

DON'T RUSH THE WASHING MACHINE



TEXT: **1Co 14:40** *Let all things be done decently and in order.*

NOTE: This simple message may be one of the most important and practical I have ever preached. Take heed.

THESIS: To show that God wants things done according to His schedule, not ours.

INTRO.: A. Automatic washing machines have a cycle they go through, which is very important in getting your clothes clean. *The maker knew best* what that order was & printed it in the *instruction manual*. It goes something like this: Fill-up, wash, rinse, spin, rinse, spin - viola! clean clothes. If you choose to *change the order* of the cycle - dirty clothes! **"DON'T RUSH THE WASHING MACHINE!"**

B. *Your Maker knows best* what order will produce the best results (a clean Christian), and in His *Instruction Manual, the Bible*, He tells us what that order is. If we choose to *change the order* things will go wrong in our lives.

I. GOD'S ORDER IN THE CHURCH: Acts 2:41, 42

A. Saved Then Baptized: v.41a

ILLUS.: In most churches baptism precedes anything! Because they "baptize" babies! This is NOT God's Order in the Church! It is just as wrong & out of order to baptize someone who is not saved, even though they are adults.

B. Baptized Then Membership: v.41b

ILLUS.: It is strange that some Christians seem to belittle Church membership. With the exception of the Gospels nearly every N.T. book was written to the members of local churches or to the pastors of local churches. Even Revelation was written to 7 local churches. To define a local church there must be membership! What does Paul mean when advocating the excommunication of an immoral person in the Corinthian church when he says: **"For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? (without what?!) Do not ye judge them that are within? (within what? - you can't excommunicate someone from the Body of Christ!)** Or what does he mean in speaking of the qualifications of a Pastor: **"Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without..."?** Or in I Timothy 5:9 where he instructs: **"Let not a widow be taken into the number under 3 score years..."**

1. There can be no discipline of erring church members apart from membership.
2. There can be no accountability (which is what some try to avoid) w/out membership.
3. Evangelism & new converts should result in church membership...it's God's order. (text)
4. If it was good enough to get saved in, it is good enough to join and stay in!

C. Membership Then Service: v.42

1. When everyone is "doing their own thing" in a church the focus is lost & doctrinal unity is diminished.
2. Unless everyone agrees on basic doctrine, beliefs, standards and direction local church effectiveness is diminished.

II. GOD'S ORDER FOR BELIEVERS: Eccl.3:1-8

A. Childhood Then Teenhood:

QUOTE: I have a message titled: **"BEWARE HONEY"** in which I warned: Young girls, wearing hose is not wrong...but not when you are 8,9,10,11... Make up is not wrong, but don't wear it yet. Don't date yet! Don't go steady yet! Don't eat teen-age honey when you are a child, nor adult honey when you are a teen, nor middle age honey when you are a young adult, nor senior citizen honey when you are middle aged...BEWARE PREMATURE HONEY!

We push our kids into teen age before their time & they lose the sweetness of the honey of that wonderful time. Now we don't only have teen, but teeny-boppers & pre-teens. We not only have engagements, but pre-engagements, going-steady & nearly going steady and almost going steady...

Prov.9:17-18 *Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.*

B. Teenhood Then Adulthood:

ILLUS.: Teens - enjoy who you are NOW! It can be the best time of your life. You can wait for marriage, money & the misery that may come w/adulthood. Don't rush things.

We now have a nation of children having children. Unwed girls who wanted to **RUSH THE WASHING MACHINE CYCLE!**

C. Marriage Then Touching:

1 Cor.7:1b "...It is good for a man not to touch a woman."

ILLUS.: God made us to enjoy touching each other. He made us to enjoy the touch of male & female lips (only!). He made us to enjoy physical intimacy, touching our sensitive bodies. But be careful you stay in God's order. **"DON'T RUSH THE WASHING MACHINE!"** God doesn't want to keep us from the enjoyment, but that our enjoyment be complete.

1. First you need to meet someone whom you believe may be God's choice for you.
2. Then you need time to really get acquainted.
3. Then you begin to like them.
4. Then you may fall in love (Never say "I love you" till you say it to the one you are going to marry).
 - a. Wait for God's mate.
 - b. Wait till you are in love.
 - c. Wait till you are ready for adult responsibilities.
 - d. Wait till you are ready to be a parent.
 - d. Wait till you are financially able.

ILLUS.: If you get the wrong job, buy the wrong car, or home or go to the wrong school, you can make amends & change...but if you marry the wrong person you are stuck for LIFE!

5. Then you can get engaged.
6. Then you can get married & begin the marriage relationship. (O.K. to touch now!)

ILLUS.: God says that **"marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled..."** but he also says **"but whoremongers & adulterers God will judge."** Girls, don't allow some whore-monger to put his filthy hands on your virgin body. Take off your wooden heeled shoes & hit him over the head! Men, keep your hands off the girls. Girls...dress modestly & don't tease the boys!

7. Then comes the children (We have a whole generation where this order is reversed!)
8. Then you stay married even after the children have grown up & left the nest.

D. Work & Save Then Spend:

1. Labor not to be rich.
2. Get a job & work hard and tithe from the start. (Pay your back tithes if you go out of God's order!)
3. Earn some money then save toward your goals, then spend. (Not buy now, pay later).
 - a. God probably wants you to have a nice home, car, etc.
 - b. God probably wants you to have nice things...someday!

ILLUS.: The early use of credit & credit cards is ruining America. You don't need everything you see on TV, the Sears catalog or in the Shopping Mall or QVC! I never owned a new car till I was over 50. I never went on an out of the country vacation till after my children were grown up & married. I never began to buy a home till I was over 50! "Pay as you go" ought to be the motto for America & for you. Avoid credit whenever possible. Wait for the best price. Shop bargains. Be careful. Don't go into debt unless you have to.

4. Pay your debts!
5. Work to get out of debt!
6. Keep your priorities straight!

ILLUS.: It is more important to pay your tithe than to buy unnecessary things at the grocery store, the dept. store, the shopping mall or the car dealer! It is more important to have your children in a Christian school than for you to have a home of your own or a new car.

CONCL.: **"DON'T RUSH THE WASHING MACHINE!"** God has an order for the church & for the Christian. Don't get out of order. Don't mess w/God's cycle or schedule for your life.

Unsaved, God's order for your life is to get saved. That will begin the cycle of God's order for you & keep you clean & keep you from heartache & broken dreams. Why not start that cycle NOW?!