



**It Really Is
That Simple**

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God has designed His Word – the Bible – as being understandable by all who have the mental capacity to distinguish good from evil.

❖ And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free
(John 8:32).

❖ 1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets **(Eph. 3:1-5)**.

However, some things in the Bible are difficult to understand.

❖ 15 And consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen (**2 Pet. 3:15-18**).

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Unfortunately, many religious people are not just guilty of twisting those things which are difficult to understand, but are also guilty of twisting the simplest of matters.

We can be guilty of doing everything possible to explain what a verse does not say instead of just accepting the obvious and plain meaning of that verse.

Consider some examples . . .

Jesus's Simple Law of Divorce and Remarriage

"But I say to you that 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" (**Matt. 5:32**).

We conclude the following from Jesus's simple statement:

- ❖ If a person divorces his spouse for sexual immorality, he does not sin.
- ❖ If a person divorces his spouse for "any reason" other than sexual immorality, he does sin.

Simple, isn't it?

Jesus's Simple Law of Divorce and Remarriage

"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery" (**Matt. 19:9**).

This verse shows that the only way a person is ever eligible to remarry after a divorce is if he meets these qualifications:

- 1) He divorced his spouse and is not the person who was divorced.
- 2) He divorced his spouse due to having evidence of her sexually cheating.

Jesus's Simple Law of Divorce and Remarriage

We conclude the following from Matt. 19:9:

- ❖ If a person divorces his spouse for reasons other than sexual immorality and remarries another person, both he and the new spouse sin.
- ❖ If a person who is eligible for marriage marries a person who is divorced for reasons other than sexual immorality, both he and the new spouse sin.
- ❖ If a person is on the receiving end of a divorce and he remarries another person, both he and the new spouse sin.
- ❖ If a person who is eligible for marriage marries someone who divorced his spouse for sexual immorality, neither person sin.

Jesus's Simple Law of Divorce and Remarriage

We find the reason behind Jesus's law of marriage, divorce, and remarriage in Rom. 7:2-3.

❖ "2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man."

Jesus's Simple Law of Divorce and Remarriage

Husbands & wives are bound to each other as long as they live.

❖ **Matt. 5:32** and **Matt. 19:9** are the only exceptions, which is why Jesus uses the word "except" in both passages to explain the only occasion when divorce and remarriage are ever justified.

To do anything otherwise causes us to receive this punishment:

❖ "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators . . . nor adulterers . . . will inherit the kingdom of God" (**1 Cor. 6:9-10**).

It really is that simple.

Hair Length

"Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering" (**1 Cor. 11:14-15**).

Simple, isn't it?

Nature teaches us two things in regards to hair:

- ❖ Men bring dishonor on themselves by having long hair.
- ❖ Women bring glory to themselves by having long hair.

Hair Length

- ❖ If men have long hair, bring "dishonor" on themselves.
- ❖ Nature teaches us that men should not have long hair.
- ❖ Just as nature teaches us that homosexuality is a sin and an act of "dishonoring" oneself (**Rom. 1:24-26, ESV**), nature also tells us it is unnatural and dishonorable for men to have long hair.
- ❖ Since the commands regarding hair length and homosexuality are both rooted in the principle of "nature," if we say it is not a sin for men to have long hair and for women to have anything other than long hair, then we must also say homosexuality is not a sin.
Consistency demands it!

Hair Length

Women in the Holiness and Church of God denominations accept the plain meaning of this verse better than any religious group I know. These women show their clear desire for glory by letting their hair grow "long."

- ❖ How many women in the Lord's church do this?
- ❖ And how many men preach/teach that this verse demands women to do so? Not very many.

But it really is this simple:

- ❖ Women must have long hair.
- ❖ Men must not have long hair.

Women Preachers

“34 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. 35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church”
(1 Cor. 14:34-35).

We have to work pretty hard to get around the plain meaning of this passage. It is incredibly simple and easy to understand.

- ❖ Women are to be silent (completely silent) when the whole church comes together in one place (**v.23**).
- ❖ This certainly rules out women preaching from the pulpit.

Women Preachers

Women should be teaching the gospel, just not in the assembly or “over” men (1 Tim. 2:12). Consider the following examples:

- ❖ Samaritan woman (**John 4**).
- ❖ 1st Century women with miraculous gifts (**Acts 2:17-18; 21:8-9**).
- ❖ Lois and Eunice (**2 Tim. 1:5**).
- ❖ Older women (**Titus 2:3-5**).
- ❖ Mothers teaching their children (**Titus 2:5; Eph. 6:4**).
- ❖ Influence of Godly women (**1 Pet. 3:1-2**).

Women Preachers

Women have an important responsibility to teach. God simply defines their role and scope in teaching differently from men.

It really is that simple.

Eating in/at Church

“What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you . . . But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment” (**1 Cor. 11:22, 33a**).

Simple, isn't it?

This instruction condemns all eating to satisfy hunger that might be done in the church assembly, whether done in connection with the Lord's Supper or completely disconnected from it.

Eating in/at Church

- ❖ Although this passage does not necessarily speak to the point of it being wrong to eat/drink in the church building per se, we still know it would be wrong to eat food at the church building even outside the assembly because using the Lord's money in support of recreational purposes is simply not authorized by the Bible.
- ❖ We may try masking a church dinner as a "fellowship meal," but inspiration calls it "judgment" (**v.33**).
- ❖ The only "fellowship meal" the Bible knows anything about is the Lord's Supper (**1 Cor. 11:17-34**).

Eating in/at Church

- ❖ When we “come together as a church” (**1 Cor. 11:18**), our purpose is not to eat and drink, but to edify one another (**1 Cor. 14:26**).

Food and drink do not edify.

- ❖ “The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (**Rom. 14:17**).

It really is that simple.

The Necessity of Baptism for Salvation

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (**Mark 16:15-16**).

Could it be more simple than that?

- ❖ The death of Christ and His shed blood is useless unless we are baptized (**Rom. 6:3**).
- ❖ Baptism is how we receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**).

The Necessity of Baptism for Salvation

- ❖ The death of Christ and His shed blood is useless unless we are baptized (**Rom. 6:3**).
- ❖ Baptism is how we receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**).
- ❖ Baptism is how we contact the blood of Christ (**Acts 22:16**).
- ❖ To get into Christ, we must “put on” Christ, which is done through baptism (**Gal. 3:26-28**).
- ❖ **Rom. 6:4-18** shows just how important baptism truly is.

Baptism is necessary for salvation.

It really is that simple.