband or wife and cleave unto their parents! Young couples need to learn to stick together and work through whatever problems come along, instead of running home to mommy and daddy.

Free at Home One Year. The law of Moses provided for togetherness in marriage. Deuter-

onomy 24:5 stipulated, "When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken." The first year is one of the most crucial in marriage. Most marriages that end up wrong did not start out right!

Defraud Ye Not One the Other. Paul penned, "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband...Defraud ye not one the other...that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency" (1 Corinthians 7:3-5). A lack of togetherness in marriage gives occasion to the adversary (1 Peter 5:8), and no telling how many young men and women have allowed themselves to be devoured by him!

Dwelling Heirs Together. Peter put it this way, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge...being heirs together of the grace of life..." (1 Peter 3:7).

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6).

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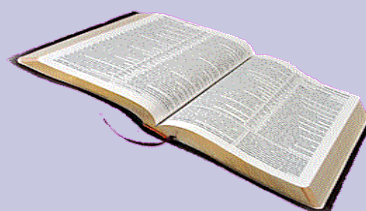
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***The Bible
Is Our
Only Guide!***