

Looking For Loopholes In God's Marriage Law

Matt. 15:1-9

Introduction:

- Matt. 15:1-5 → there have always been those who were not satisfied to simply submit to God's law.
 - The Pharisees were not content to simply obey God's word...
 - Illustration: W.C. Fields – “looking for loopholes”.
 - Tactic of Satan in the garden of Eden: God doesn't really mean what He said...(Gen. 3)
- Seems especially true when it comes to God's law for marriage.
- Lesson: Closing alleged loopholes by looking at God's word.

Lesson:

I. Loophole #1 → It is okay to divorce as long as you don't remarry.

- Look at the answer of Jesus to the question of the Pharisees in Matt. 19:3.
 - Remarriage is not in the question.
 - Jesus reply returns to the original institution of marriage in Gen. 2, and is a resounding “No.”
 - Leave, cleave, two become one flesh, what God has joined man is not to separate.
 - Some make an appeal to the words of Paul in I Cor. 7:10-11.
 - What do these verses teach?
 - Let not the wife depart from her husband.
 - Let not the husband put away his wife.
 - »Divine prohibitions: do they forbid or grant permission to do the opposite?
 - Does the “if” clause of verse 11 provide a loophole? Does it free one to divorce if they don't remarry?
 - No. It does not permit one to violate the commands just given, but tells them what to do to avoid further sin, if they do in spite of the prohibitions: 1) be reconciled, 2) remain unmarried.
 - Illustration: parent to child in crowded mall: “Don't get separated from me”. If you do, find security, or go to info. Desk – is permission granted by the “if” clause?
 - Similar construction: I Jn. 2:1 → “...and if any man sin...”

II. Loophole #2 → Alien sinners are not accountable to the law of Christ

- Thus there is no sin to be forgiven as long as they live within the laws of the land.
- Closing this alleged loophole with the scriptures:
 - Jesus is Lord of all. (Acts 10:26; Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22-23)
 - All have sinned. (Rom. 3:23) Sin is transgression of God's law. (I Jn. 3:4). One cannot transgress a law they are not under.
 - Everyone is subject to the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Mk. 16:15)
 - Why present the gospel to a person who is not amenable to it?
 - Those who do not obey the gospel will be lost. (II Thess. 1:7-9)
 - All who live in the gospel dispensation will be judged by the words of Christ, the gospel, (Jn. 12:48)
 - Consequences of this false teaching:
 - Those of I Cor. 6:9-11 would not be guilty.
 - Those who enter into sinful relationships (homosexual “marriages”, polygamy) where legal would not be guilty.
 - The universality of the law seen in the text: Matt. 19:9 → “whosoever...”

III. Loophole #3 → Since baptism washes away sins, those living in adultery...

- ...may remain in the relationship they are in at the time of their baptism.
- Overlooked in this alleged loophole...
 - Repentance is necessary for salvation.
 - Repentance involves a sorrow, turning away from and ceasing from sin. (II Cor. 7:9-11; Lk. 3:8; Rev. 9:20-21; I Cor. 6:9-11)
 - It does not make an unholy deed, relationship holy.
 - Could one remain in a homosexual relationship? In polygamy?
 - The penitent person does not continue to commit or live in the sin they have been committing.
 - “and such were some of you.” I Cor. 6:11