

Words of

# Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

## GOD CARES WHO WE DIVORCE

*As America's view of marriage continues changing, so does America's view of divorce. God's view has not changed.*

Forgetting that marriage is God's idea, God's teaching about divorce is neglected or ignored, even in American religious groups.

We need God's permission for both marriage and divorce. Jesus said, *whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery* (Matthew 5:32), and *whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery* (Matthew 19:9). American law once agreed with Jesus' teachings but not

anymore. Now, American law allows couples to divorce for any reason and immediately marry someone else. Jesus said that marrying a second time results in adultery, unless the first marriage ended due to sexual immorality. Homosexuality gets plenty of attention, but the outcry against the adultery Jesus' mentioned is rare. Why???

Whether we are talking about what we eat, who we marry, or who we divorce, we must ask "What has God said on this subject?" and find the answer in the Bible. Can we help you do that?

### In This Issue:

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- God Cares "How"
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## GOD CARES WHEN DIVORCE HAPPENS

Divorce has been called an "epidemic"—a widespread disease. The destructive power of divorce is no mystery. Even children understand the pain of broken promises, and in all cases of divorce, *someone* has broken their promise(s).

Divorce was a problem in ancient Israel, and the LORD God said *that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence* and treachery. The guilty denied their sin, and the innocent who were abandoned went to the altar of the LORD weeping and crying. God was angry with the guilty and pitied the suffering (Mal. 2:13-17). Has God changed?

Likewise today, many are guilty and many suffer. If this describes you, have you considered God's thoughts (read Matt. 19:9)? Your guilt should cause you to seek God's mercy (Prov. 28:13). Your pain should cause you to seek the comfort, peace, and strength only available by serving Jesus wholeheartedly (Phil. 4:7, 13). His mercy and peace is only available if you humble yourself (James 4:6). When the guilty or suffering stop blaming others for their own sins and humbly seek and serve God then significant changes will always follow--guaranteed. Can we help you find what God offers?

# GOD CARES “HOW”

*What do Nadab & Abihu (priests), Moses (prophet), and David (king) have in common?*

God preserved the Old Testament to help us understand who He is. That knowledge is lacking today, evident by those who think “God does not care about how we do things, as long as we do them for Him.” Is that true? Ask:

1. Nadab & Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-2) These priests offered incense *before the Lord*, but they used fire which “God had not commanded” and were punished. God paid attention both to “who” and “how” they offered incense.

2. Moses (Numbers 20:7-12) God told Moses to speak to the rock (to provide water for Israel). Moses went to the rock but hit it, and God punished him. God paid attention to “how” Moses used the rock.

3. David (1 Chronicles 13, 15) God permitted Israel to move the ark and taught them “how” to do it (15:2). When they moved the ark in a different way, tragedy struck causing David to ask “How can I bring the ark of the Lord...?” Later he learned, *the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order* (15:2, 13).

Learn to seek God’s permission before you act. God cares what you do and how you do it.

*Show me Your ways,  
O LORD; teach me  
Your paths.*

*(Ps. 25:4)*

You are invited to:  
Sunday AM Bible classes:  
**10:00AM**

Sunday AM Worship:  
**10:45AM**

Sunday PM Worship:  
**5:00 PM**

Wednesday Bible Classes  
& Worship: 7:00 PM

## GOD CARES HOW WE EAT THE LORD’S SUPPER

God has always been interested in the worship humans offer to Him. We learn this from Cain, Abel, and even Jesus (Genesis 4; John 4:23-24). When we eat, marry, divorce, and worship, we must ask what God permits us to do.

From the beginning, Christians assembled to *break bread* (the Lord’s Supper) in remembrance of Jesus’ death on the first day of the week (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

Jesus gave *this bread* to represent His body. Thus, we have no permission to eat cookies or potato chips to remember His body (Yes, things like that have been done and are sinful).

Jesus also said that *this cup* (grape juice) represents His blood. May we mix some Sprite with the juice, to alter the flavor? No. Worship is aimed at pleasing God, not us!

The disciples met and ate on the first day of the week (the day of Jesus’ resurrection). Just as God gave no permission for other breads or kinds of drink, where is God’s permission to eat this memorial on another day or to assemble on that day but not break this bread? God cares how we worship—do you know what He has said?

### Questions from this month’s articles:

1. American law permits “no fault divorce.” What did Jesus say about that?
2. How can the pain of divorce draw us to God?
3. What was wrong with the fire offered by Nadab and Abihu?
4. How do we know what to eat and drink in the Lord’s Supper?

\* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501  
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

\* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**