



# The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

## Hillcrest church of Christ

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### *Does Baptism “Sanctify” A Sinful Relationship?*

By Jimmy Pettigrew

It is said by some that since baptism washes away all sins, it sanctifies marriages which existed at the time of baptism - so those involved in adulterous marriages (*those which violate **Matthew 19:9***) do not have to separate after baptism. This is a false teaching which jeopardizes both the doctrinal and moral purity of the church.

What they are saying then is that non - Christians are simply not under (*amenable to*) the law (*gospel*) of Christ. Marriages involving only non - Christians are acceptable to God even if they violate **Matthew 19:9** because non - Christians are not under the law of Christ.

In **Matthew 19:5** we learn that marriage was not just for Adam and Eve, but it is for all mankind, “. . . *For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh.*” Surely no one contends this was for Adam and Eve only, as they had neither father nor mother. Now, since we have all mankind involved in

marriage, it is crystal clear that marriage is not an institution limited to the church or covenant, - limited to Christians only. Marriage antedates the church and the nation.

Does the covenant of God apply to all men? The Biblical answer to this question is “**YES,**” The Lord commissioned his apostles to teach “*all nations*” (**Matthew 28:19-20**), “*unto the uttermost part of the earth*” (**Acts 1:8**), and “*to preach the word to the whole creation*” (**Mark 16:15-16**). Christ will judge all men by His words (**John 5:22, 27; 12:48**). The commands to repent and be baptized are in the covenant of Christ (**Acts 2:28; Mark 16:15-16**). They are not addressed to Christians but to alien sinners. Therefore, all men are accountable to the covenant of Christ.

Some might ask, “*Doesn’t baptism take away all sin?*” The biblically correct answer to that question is “**NO!**” Baptism will not forgive a sin known to an individual which is

yet unrepented. Repentance demands that one sever all relationships which violate the will of God. Faith in Jesus Christ must precede baptism (**Mark 16:16**), and baptism without prior faith is of no value; repentance must also precede baptism (**Acts 2:38**), and baptism without prior repentance of every known sin is useless.

If a man makes it clear that he does not intend to repent of his sinful situation, he cannot be scripturally baptized! He would get wet! The notion that baptism somehow sanctifies an unholy relationship so as to turn adultery into marriage is preposterous. Baptism is not some sort of magic which perform marriage ceremonies for adulterers!

If one can keep on committing adultery, after being baptized, then one can keep on committing murder after being baptized. If not, why not? Baptism does many things: baptism puts one into Jesus Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27**); it is into the death of Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**); it saves one from sin (**Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21**); it brings remission of sins (**Acts 2:37-38**); baptism washes away sins (**Acts 22:16**); it inducts one into the body, the church (**1 Corinthians 12:12-13**); baptism is into newness of life (**Romans 6:3-5**); it frees one from sin (**Romans 6:17-18**). But baptism will not remove temptation, nor does it guarantee eternal life and will not change a sinful practice into a righteous one or change a sinful relationship into a righteous one!

All men are subject to the laws of Christ on divorce and remarriage. I would be a false teacher if I tried to justify those who

are living in a sinful relationship!

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## How to Stay Safe in the World Today

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

2. Do not stay home because 17% of accidents occur in the home.

3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

4. Avoid traveling by air, rail or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. Above all else, avoid hospitals.

You will be pleased to learn that only 001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church.

Bible study is safe too! The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

**FOR SAFETY'S SAKE** – Attend the one church and read your Bible . . .

**IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!**