



**But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -**

**Matthew 15:9**

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## **In The Words of My Childhood Friend, Cheryl, “Are You Joshing Me?”**

I was sitting here listening to the New Testament while playing Klondike on Facebook. And if you're wondering, the Klondike which I speak of is not a card game. It's a farming game where you are searching for your lost dad who disappeared during an expedition in Alaska.

While this audio version of 1 Corinthians was playing I heard several texts that gave me a laugh. Can you imagine what kind of theology people might come up with if these texts were taken out of context? Read these and imagine a doctrine built around these texts standing by themselves.

**Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” – 1 Corinthians 7:1**

If we take that text as it reads then we can teach that since it is wrong for a man to have sexual relations with a woman, then it must be good for him to have sexual relations with another man. Well, the Bible says it, who are we to argue?

**...From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; –  
1 Corinthians 7:29**

If we take this text as it reads then it is good for men who are married to continue dating and living the life of a bachelor. Again, this is in the Bible so who are we to argue with it?

I guess there is a point to what I'm doing. We need to pay attention to what we are being taught. So many times messages are presented to us through the

pulpit, books, articles, classes, etc... that have taken a text out of the middle of a passage and used it alone to present a false gospel. And this false gospel will likely promote a god that is unloving.

Recently I heard someone ask the question, "When I come to see you, do you want me to come in anger and intent on harming you, or do you want me to come in peace and love?"

I don't remember who said that but I did place that question into the mouth of Jesus. Suppose Jesus was to ask us that question. We don't want some human come to visit us when he or she is filled with rage and wanting to harm us, so why do so many people want Jesus to be filled with rage and planning to destroy the wicked when he comes?

As for me and my house, we serve the Jesus who will be filled with love when he comes on his rescue mission. And we also serve his/our Father who is just like Jesus. And when you place aside all preconceived ideas and teachings, you'll find the teaching that God is angry and wanting to destroy us is nothing more than a doctrine that has been taken out of context or misinterpreted. This is the deception we were warned about. Please, use your brains and don't fall for it.

After writing the above I called Elkanah at work for something unrelated to this post, but since I had him on the phone I shared with him the above texts that I had found but I only shared the partial text. Our conversation went something like this:

Me: I found this interesting text. Listen to this. "[Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."](#)

Him: Huh?

Me: Or how about this one: "[From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not;](#)"

Him: Are you reading Paul?

Me: Yes.

Him: You need to read the whole thing.

We had a little laugh over that then I decided to call my still a newlywed son, Samuel. Our conversation went something like this:

Me: I found this odd text. Listen to this: [“From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not;”](#)

Him: (Immediate response) You need to read the whole passage and not take things out of context.

Me: Well, how about this one: [“Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”](#)

Him: That's a good one. But I like the one that C.D. Brooks used to use. [“There is no God.”](#)

Me: No God? I'm not familiar with that one.

Him: The text is in Psalms 14 (verse 1) and it says that [the fool says in his heart there is no God.](#)

Point made. Be careful and make sure you are getting the entire message. If it sounds like it shows God to be acting in a way that is anything less than loving then you need to look it up for yourself.

Time marches on and our Bible study is starting soon. That means I need to end this and go get things ready for tonight.

Much love to all,

Hannah