

# MARRIAGE AND WARFARE

*Bill Jackson*

You think there is a connection, you say? Yes, we've all heard the old line about the hymn "The Fight Is On" being sung at weddings. That might make a funny story, but marriage is a serious business discussed with gravity in the Bible. It is the highest and most permanent connection any possess on the human level. The association of husband and wife, in the marriage union, is seen in Ephesians 5 in likeness to Christ and the church. Marriage, as has been stated in so many wedding ceremonies, is indeed an honorable estate, but we must add to this, IF— if it is in keeping with the Lord's will.

And to that very point the matter of warfare comes up. Some time back a Bible college in another state was under some pressure because the report was that a number of the faculty members held positions regarding marriage that were unscriptural. When quizzed on this, the response was: "We believe this should be treated the same way as we've treated the war question." That is, the views held should be treated as private views, and not of such import as to trouble the family of God.

It is ridiculous to state that the marriage question and the warfare question are to be treated the same way, for these reasons: (1) Carnal warfare itself is conduct begun by wicked men and nations, and God does not propose to regulate the conduct of it. Marriage, though, is His institution, and He has ruled it from the beginning (Mat. 19:8). (2) One can hold a view concerning participation, and to what extent, in his nation's activities during warfare, and it is his position alone, and no one else is bound with him. In marriage, though, you are bound to another, either in a union blessed by God or in a union God calls adulterous and which will result in the damning of the soul (Gal. 5:19,21). (3) For all of it, warfare ceases in time, and one's participation, in whatever way, in the affairs of his nation has come to an end, and he is free from it all. Marriage, though, is a permanent union (unless it is sinful and needs to be ended), and men entering into an unscriptural union very often consider themselves bound until death and remain there in sin and condemnation. Hence, the great crime in spurning the Lord's law on marriage.

The Lord's will is clear on the marriage law, and on the one exception for putting away and remarrying (Mat. 19:1-9). The Lord's will is clear that some have no right to remarriage, and what is then formed is an adulterous union condemning the parties (Gal. 5:19-21). It is not a VIEW one holds; it is more—it is a view leading to TEACHING, and men responding to the teaching then are PRACTICING that which is unscriptural! And, as we've seen, in practicing that which is unscriptural, SOULS ARE LOST! How could anyone then decide that "it's just like the war question—let's hold our views, and teach them, and all go on our merry ways"? With that attitude, we know of three who are happy: (1) The false teacher, (2) The adulterer, and (3) Satan! ~

*Deceased*

