

University Heights Church  
of Christ  
445 Columbia Ave.,  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257  
www.uheightschurch.com

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday**

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is immediately followed by a short worship period)

**First Friday of Each Month**

Singing: 7:30 PM

**LEADERSHIP**

**Elders**

David Collins  
John Thompson  
Troy Antle

**Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

**Deacons**

Richard Brundige  
Matt Thompson  
Adam Litmer  
Bill Morelan  
Jim Parsons  
Pat Seabolt  
Adam Daniels  
Jamie Powell

**Adam's Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

Do we see symptoms? Let us find the source of the problem and appeal to the Great Physician through humble repentance to be cured!

**NOTE**

Bennie Poynter's mother, Ruth, passed away this past week. Let us remember Bennie and Arlena, along with the rest of their family, in our prayers.

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

Jim Parsons, Julie Patton, Declan Weatherholt, Jaclyn Litmer, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Nicholas Thompson, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Vicky Litmer, Sheila Lawson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Burnice Richardson, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Tony Tyree, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell, William Roberts, Kip Pearce, Paul Lyda

# University Heights Messenger

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**From the Beginning of Creation**

John Thompson

*But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'*  
<sup>7</sup> *'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,*  
<sup>8</sup> *and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh.*  
<sup>9</sup> *What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*" (Mark 10:6-9)

From the beginning of creation, a principle was established and it has continued in effect ever since. While it is stated in the above passage of scripture in the context of marriage, it has application in virtually every part of the Bible, and hence, every aspect of our lives. Verse 9 in the passage above perfectly states the principle: *What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.* God is Sovereign; His prerogatives must prevail, and man must not presume otherwise. God has all authority with regard to the things of God, and man has none. God can establish a thing, issue a command, set forth a principle as He deems fitting. My job, and yours, is to joyfully and faithfully abide in the doctrine of the Lord with all humility.

The passage of scripture above identifies three combinations of things which God has decreed go together. But mankind has not been satisfied to leave those combinations as God placed them. Mankind has come up with ways to separate each of the three. Such separations are presumptuous sins in that man presumes to know better than God how things ought to be. Man presumes he must correct the deficiencies in God's plan. So, he alters God's plan, replaces it with his own, and then prides himself on how progressive he is.

God said, from the beginning, that a man and his wife are joined together by the Almighty. The two become one because God has joined them together. They are bonded together by God and only God can break that bond. Marriage is sometimes referred to as "getting hitched" or "tying the knot." While such expressions are reflective of there being a bond between husband and wife, they

fail in communicating the permanency of marriage. A team of horses gets hitched to the wagon and then unhitched when the work is done. Most knots that get tied also get or become untied. But the bond joining husband to wife and wife to husband is a divine bond that only God can break. In Matthew 19, when the Pharisees sought to test Jesus with questions about divorce, especially that Moses allowed it, they were told that from the beginning it was not so. The principle remains to this day: *What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*”

God decreed, from the beginning, that marriage brought together a man and a woman, the man being the husband and the woman being the wife. But man, in recent years, has found such a decree to need improvement. And so, other decrees have gone forth, from community to community, state to state, and even nation to nation, joining together two men in one place and two women in another and calling it marriage. Such unions have an arrogant flare about them as their promoters place them on an equal level with the marriage decreed by God. The message is quite clear: either God did not go far enough in providing for such marriages, or God was not clear enough in how He communicated the true nature of marriage thus needing man to clear up the confusion. This is nothing more than arrogance at its most profound. Yet the principle remains to this day: *What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*”

Finally, God joined together conception and birth with gender. The vast, vast majority of babies are born with gender fully identifiable. We have no way of knowing when the first person with homosexual leanings appeared, but such people have been around for many thousands of years. And, no doubt for about the same length of time, members of each gender have sometimes sought to dress like and act like a member of the opposite gender. Like other temptations, those must be resisted so that they do not lead to sin. But now, the lengths to which our world encourages people to go to change their gender sends the unmistakable message to the Creator, “From the beginning You got my gender wrong!” The truth of the matter, however, is: *What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*”

### **Let The Symptoms Identify The Problem**

Adam Litmer

The automatic sliding door in our van is not so automatic these days. Indeed, it hasn't been operating properly in quite some time. The fact that we have

to give it a sharp pull to get the sliding process started is a symptom of the problem, not the problem itself. Jackie's uncle has been able to identify the particular part that has gone bad. The issue is not that the door isn't sliding as it should, that's merely a symptom. The issue is that a vital part in the automatic sliding process has stopped functioning. The process broke down because of that problem. Identifying the problem has explained the malfunction.

The same is true in our spiritual lives. When a person begins to forsake the assembly, or becomes cold and distant with their brethren, or begins only halfheartedly participating in the worship, or stops praying and studying, they are displaying *symptoms* of spiritual sickness. It doesn't do much good to work on the symptoms while ignoring the *source* of the problem.

To the church at Ephesus our Lord said, “*But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first...*” (Revelation 2:4-5a). To the church at Sardis He said, “*I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God*” (Revelation 3:1-2). To the church at Laodicea Jesus said, “*I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich...*” (Revelation 3:15-18a).

In each case Jesus pointed to the symptoms to show that a deeper problem existed. The church at Ephesus had left her first love, but how and why? The brethren in Sardis thought they were a living, active church but Jesus said that they were really dead. How and why was that the case? The saints in Laodicea thought they were rich and in need of nothing. Jesus said that they were really wretched and poor. How and why were they so wrong in their estimation of themselves? Jesus did not come right out and say, did He? He pointed them to the symptoms that proved the existence of spiritual sickness. He required *them* to thoroughly search their souls, find the source of their spiritual problems, and fix them through repentance. He requires the same of us.



