

NO ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES IN THE PHYSICAL REALM

Mark 7:6-13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many products or ideas for which we are urged to accept no substitutes.
- B. Many products or ideas for which many think there are no substitutes, others wouldn't think of using product or think very little of an idea. **EXAMPLES:** "Coke, real thing"; "Pepsi challenge"; "flame broiling vs frying"; "Ford a better idea."
- C. All substitutes not bad. **EXAMPLES:** Lard vs. vegetable oil or corn oil; sugar vs. artificial; butter vs. margarine; cotton vs. synthetics
- D. Some bring harm or death. **EXAMPLES:** Arsenic for sugar; Toadstools for mushrooms; Alcohol a clear liquid for water a clear liquid.
- E. Let's look at some things in our physical relationships for which there are no acceptable substitutes

DISCUSSION:

I. NO SUBSTITUTE FOR MARRIAGE

- A. Marriage is a commitment to each other for life – must be faithful Matt 19:4-6; 1Cor 7:2; Gen 2:18,20,24
- B. Man offers substitutes
 - 1. Live together - no commitment Matt 19:5 "Cleave"
 - 2. Easy divorce - contract for specified number of years Rom 7:2
 - 3. Homosexuality Rom 1:21-32 (same sex marriage)
 - a. God made male & female - woman a help meet)
 - b. Sign: God made Adam & Eve not Adam & Steve
- C. No relationship will take the place of marriage - that will fulfill its purpose and function 1Cor 7:2; Heb 13:4

II. NO SUBSTITUTE FOR FAMILY

- A. Man needed a "helpmeet" Gen 2:18 - Someone to compliment him in every way
 - 1. To satisfy sexual desires 1Cor 7:2
 - 2. For procreation Gen 9:1; Psa 127:3; Gen 48:9
 - 3. God designed family unit - Father, Mother, children
- B. Family unit the place for training Eph 6:1-4 and there is no substitute for this training
 - 1. **"Nurture"** Thayer: "Whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose commands and admonitions, reproofs and punishment)"
 - 2. Children's responsibility to obey Eph 6:1
 - 3. Note: 1Tim 5:4,8,16; Prov 31:28; 23:22

- C. Child without the proper home life suffers mentally, physically, socially and above all spiritually
 - 1. Man has tried substitutes: i.e. Orphan homes, etc.
 - 2. They have not and will not substitute for family
 - 3. Find Hillary's statement "it takes a community" ???
- D. There is an interdependency of one family member to the others; a sense of belonging to each other. This is as God intended it to be in the home.

III. NO SUBSTITUTE FOR DISCIPLINE

- A. **Webster:** "Training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character" - "punishment" - "control gained by enforcing obedience or order – self-control - to train or develop by instruction and exercise esp. in self-control"
- B. "Discipline" used once Job 36:10 means chastisement or instructions
- C. The word **Chasten** used in Scripture means essentially the same thing - both involve instruction and correction
 - 1. This idea involves the strengthening of character
 - 2. Note Heb 12 - Particularly the results. verse 11
- D. Also involved in this idea is **"Self-Control"** 2Pet 1:6
- E. For this there is no substitute - only alternative is chaos

IV. NO SUBSTITUTE FOR WORK

- A. Man from the beginning expected to work Gen 2:15
- B. Work is a must 1Thes 4:11,12; Eph 4:28; 2Thes 3:10; 1Tim 5:8
- C. Consider Prov 6:6-11
- D. There is no other way to get things done besides work

CONCLUSION:

- A. God will accept no substitutes for doing his will in all phases or relationships in life Matt 7:21-23; Heb 5:8,9
- B. God has determined that marriage is a lifetime institution - one woman to one man for life
- C. God is also the designer of the interdependency of husband, wife and children; which we call family life and: sociologist, feminist and day-care-centers, notwithstanding, there is no substitute for family
- D. Discipline must be practiced by every facet of society or else chaos reigns. We must bring ourselves into compliance with authority and accepted standards or behavior
- E. There has been a breakdown in the work ethic - but an acceptable substitute has not been found and cannot be found because it is ordained of God
- F. Why not accept God's way, because there is no substitute that will accomplish the desired results – HEAVEN