

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

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George L. Faull, Editor

A Few EXCEPTIONs!

Paul was on a ship about to suffer being shipwrecked. An angel spoke to him and he told the shipmaster for all to stay aboard. **Acts 27:31**, "Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, **Except** these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved."

It would be necessary for all to abide in the ship for salvation. They had to abide or stay in the ship. We understand what the expression "except" means in that sentence.

Well, Jesus tells us some things that will not be allowed for the salvation He offers.

"EXCEPT" WE BE CONVERTED AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN WE CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM.

Matthew 18:3, "And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted (turned), and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**"

- A. Teachable
- B. Moldable
- C. Simple
- D. Humble

"EXCEPT" OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS EXCEEDS THE PHARISEES, WE CANNOT BE SAVED.

Matthew 5:20, "For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**" (key)

They were told their righteousness must exceed the knowing ones and the Holy ones. What if we were told our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of Luther, Calvin, and the Pope?

There is no other saving righteousness than Christ's – our righteousness is as filthy rags, not just our sins.

The righteousness of the scribes and pharisees' was:

- A. Self-induced.
- B. Selfish righteousness.
- C. Self-glorifying not God-glorifying.

"EXCEPT" YOU REPENT, YOU WILL PERISH.

Luke 13:3-5, "3 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.** 4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**"

"EXCEPT" YOU ARE BORN OF WATER AND SPIRIT...

John 3:5, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**"

You must be born again. Jewish proselytes who became Jews were baptized and they were said to be "born again". Nicodemus knew what

born again meant. It was familiar to him.

"EXCEPT" YOU EAT CHRIST'S FLESH AND DRINK HIS BLOOD, YOU HAVE NO LIFE IN YOU.

John 6:51-53, "51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat? 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.**"

Notice it says, "He will give". It refers to something futuristic. Later, Jesus explained it.

"EXCEPT" YOU ABIDE IN THE VINE, YOU WILL HAVE NO FRUIT AND WILL BE CUT OFF AND BURNED IN THE FIRE.

John 15:4-5, "4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, **except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.** 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned."

So much for "eternal security" or "once in grace always in grace"!!

**"EXCEPT" YOU STRIVE
LAWFULLY, YOU ARE NOT
CROWNED.**

2 Timothy 2:5, "And if a man also strive for masteries, *yet* is he not crowned, **except he strive lawfully.**"

When I was a boy and ran, around the outside fence when the track team ran, I would beat them. I never strove lawfully, so I never won any ribbons or got any trophies.

CONCLUSION

Now we understand except these abide in the ship they would not be saved. It was essential to their salvation from the shipwreck.

Likewise, We See Some "Musts" for Us:

× **Become as a child... like a teachable child.**

× **Have Christ's Righteousness, not our own.**

Philippians 3:3-10, "3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, **and have no confidence in the flesh.** 4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 **But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.** 8 **Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,** 9 **And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through**

the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

× **Repent or perish.**

× **Be born of the water and Spirit.**

You had better not misunderstand: **Titus 3:5**, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

× **Eat the flesh and drink His blood He said He would give for the life of the world.**

Let the Bible interpret what Jesus meant eating His flesh and drinking His blood:

Matthew 26:26-29, "26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is my body.** 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it;** 28 **For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Mark 14:22-24, "22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake *it*, and gave to them, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body.** 23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave *it* to them: and they all drank of it. 24 And he said unto them, **This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."**

Luke 22:19-20, "19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, **This is my body** which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying,

This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

These explain **John 6:53**, "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

× **Abide in the vine so we can bare fruit.** It is not easy-believism – we can be cut off!!

× **Strive lawfully if we are to be crowned.**

Jesus named these exceptions. There are no **exceptions!** Comply or die!!!

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Many Advisors

By Kendall Faulk

Proverbs 11:14, “For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.” NIV

Proverbs 15:22, “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” NIV

Proverbs 20:18, “Plans are established by seeking advice; so if you wage war, obtain guidance.” NIV

Proverbs 24:6, “Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers.” NIV

We are in the middle of a spiritual battle (See **Ephesians 6:10-20**) and the young preacher Timothy was called to fight the good fight (**1 Timothy 6:12**).

So, if we want victory in this spiritual battle, Proverbs says we'll need to seek advice and guidance from "many advisors."

When I was 18 my father could have trained me in the ministry and the Bible himself. He was a teacher and president of a seminary. And yet He sent me off to Cincinnati Bible College. Why? He wanted me to have "many advisors" not just him.

He didn't want me to be a parrot of him but to think for myself. He wanted me to hear many sides, many views, and develop critical thinking skills. He wanted me to have the influence of many advisors who were experts in areas he was not.

It is cults and false teachers who want to limit your instruction to their teaching alone. Maybe someone brought you to Christ and taught you; that is great but do not limit yourself to only one advisor.

Proverbs 18:17, “The first *one* to plead his cause *seems* right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.” NKJV

No one person (especially me) can be right about everything or excel in every area. You need a broad range of influence if you want victory.

You cannot make a right choice until you have heard all sides. And an expert in one area may not be an expert in another.

Surround yourself with many advisors. Sit under the teaching and training of many teachers. Have many teachers, read many books, listen to many preachers, and have many advisors.

For those who want to go into ministry, this is the advantage of a Bible college (if it's a good one). You will have many advisors.

You want to win souls?
Find a soul winner and have them train you!

You want to learn the Bible?
Find scholars and have them teach you!

You want to learn leadership?
Find an effective administrator and have them train you!

You want to know how to inspire people?
Find an inspiring person and have them train you.

This is why God gives Elders to pastor a church. We need many teachers, not just one.

When you make your plans, develop your skills, solidify your beliefs, have many advisors.

WARNING:

Once you come to realize someone is a false teacher, you know their advice is bad and you should avoid it and be suspect of all they say.

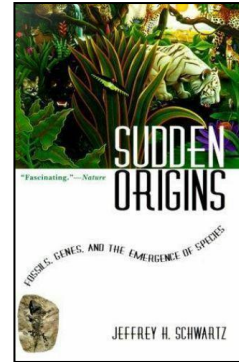
There is no value in listening to lies and false teaching unless it is to refute it.

Have many GOOD advisors, not many evil advisors.

Sudden Origins

--By Terry Carter

“Darwin may have argued that new species emerge through a slow, gradual accumulation of tiny mutations, but the fossil record reveals a very different scenario – the sudden emergence of whole new species, with no apparent immediate ancestors.”



The quote above comes from the back cover of the book *Sudden Origins* by Jeffery H. Schwartz, published in 1999.

Dr. Schwartz was a professor of anthropology at the University of Pittsburg at that time. I am not aware of whether he is still in that position or not.

Dr. Schwartz is not arguing in this book that the theory of evolution is incorrect. Rather, he is presenting a new mechanism by which evolution might have occurred.

He does make a rather convincing case that the previous proposals as to how evolution could have happened have not been supported by the data provided by the fossil record.

Notice that the fossil record does not provide evidence for the most commonly accepted means of evolution. Instead, it suggests either no evolution or evolution that is quite sudden and a complete appearance of a new species.

On page 300 of the book, he says the following:

“Nevertheless, it was and still is the case that...the formation of a new species, by any mechanism, has never been observed.”

On page 355, he elaborates as follows:

"This in spite of the irony that no one on the side of gradual change leading to speciation had ever observed, much less studied genetically, the emergence of a new species. It was simply assumed that the processes that were supposed to occur among individuals and between generations would work at levels of evolution beyond the individual."

Notice that Dr. Schwartz explains that the "traditional" method proposed for slow and gradual evolution is really based on nothing but an assumption, not on observation. I do not want to base my entire worldview and eternity on the "assumptions" of men. I do not believe you should either.

Evolutionists usually explain the lack of observations discussed above by appealing to the supposed long and gradual process of forming new species. They say, "We simply have not been observing the process long enough". After all, they say, it takes millions of years for new species to arrive.

However, the lack of evidence for such phenomena in the fossil record has forced people like Dr. Schwartz to propose alternate theories. The "sudden origins" some of them are now proposing gives rise to another big problem. If new species can and have arisen suddenly, they are left with no way to explain why we have not observed this happening. If it is a slow and gradual process, the fossil record should contain the evidence of that. If it is a short and sudden process, we should be able to observe it. This is quite the dilemma for the evolutionist.

Personally, I believe in sudden origins. I believe the heavens and earth and everything in them were created in only six days, **Exodus 20:11**.

This explains both the fossil record and our observations. God created all species suddenly and then stopped. There are no new species today because God had completed His work of creation. No dilemma here for me, only the evolutionists.

Matthew 5:17-19 and the Law

Dear Brother Faul,

I have a good friend who is out of the country for his job and is messaging me with questions about **Matthew 5:17-19** and the Law. It is difficult to take him through that subject by Facebook messaging. Not at all the same as sitting down with our Bibles and flipping through for an evening.

I would like to send him a concise organized teaching about it. He is teaching a Jewish person about Jesus, which led him to his own questions. Do you have a booklet that focuses on this?

ANSWER:

I can answer this with a quick note.

The Bible tells us to compare spiritual things with spiritual things. There are four gospels with a purpose. Some additional information is found in other Scriptures to harmonize the difficult ones.

Let's take the first verse. Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, OR THE PROPHETS; I am not come to destroy but to fulfill.

A man courts a girl and she grows to love him and accepts his proposal for marriage. Her little brother loves him greatly, but he cries and cries when someone told him that his sister's friend is not going to be engaged to his sister anymore.

He misunderstands and asks him, "Is it true you're not going to be my sister's fiancé anymore?" The man sits down and explains to the boy.



"No, she will not be my fiancé anymore and we will not be engaged anymore. I am going to fulfill the promise I made to her when we became engaged., Tomorrow she will be my wife and you will be my brother-in-law. I am not destroying the engagement; I am fulfilling it by making my fiancé my wife".

Oh how happy the boy is to know what it means to fulfill instead of destroying or breaking the engagement. So, Christ fulfills the Law and the prophets. He makes them true as promised.

And as we notice above, more is added in the other Gospel. "Not till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Sounds like heaven and earth is going to pass before all is fulfilled. But no, in no wise would these things not be fulfilled. Now read it in the other Gospel **Luke 16:17**, "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, **THAN** one tittle of the law to fail."

He had just said in the preceding verse, "the law and the prophets were until John; since that time the kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it."

If I say that Hell will freeze over before I deny the Lord, it is not a promise that Hell will ever freeze over. Jesus is saying it would be easier for Heaven and earth to pass away than for the Law and prophets to fail.

As for **verse 19** it is not speaking of the Old Testament Commandments but rather the commandments he had been giving in the Beatitudes, and about being salt and light.

In **verse 20** He says that our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, or you (plural – you all) shall in no case enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

He then shows the commandments they kept were surface obedience to the old law, but Jesus shows the Law is much deeper and must affect the heart and our emotions.

The man who keeps the beatitudes and lives and teaches them, will be called great in the Kingdom. But the man who breaks them will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Which would you prefer to see in your children, the attitudes of the beatitudes or that of a Pharisee, a superficial keeper of the commandments of the law?

Jesus gave the beatitudes so we would not be like the scribes and Pharisees. They were "letter of the law people", but Spirit of the law people were keepers of the intent of the law.

Jesus' teaching fulfills the Law for they are people fortunate enough to recognize their spiritual poverty and mourn over their sins. They have meekness (strength under control) and hunger and thirst for righteousness, are merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, persecuted for righteousness sake, reviled and lied about and able to rejoice for suffering for this lifestyle.

These kinds of people are preservers of the world like salt and light that cannot be hidden, shining because of their good works, bringing glory to the Father in Heaven. That sure does not destroy the Law but fulfills it.

A Reminder...

"1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 **For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.**" Psalms 1:1-6

A Look at Proverbs 26:18-19

Dear Brother Faull,

Could you comment about the meaning of **Proverbs 26:18-19?**

"18 As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, 19 So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport."

Thank you

ANSWER:

A man who feigns that he is a madman (for so the word implies) and throws around firebrands or carelessly shoots arrows and kills, is just like the man who deceives and lies to his neighbor and teases and then claims he was only kidding.

Both are evil men full of mischief and pretend to say only an innocent thing. They are men who do not mind hurting under pretense and just does not want to be held accountable.

This would fall under "foolish jesting" that the New Testament speaks about; to get a laugh and mock. He actually says what he is thinking but claims he did not mean to hurt anyone which is like casting fiery arrows and risking death to innocent people.

Teasing people or lying at the risk of hurting their reputation, influence, or even feelings, is the sport of a madman who feigns to be mad while shooting their victim or burning his house.

Many crimes hurt and evil is done by the expression, "I was only teasing". Calling a woman "a fat pig" and saying "I did not mean anything by it and was only teasing" is an example.

But the damage is done, the woman is hurt, her self-worth destroyed, her hatred of men deepened, and her husband has a cold wife.

I have a preacher friend that is a master of insults that he means but excuses himself by saying, "That was meant to be a joke!"

I have seen him destroy people and then act shocked at their pain and offer that kind of excuse for his behavior. He has done it to me many times, but I know the intent of his jabs. His comments do not hurt me because of this proverb. He is a foolish madman who thinks he can stand taller because he puts others down. Some of us can handle it, but most cannot, and they draw into themselves.

I do not believe that God takes such sinners lightly. I hope you get the idea.

Covid Crazy Yet???



"We need to be careful because more and more people are going crazy from being in lockdown.

I've just been discussing this with the microwave, toaster, and Keurig machine and we all agree that things are getting worse.

I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything.

Certainly not to the fridge because he is always so cold and closed off.

The iron calmed me down a bit as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing.

The vacuum was completely unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up.

The fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all blow over soon.

The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and the doorknob told me to get a grip.

The front door said I was unhinged and then the curtains told me to yes, pull myself together and keep hanging in there!"

--Author Unknown

We at Summit hope you are all well and still "hanging in there!"

How “Common” is Common Law Marriage?

By Brenda Barker

Upon the request of the editor of the Gospel Unashamed, I write the following article...



Marriage... A special covenant relationship between a man and a woman that when joined in matrimony, the two become one. **Genesis 2:24b**

God ordained this special covenant from the beginning of the world when He created Adam and Eve.

God knew it was not good for man to be alone, so He created woman. **Genesis 2:18-20**

The man is to leave his parents and cleave to his wife. **Genesis 2:24**

Yet not everyone is destined to be married. Some remain single and dedicate their life to the Lord's work. There is nothing wrong or sinful in remaining single and is actually considered “a gift” as Paul states in **1 Corinthians 7:7**. But with it comes challenges that must be kept under control as there are desires that can cause people to follow paths which can lead to lustful sins.

I have witnessed to several people over the years. Sadly, many live in a cohabitational environment and it's difficult for them to come out of it.

When I addressed this lifestyle to some who are close to me, I have been told they are “married under the Common Law Marriage because they've been living together for over 7 years”.

This got me to thinking one day...Is this really legal, or just something people began using? So, I sought out to find just how “common” is this common law marriage? I put on my detective hat and went to the (trusty?) internet to fact check it. As I suspected, **there is no legal law** in the majority of the states and not as common as people believe it to be!

Only a “few” states recognize common law marriages and even then, there are guidelines and restrictions I doubt many know even exist.

In the Few States that Recognize a Common Law Marriage:

- ✘ A common law marriage form is required to be filed with certain states.
- ✘ The length of cohabitation depends on each state's guidelines and some don't require it, but **both parties must consent to the arrangement**.
- ✘ Couples are required to have had intercourse because without that consummation, they will not be legally recognized!
- ✘ If the couple moves to another state which does not accept common law marriages, they may or may not (depending on the state) need to marry legally to be valid as a “married couple”.
- ✘ Amendments were recently adjusted to allow provisions so that homosexuals, and not just heterosexuals, can be included.
- ✘ Couples don't usually change their last names but continue with the name they had before the relationship. This can be confusing when trying to explain how you are in a “married relationship” but have different names. And children born while in a common law marriage... whose last name would be on the birth certificate?
- ✘ A **legal divorce proceeding** is required should you end the relationship so lawyers can

determine disputes as of child support and/or custody, spousal support, property division, etc. So, it's not as easy to “divorce” from or leave a common law marriage than people may realize.

For the children born during this cohabitational relationship, there could be child support from one or both parties until the child(ren) are of a specific age, released from custodial care, or dies.

I quickly realized that the majority of people don't really know what is required for a “common law marriage”.

The following was obtained off the National Conference of State Legislatures website: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/common-law-marriage.aspx>

States Which Acknowledge “Common Law Marriage Arrangements

- **Colorado:** Common law marriage contracted on or after Sept. 1, 2006, is valid if, at the time the marriage was entered into, both parties are 18 years or older, and the marriage is not prohibited by other law ([Colo. Stat. §14-2-109.5](#))
- **Iowa:** Common law marriage for purposes of the Support of Dependents Chapter (Iowa Code §252A.3) Otherwise it is not explicitly prohibited ([Iowa Code §595.1A](#))
- **Kansas:** Common law marriage will be recognized **if** the parties are 18 or older and for purposes of the Divorce and Maintenance Article, **proof of common law marriage is allowed as evidence of marriage of the parties** ([Kan. Stat. §23-2502; Kan. Stat. §23-2714](#))
- **Montana:** Not strictly prohibited, they are not invalidated by the Marriage Chapter ([Mont. Stat. §40-1-403](#))

- **New Hampshire:** Common Law Marriage: "persons cohabiting and acknowledging each other as husband and wife, and generally reputed to be such, for the period of 3 years, and until the decease of one of them, shall thereafter be deemed to have been legally married." ([N.H. Stat. §457:39](#))
- **South Carolina:** allows for marriages without a valid license ([S.C. Stat. §20-1-360](#))
- **Texas:** Common Law Marriage in specific circumstances ([Tex. Family Law §1.101](#); [Tex. Family Law §2.401-2.402](#))
- **Utah:** [Utah Stat. §30-1-4.5](#)

Also noted: Not all state statutes expressly allow for common law marriages. In Rhode Island, case law recognizes common law marriages. Oklahoma's statute requires couples to get a marriage license; however, case law has upheld common law marriages in the state.

States Which "Previously" Allowed Common Law Marriages

*(States that **did** allow, and will still recognize as valid, common law marriages entered into **prior to the date it was abolished.**)*

- **Alabama:** No common law after Jan. 1, 2017, however, common law marriages entered into **prior** to that date will be recognized by the state. ([Ala. Code § 30-1-20](#))
- **Florida:** No common law entered into after Jan. 1, 1968 ([Fla. Stat. § 741.211](#))
- **Georgia:** No common law after Jan. 1, 1997, however, common law marriages entered into prior to that date will be recognized by the state. ([Ga. Stat. § 19-3-1.1](#))
- **Indiana:** No common law if entered into after Jan. 1, 1958 ([Ind. Code §31-11-8-5](#))
- **Ohio:** No common law if entered into on or after Oct. 10, 1991 ([Ohio Stat § 3105.12](#))

- **Pennsylvania:** No common law contracted after Jan. 1, 2005 ([Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 1103](#))

(For exact rulings on common law marriages, contact the local legal firm for that state or the local courthouse.)

Some of the states decided to change their laws to remove common law marriage when the Catholic Church made the proclamation that this form of lifestyle would not be recognized.

Does God Approve of "Common Law Marriages?"

This is a definite NO!

This is still cohabitation and many people only wish to say they are married under the "common law marriage" because one or both parties do not want to be "legally married." A few examples of why I've been told they don't want to legally marry are:

- Complications of a divorce.
- Not wanting to be "legally attached".
- They like the relationship just the way it is.

Cohabitation is just another word for "**fornication**" (sexual and intimate relationships outside of an actual marriage covenant) which is what God forbids. For a chart of what falls under the umbrella of fornication, Summit has a .20¢ chart called, "*What is Fornication?*" by George L. Faull – ask for Article B-612.

God forbids fornication and if not dealt with in a congregation, and if the sinner does not repent, it is grounds for disfellowshipping. **1 Corinthians 5**

Fornicators are listed as ones who are unrighteous and will **not** inherit the Kingdom of God. **1 Corinthians 6:9**, "Know ye not that **the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators,** nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,"

Note also that this passage says, "**be not deceived**", which is what many

who want to have a common law marriage have fallen into.

We have specific instructions given by the apostle Paul - **1 Corinthians 7:8-9**, "8 I say therefore **to the unmarried and widows**, It is good for them if they abide even as I. 9 **But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.**"

The purpose of marriage is to keep from fornication. People living with a common law marriage mindset are still fornicating. Until a union in marriage is done correctly, God does not recognize it.

Common law marriage opens all kinds of avenues for people to be allowed to commit sinful acts and not feel "so guilty".

It also trains the children to believe it's ok to live in a cohabitational relationship. This could keep them from entering the Kingdom of God should they continue in that lifestyle when they are older.

Objections for Common Law Marriages

1. **Where does it say in the Bible that we have to be married by a preacher or the Justice of the Peace to be legally married in the sight of God?**

ANSWER:

It doesn't! Neither does God's Word say we have to go to the courthouse to legalize a divorce. God has set the precedent by the marriage covenant. All other sexual and intimate acts are committing fornication which is condemned in Scripture.

Satan has once again caused people to swallow a deceptive sin as being acceptable as it gives an excuse to feel legally married and a legitimate license to fornicate. Don't be fooled, this is one of his many delusions.

2. **But we love each other!**

ANSWER:

If so, why not marry? God requires marriage the correct way

as He intended for a man and woman, otherwise you are living under a cloak of sin.

I usually find that one of those in the relationship really wants a legitimate marriage but cover it up so as not to be ridiculed or embarrassed by the other.

3. Marriage is just a ring and a stupid piece of paper!!



ANSWER:

Really? Tell that to the court when you try to verify if your car that was stolen is really yours; or if the deed to the house you reside in really belongs to you when you try to sell it!!

The ring and marriage license tells others you belong to each other and you have proof. No others can be part of this relationship – just between the two of you, not even your children. They are byproducts of your marriage but not the marriage.

The ring is a reminder that you made a covenant and it is life-binding. You've made a commitment to stay with this other individual.

It helps you work harder to keep the relationship together and it eases the mind of the other person that you're not planning to pick up and leave at any given time and leave them "high-and-dry".

(For more information on this point, George L. Faull has an Article B-344, "It's Just a Stupid Piece of Paper" for .20¢)

4. I'll lose my spouses pension if I marry again....

ANSWER:

Do you put your faith in God or Satan? I would rather lose my spouses pension than my soul for eternity or cause others to stumble.

Repent and proceed with a legal marriage and put your faith in God that He will help take care of your financial burdens.

Or you can remain single. To remain in the Will of God you'd have to separate and stay as friends with no intimacy involved.

This could be a very tempting way to live if you've already been with each other intimately or have children.

Shacking up, or cohabitating, gives the false pretense to neighbors, friends, and children that you are actually married and is a direct affront to God.

Satan has deceived many through Television, Commercials, movies, main-stream media, Hollywood, and even your children's school curriculum that cohabitation is the "new normal".

Soap Operas are full of sinful lies, yet many Christians watch it and we wonder why no one is blushing or seeing anything wrong with it today.

5. It's ok - I live in a State that recognizes Common Law Marriages.

ANSWER:

No state, government, Christian leadership, or man can override God's command.

If God says not to commit murder, no state or person can legalize it – it is still sin! We must view things and live our lives through the eyes of God, not the world around us.

6. I know other Christians who are doing it.

ANSWER:

They are living a life of sin and need to repent, as well. We should not follow ungodly examples but Godly people who uphold the Will of God as Holy so we can be Holy in His presence as well as to others whom we influence.

3 John 1:11, "Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."

2 Timothy 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

7. But we've been together for 7 years and that makes it legal.

ANSWER:

Even if this was legal in the sight of God, wouldn't the first 6 years still be living in sin?

God never wants us to "partially commit" to being one of His children. This is what He calls "lukewarm", which makes Him vomit. **Rev. 3:16**, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

This is exactly where Satan has many people today... lukewarm in their sin and they feel just fine.... comfortable.

I call that "Common Law Christianity" where one considers themselves a Christian without fully committing to following all the ways God has commanded us to do to be His Bride and part of the Church. Many good people are deceived in this area.

We live in a world where all sinful acts, which God abhors and condemns, are approved, committed, and legalized by men and authorities.

Be Not Deceived!

There is nothing "common" about common law marriages, and certainly not common law Christianity, in the mind of God!