



PART 5... MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR!

Introduction – Living By Love Instead Of Law

Matthew 7:12 / Luke 6:31
Romans 13:10

Living by Law fosters a _____ focus.

Living by Love fosters a _____ focus.

The Principle-Based Sex Life – Wrapping Sex in Love

Matthew 5:27-32

ANTITHESIS #2 – ADULTERY OF THE HEART...

Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18

Lust Vs. Attraction...
Sin vs. Temptation...

JESUS THOUGHT:

Issues of the _____ are as important as issues of the body.
You are responsible not just for what you do, but for what you _____.

Isaiah 57:8

IMPLICATION FOR JESUS PEOPLE:

Practice radical _____ from _____.
Make choices when rational to govern you during those times when rationality is weakened.

ANTITHESIS #3 – REALITY VS. RELIGION...

JESUS THOUGHT:

God doesn't recognize moral or religious _____.

Matthew 19:1-12; Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Malachi 2:13-16

JESUS THOUGHT:

The ultimate issue for a Christ-follower should be finding out and following what God _____, not what God _____.

IMPLICATION FOR JESUS PEOPLE:

While following Jesus, try to stay as close to him as possible rather than trying to figure how far behind you're allowed to lag.

Matthew 1:19

Conclusion – Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27

Recommendations For Further Study...

TAPES... *Love Romance & Relationships (Series);
Hot Potatoes – Is Divorce Ever An Option?; Is God Sexually Repressed?*

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Explore and discuss this quote by N.T. Wright: *Saying 'no' to desire when it strikes inappropriately – in other words, outside the context of marriage – is part of the most basic Christian discipline.*
2. Take time to review this week's message and discuss your reactions. Talk about what most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.
3. In your life have you had the chance to witness any marriages like the kind Jesus desires for people? What lessons have you learned from them?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

4. Read about Jesus' debate with the religious leaders regarding marriage, divorce, and the Law in **Matthew 19:1-12**. a) How does the Pharisees' use of "command" (v. 7) and Jesus use of "permitted" (v. 8) illustrate the difference between reading the Law religiously vs. reading it "Jesusly"? Did Moses really "command" divorces to occur? (See **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**.) b) Jesus honours singleness as an intentional choice by talking about people choosing to be "eunuchs" for the Kingdom. In light of Old Testament teaching about who is acceptable to worship God (see **Leviticus 21:17-20; Deuteronomy 23:1**), how is this metaphorical statement intentionally subversive and religiously offensive? What is Jesus' main point here?
5. Read the last three "antitheses" in **Matthew 5:33-48**. a) Why would Jesus say that anything beyond a simple "yes" or "no" is "from the evil one"? b) How does sunshine and rain model the kind of love God calls us to? How does that relate to the promise of **Matthew 5:9**? c) Knowing that the anti-war movement was growing in Jesus' day, how do you think the last two antitheses were received by his original audience? d) How do you think we can best apply these last two antitheses today? (i.e., Would Jesus have fought in Viet Nam?)

SO WHAT?...

6. Take a few moments (2-3 minutes) to meditate on **Matthew 5:9** as it applies to *your* life. (If you like, after meditating share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.)
7. Pray for each other regarding your continued spiritual growth during this series.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, May 9 / 16, 2004