

Luke 5:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

Analysis

New wine must be put into new bottles both preserved. Must dei necessary. New wine kainos new. New bottles askous kainous new wineskins. Both amphoteroi wine and skins. Preserved syntērountai maintained intact. Proper container essential. New covenant requires appropriate structures. Gospel demands suitable forms. Not that forms save but they facilitate or hinder. Church structures should serve gospel not hinder it. Reformed theology affirms biblical church government worship forms. Not indifferent but not salvific. Liberty in non-essentials unity in essentials charity in all.

Historical Context

Early church developed structures worship forms appropriate to gospel. Not rigid adherence to temple worship but new patterns. Apostles teaching fellowship breaking bread prayers Acts 2:42. Sunday worship not Saturday. Baptism not circumcision. Communion not Passover. Reformation challenged Roman structures not biblical. Sola scriptura principle allows reformation when structures hinder gospel. Modern church ongoing challenge keeping structures serving not hindering gospel mission. Must be willing to reform traditions that become obstacles.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why must gospel have appropriate structures and what happens when structures hinder rather than serve?
2. How can church distinguish between biblical essentials and cultural forms that can be adapted?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλὰ	οἶνον	νέον	εἰς	ἀσκοὺς	καινοὺς	βλητέον	καὶ
But	wine	new	into	bottles	new	must be put	and
G235	G3631	G3501	G1519	G779	G2537	G992	G2532

ἀμφότεροι	συντηροῦνται
both	are preserved
G297	G4933

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 5:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Ezekiel 36:26 (Parallel theme): A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Revelation 21:5 (Parallel theme): And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

1 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Galatians 2:4 (Parallel theme): And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

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