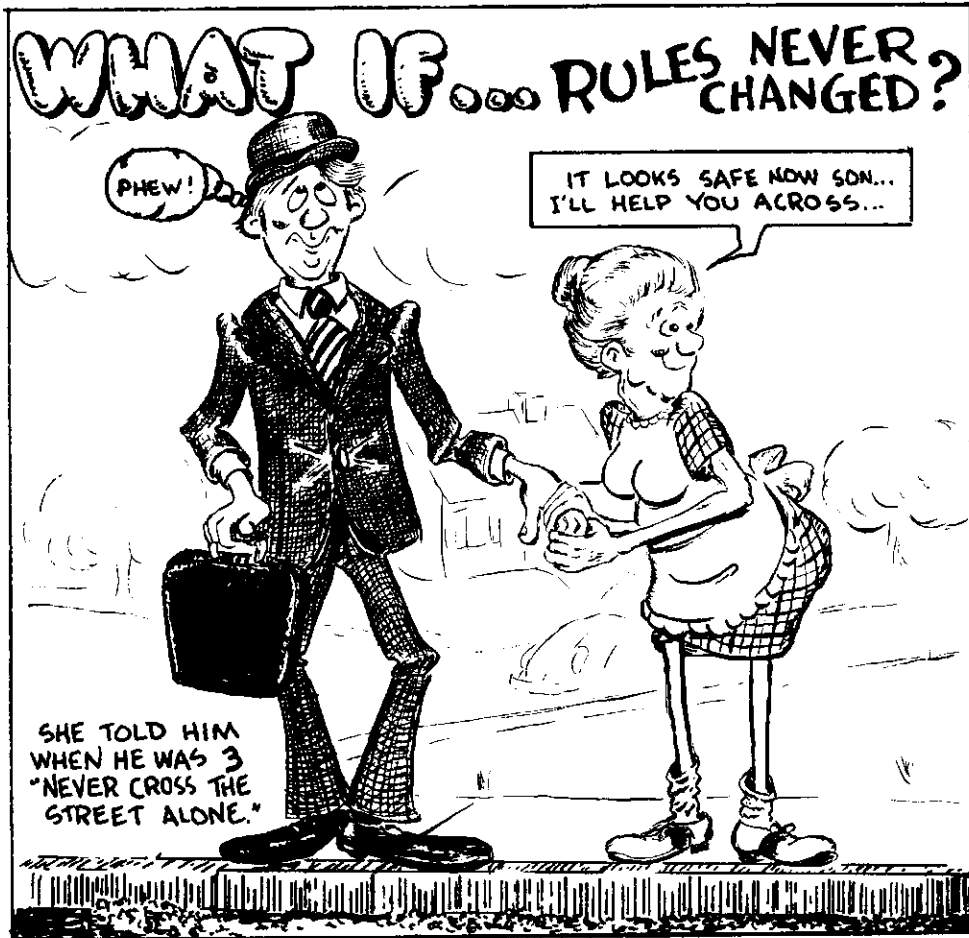


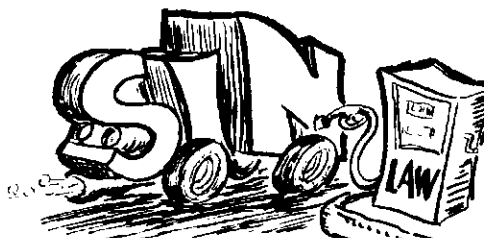
THOSE UNRULY RULES!



SIN HAS BEEN DEFINED AS MISSING THE MARK. THAT IS, NOT MAKING IT TO OUR FULL POTENTIAL IN GOD. I CORINTHIANS 15:56 SAYS THE STING OF DEATH IS SIN AND THE POWER OF SIN IS THE LAW.

WHY IS SIN POWERED BY THE LAW? BECAUSE WE CONSTANTLY SUBJECT OURSELVES TO RULES AND LAWS THAT KEEP US FROM REALLY BEING FULFILLED AND HITTING THE MARK GOD HAS SET FOR US

THE RULES, WHICH CAN BE GOOD - LIKE FOR INSTANCE THE WARNING TO A TODDLER TO NEVER GO INTO THE STREET, HAVE A TIME TO BE USED AND A TIME TO BE SET ASIDE.



LAW... THE POWER OF SIN!



RULES KEEP US FROM HITTING THE MARK.

RULES AREN'T FOREVER.

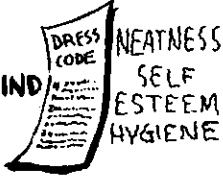


THAT TODDLER IS GOING TO GROW UP AND NEED TO CROSS THE STREET SOMETIME. THERE WAS A SPIRIT OR LESSON TAUGHT WITH THAT OLD LAW. IT WAS CAUTION. THE CHILD LEARNS THE

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PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE RULE AND THEN THE RULE ITSELF IS REPEALED. IT SERVES ITS PURPOSE AND THEN IS NO LONGER NEEDED. COL. 2:22.

IT'S THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE RULE THAT COUNTS



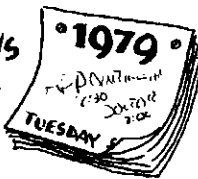
WE BIND OURSELVES BY TAKING ORDINANCES AND LAWS FOUND IN THE BIBLE AND APPLYING THEM ONLY AT FACE VALUE WITHOUT EVER LEARNING THE LESSON BEHIND THEM. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS PAUL'S ADMONITION TO THE CORINTHIAN WOMEN ABOUT CUTTING THEIR HAIR. FOR MANY YEARS, DUE TO THIS LAW AND EVEN IN SOME CHURCHES TODAY, IT WAS CONSIDERED A DISGRACE OR A SIN FOR A WOMAN TO HAVE SHORT HAIR.

WE MUST LOOK AT WHAT'S BEHIND THE LAW.



BY STUDYING EVENTS IN CORINTH AT THE TIME PAUL MADE THIS RULE WE FIND THAT HE WAS ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO A PROBLEM THAT WAS UNIQUE TO THAT CITY IN THAT PARTICULAR PERIOD IN HISTORY.

PAUL'S LAWS WEREN'T ALL FOR TODAY.



A CORINTHIAN GIRL WHO CUT HER HAIR WAS IDENTIFYING HERSELF WITH THE PROSTITUTES OF THE TEMPLE OF DIANA. PAUL WAS TELLING THEM "DON'T DO THAT - BE DIFFERENT - SHOW THE WORLD YOU'VE CHANGED." IN THIS CASE THE GIRLS WERE SHOWING AN INWARD CHANGE BY THEIR OUTWARD APPEARANCE. LONG HAIR WAS NOTICIBLE IMMEDIATELY AND BY

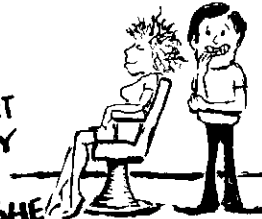
HAVING LONG HAIR THEY WERE WITNESSING TO EVERYONE IN CORINTH THAT THEY WERE NOT TAKING PART IN THE WORSHIP OF A FALSE GOD.

IN CORINTH IT MEANT SOMETHING WHEN A GIRL HAD SHORT HAIR.



TODAY, IN OUR SOCIETY, THERE IS NO SUCH DISTINCTION. A GIRL CAN HAVE LONG OR SHORT HAIR AND IT MEANS NOTHING, ONLY A PREFERENCE IN STYLE AND TASTE. PAUL'S LAW HAD A SPIRIT OR PRINCIPLE BEHIND IT THAT WAS GOOD. BUT THE LAW ITSELF HAS LOST ITS MEANING TODAY. TO TRY TO ENFORCE IT IS TO MISS THE POINT ENTIRELY. IN FACT IT BECOMES A HINDRANCE TO TRUE SPIRITUALITY.

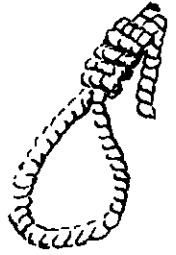
IF A GIRL HAS SHORT HAIR TODAY IT'S ONLY BECAUSE SHE LIKES IT THAT WAY OR THAT HER HAIR DRESSER GOOFED.



AT THIS VERY MOMENT WE'RE ALL PUTTING OURSELVES UNDER RULES AND LAWS WHICH WE THINK ARE SPIRITUAL. BUT THEY ARE ACTUALLY KEEPING US FROM TRUE SPIRITUALITY. WE PICKED ON LONG HAIR FOR WOMEN BECAUSE WE FIGURED IT WAS A RELATIVELY SAFE SUBJECT. WE DOUBT THAT ANY OF YOU ARE OFFENDED BY THAT RULE OF PAUL'S.

BUT THERE ARE RULES GIVEN IN THE BIBLE WHICH IF WE'D MENTION AND EVEN HINT THAT THEY'RE NOT TO BE STRICTLY OBSERVED SOME PEOPLE WOULD BE AFTER US WITH A HANG-MAN'S NOOSE.

WAIT! WE STILL BELIEVE IN LAW. THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS. - ROMANS 8:2 -



REMEMBER, IT'S THE SPIRIT THAT GIVES LIFE AND THE LETTER OF THE LAW THAT KILLS (II COR. 3:6). BECAUSE WE'RE TOO CHICKEN TO START KNOCKING RULES AND LAWS, WE'RE TAKING A SAFE WAY OUT TO ILLUSTRATE TO YOU THAT PEOPLE DO SET UP BARRIERS THAT AREN'T NECESSARY AND REALLY KEEP THEM FROM REACHING THEIR GOAL.

WE'RE CHICKEN.



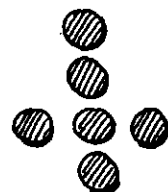
WE'RE GOING TO PRESENT A SERIES OF PUZZLES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. EACH ONE HAS A VERY SIMPLE SOLUTION. BUT DUE TO THE SUBTLE RULES WE SUBJECT OUR REASONING POWERS TO, THE SOLUTION TO THE PUZZLES MAY SEEM IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND. ONCE YOUR MIND MAKES THE JUMP, GETS OVER THE OLD LAW, THE SOLUTION COMES EASILY.

NOW WE'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOU A TREMENDOUS ADVANTAGE BY EXPLAINING ABOUT UNNECESSARY RESTRICTIONS WE PUT ON OURSELVES. BUT WE STILL THINK THE PUZZLES WILL GIVE YOUR FRIENDS A CHALLENGE.

HERE'S THE FIRST ONE: LAY SIX COINS OUT AS SHOWN IN THE DIAGRAM.

COINS →

(COME ON.. USE YOUR IMAGINATION)

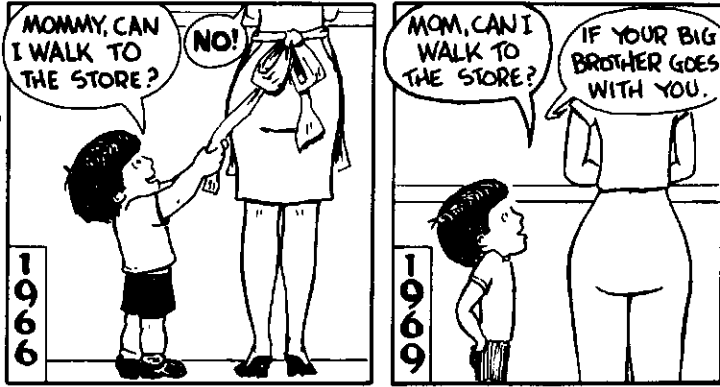


DIVORCE

NOW, BY MOVING JUST ONE (1) COIN, ARRANGE THEM IN SUCH A WAY THAT THERE ARE TWO ROWS CONTAINING FOUR COINS EACH WHEN ADDED UP EITHER HORIZONTALLY OR VERTICALLY.

THE SOLUTION TO OUR PUZZLE HERE IT IS. TAKE THE TOP COIN FROM THE VERTICAL ROW AND PLACE IT ON TOP OF THE CENTER COIN. NOW THERE ARE FOUR COINS BOTH VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY. THERE WAS NO RULE SAYING YOU COULDN'T PLACE ONE COIN ON TOP OF ANOTHER. EVEN IF YOU TOLD YOURSELF THERE WAS. IF YOU FIGURED IT OUT YOURSELF, FEEL FREE TO WRITE AND BRAG ABOUT IT TO US.....

Laws change as we grow up!
 .. an esoteric look at rules & laws found in the Bible.
 Hebrews 7:12



Continuing in I Cor. 7:28. "But and **IF THOU MARRY THOU HAS NOT SINNED,**" A more correct translation of the verb tense is, "But if you have married, you did not sin."

DIVORCE IS PARDONABLE AND REMARRIAGE IS NOT A SIN.



More completely it says, "Have you been married? Do not seek a divorce. Have you been divorced from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you did remarry, you did not sin. And if the virgin marry, she did not sin."

All translators agree that the word 'but' is proper and belongs in the sentence, "But if thou marry thou hast not sinned." The thoughts, "Art thou loosed (divorced) from a wife? Seek not a wife. But and

if thou marry, thou hast not sinned." are connected by the word 'but' and consequently refer to a man who has been married and later divorced and still later remarried. The conclusion is that he has not sinned by remarrying. We believe this is correct.

READ I CORINTHIANS 7 CAREFULLY. YOU'LL BE SURPRISED.

But some people have suggested that the sentence, "But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned," must refer to a person who has never been married and got married in spite of Paul's warnings in I Cor. 7:1,8,29. But that suggestion does not make sense to us because the verse is obviously referring to two classes of people. One class is the case of a virgin who marries and the other is a person who has been loosed (divorced).

The sentence "But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned" must refer to virgins **AND ALSO** to those who have married again. Thus we believe it should be concluded that the thought, "But and if thou marry thou hast not sinned," should be applied to the case of a person who had been divorced.

CONTINUALLY I COR. 7 SAYS DON'T... BUT IF YOU DO... HERE ARE YOUR NEW RULES.



Rotherham correctly translates the passage for us so that there is no question about its meaning. Quote: "Hast thou been loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife. If, however, thou shouldst even marry. Thou hast not sinned."

DIVORCE

REMARriage is not sin. If you are divorced, do not seek a wife (or husband), but if you get married again you have not sinned. Divorce and remarriage are recognized and provided for in verse 11 and 15. If the Christian is divorced and if they get remarried it is **NOT** sin.

In one case, we know of a woman who felt such condemnation from her "church" that she felt justified in praying that God would let her first husband die so she would not feel the condemnation of adultery heaped on her by her "church" for living with her second husband. The fantastically horrible thing is that her "church" asked her to teach Sunday School immediately after her first husband died, something she had been wanting to do for years but her "church" forbid her because her husband was still alive. Some "churches" call this Christianity!

The purpose of this lesson is not to encourage divorce. But one of our main purposes is to help divorced Christians. Far too many cry themselves to sleep every night as a reaction to the condemnation heaped upon them by a misinformed "church." They "spin their wheels" trying to fix a situation that is not repairable. So our purpose is to help them see that divorce and remarriage are not necessarily sin in themselves.

THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS... MARRIED, DIVORCED / OR REMARRIED!



As Christians we must not condemn those who have gone through divorce and/or remarriage. A long time before the actual divorce (in court) took place someone did something wrong. Someone created the situation that became intolerable for the partner. Now that was sin. But the divorce or separation was not sin. It was a reaction to sin.

DIVORCE IS ONLY A SYMPTOM OF THE REAL PROBLEM.



Jesus said a divorce occurs because of the "hardness of your hearts" (Matt 19:8). And that is the same thing as saying the hardness of our hearts creates intolerable situations that can only be solved by a divorce. The "hardness of heart" is the real problem in our society, not divorce.

There is therefore now, no condemnation to those Christians who have been through divorce or remarriage. If they were the guilty party then their errors and sins are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Should anyone be so bold as to try to remove the covering of the blood and reveal the past. We think not! And suppose the divorced Christian was the guiltless or injured party. That party certainly does not commit sin by departing (separating I Cor. 7:11) or even by entering into a final divorce (I Cor. 7:15). In fact they are not under bondage anymore according to I Cor. 7:15. Many denominations treat divorce and remarriage as though they are the unpardonable sin. This just isn't so. Divorce is pardonable and remarriage is **NOT** a sin.

THE PAST... INCLUDING DIVORCE... IS COVERED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.



We by no means want to encourage divorce. But we do want to set the record straight in the minds of genuine Bible students and release those who have gone through these problems from the condemnation that religious society throws at them.

We would encourage anyone having marital problems to try with everything they have to work them out. Our booklet "Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage" is designed to help couples understand themselves and their relationship with their partner. We have

many testimonies from grateful husbands and wives who have been reconciled in their own marriages after applying the principles outlined in the book. We'd recommend it to anyone you know whether they are married or not because it is really about all kinds of relationships and the dynamics involved in them.

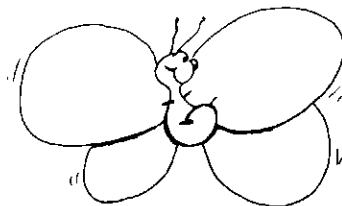
WE DO NOT WANT IN ANY WAY TO ENCOURAGE DIVORCE.

As a review we'd like to say that in the first place Paul recommends that you don't get married I Cor. 7:1,8. But if you do it's fine. We honestly think this recommendation was because of a temporary situation back then called the "present distress" in I Cor. 7:26.

The recommendation against marriage does not fit the flow of Jesus' teaching because Jesus highly regarded and condoned marriage. So we conclude that Paul's caution must have been because of the "present distress" and that there is no need to regard it in normal times and circumstances.

Next, if you're married, work at it. Give it every chance you can. Learn to become fully united in soul and body (our book tells how). But if you should happen to be divorced, it's okay. It's not what God intended from the beginning and we agree that someone did something wrong that caused it - but even that is pardonable. It's a fact of life.

Further, if you're divorced, don't go looking for another mate unless you feel you just have to. But if you do and you remarry it's really okay; it's not sin.



DIVORCE

I CORINTHIANS 7

Verse 1 says - don't get married.

Verse 2 says - if you do, here's your new rules.

Verse 8 says - don't get married.

Verse 9 says - if you do, here's your new rules. (again)

Verse 10 says - don't get separated.

Verse 11 says - if you do, here's your new rules.

Verse 15 says - don't get divorced.

Verse 15 says - if you do, here are your new rules.

Verse 27 says - don't get remarried

Verse 28 says - if you do, here's your new rules.

Our God meets everyone's needs no matter what condition they find themselves in.

DAT VAS UNE
GOOT LESSON! -



There are many hundreds of thousands of people who need to know the facts in this message. Some need to know these things because they themselves live under condemnation from Society. And perhaps even under self condemnation and/or a haunting recurring question about their relationship with God.

There are others who need this because they are the ones who have been heaping the condemnation. And there is another group of lovely, well instructed, spirit led Christians who knew all the time that God's ways are the ways of granting mercy and meeting everyone's needs - no matter what situation they are in. □

We regret to say that this Sept. 1979 issue of the Monarch titled DIVORCE was the last one mailed for a period of over a year.

We are glad to say that the next Monarch mailed was Jan. 1981 titled CHRISTIANS COMPLETE CONFESSION.