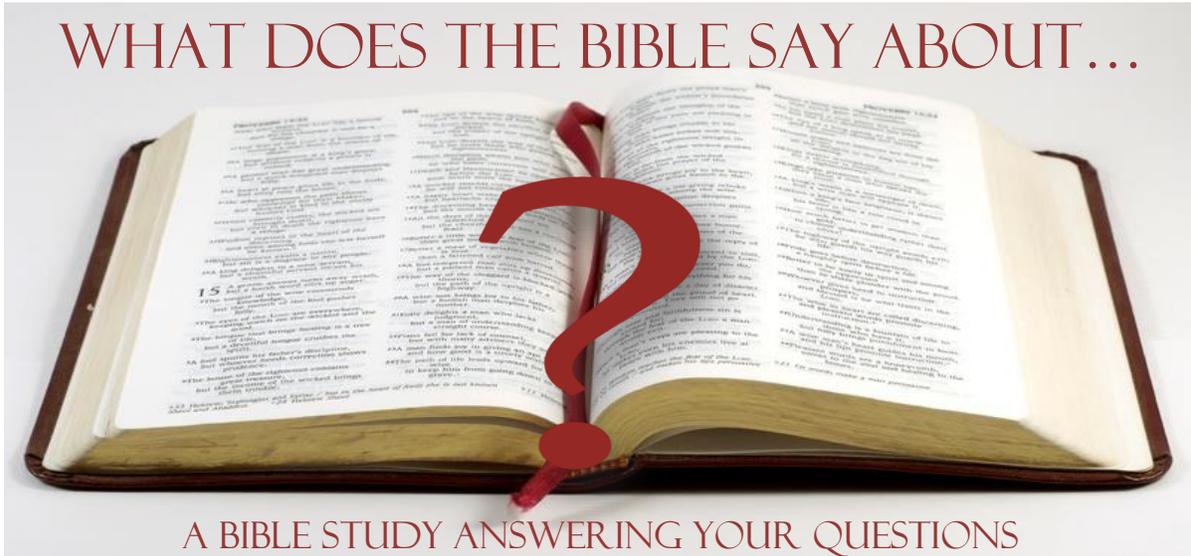


# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT...



## A BIBLE STUDY ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

### Lesson 8

Marriage. Justice of the peace. If you've lived together and formed a family, should you marry?

What should we eat and why?

Cremation?

Workplace violence; should you report it? What if reporting it causes someone who has a family to lose their job?

Lottery and scratch tickets?

### **Marriage. Justice of the peace. If you've lived together and formed a family, should you marry?**

Marriage was instituted by God in the Garden of Eden. He formed man from the ground and later took from him a 'rib' and made woman.

Did God perform a marriage ceremony like the ones we have today? It's doubtful.

So, what was God's intent when He put Adam and Eve together?

**Genesis 2:18** And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

**Genesis 2:21-25** <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead

thereof; <sup>22</sup> And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, **and brought her unto the man.** <sup>23</sup> And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. <sup>24</sup> **Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.** <sup>25</sup> And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

**Genesis 3:6** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, **and gave also unto her husband** with her; and he did eat.

So, here are the facts:

1. God put Adam and Eve together and called them "husband and wife".
2. A man should leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife (marriage). This ought to be a lifelong commitment.

Is living together a marriage?

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So, what is a marriage and how is it recognized?

This may differ slightly from country to country and culture to culture.

The Native Americans, for instance, held a sort of marriage ceremony where the husband was instructed in what his responsibilities were. After the ceremony, the couple was told to go and consummate the relationship.

**As Christians, we recognize and obey both the Word of God and the Laws of the Land.**

Is a couple who has lived together whether for a short-time or a long-time, "married"? - No

What if their relationship has met the government's requirement to be considered a "common law" marriage? Again, the answer is "No".

The reason why that length of time alone is not considered a marriage, is that in God's eyes, it's not a marriage, it's fornication.

**What should the couple do? Get married or separate?** \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Living together as a couple without it being a marriage legally and morally, will cause the couple to be living in sin. This will cause a couple to lose their salvation if they don't fix it.

If you have no intention of marring, then the couple should separate and stop committing fornication.

### **Is it OK to use a "justice of the peace"?**

Yes, however, I believe there is a special blessing when a couple marries in the church with a preacher doing the vows.

Couples don't have to have an elaborate wedding. I have done several weddings where just the couple and a few family members or friends were present.

### **If you've lived together and formed a family should you marry?**

Yes, in fact, I recommend getting it right, as quickly as you can, for your sake and the children involved.

### **What we should eat and why?**

The Old Testament had many "Dietary laws".

**Leviticus 11:4-8** <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: as the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. <sup>5</sup> And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. <sup>6</sup> And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he *is* unclean unto you. <sup>7</sup> And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he *is* unclean to you. <sup>8</sup> Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they *are* unclean to you.

**Leviticus 11:10-19 (law about fish)** <sup>10</sup> And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which *is* in the waters, they *shall be* an abomination unto you: <sup>11</sup> They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination. <sup>12</sup> Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the

waters, that *shall be* an abomination unto you. <sup>13</sup> And these *are they which* ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray, <sup>14</sup> And the vulture, and the kite after his kind; <sup>15</sup> Every raven after his kind; <sup>16</sup> And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind, <sup>17</sup> And the little owl, and the cormorant, and the great owl, <sup>18</sup> And the swan, and the pelican, and the gier eagle, <sup>19</sup> And the stork, the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.

There is more... But you get the point...

### **There were 613 Jewish laws relating to food and diet.**

Why did God give them these laws?

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What about foods today?

**Acts 10:9-18** <sup>9</sup> On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: <sup>10</sup> And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, <sup>11</sup> And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: <sup>12</sup> Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. <sup>13</sup> And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. <sup>14</sup> But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. <sup>15</sup> And the voice *spake* unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common. <sup>16</sup> This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. <sup>17</sup> Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, <sup>18</sup> And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

Based on these verses, we can assume God allows consumption of foods that were once considered "unclean".

It's important also to note that these verses reveal God's desire to have this "new born church" reach out to and win Gentile people. That God would open salvation to all people.

Your diet and what you choose to consume, is entirely up to you and your personal convictions.

There are no Scriptural restrictions on food today.

However, some people choose to abide by a stricter dietary law. This is not wrong if they, for personal or spiritual reasons, choose to do this. However, they should not force their beliefs on others and/or cause division because of their convictions.

The same holds true to those of us who don't see a problem eating pork, shellfish, etc... We should not try to persuade our brothers and sisters who have these convictions to come to our "pig roast".

I do however think we ought to be careful for the following reasons:

1. Our bodies are the temple of the "Holy Ghost" and we ought to eat healthy for our physical body's sake.
2. Gluttony is a sin.

Is it wrong to eat meat? No

Must I be a vegetarian? No

Although, I believe being a vegetarian is not wrong. In fact, for those of you who are vegetarians, I applaud your commitment to eating healthy. However, there is a danger when this conviction enters into the spiritual arena.

Some vegetarian practices enter into occult practices. This involves witchcraft and other mysticisms to invade the child of God and can cause them to become sinful, practice witchcraft, etc...

Bottom line, you ought to pray and ask God what you should do. Also, remember, overeating to the point of being unhealthy is wrong.

Is it ok to have "personal convictions" about the food I eat?

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### **Cremation?**

The Bible does not give any specific teaching about cremation.

There are occurrences in the Old Testament of people being burned to death (1 Kings 16:18; 2 Kings 21:6) and of human bones being burned (2 Kings 23:16-20); but these are not examples of cremation.

It is interesting to note that in 2 Kings 23:16-20, burning human bones on an altar desecrated the altar.

The Old Testament law nowhere commands that a deceased human body not be burned, and it does not attach any curse or judgment on someone who is cremated.

Cremation was practiced in biblical times, but it was not commonly practiced by the Israelites or by New Testament believers.

In the cultures of Bible times, burial in a tomb, cave, or in the ground was the common way to dispose of a human body (Genesis 23:19; 35:4; 2 Chronicles 16:14; Matthew 27:60-66).

While burial was the common practice, the Bible nowhere commands burial as the only allowed method of disposing of a body.

Is cremation something a Christian can consider? Again, there is no explicit scriptural command against cremation.

Some believers object to the practice of cremation on the basis it does not recognize that one day God will resurrect our bodies and re-unite them with our soul/spirit (1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:16).

However, the fact that a body has been cremated does not make it any more difficult for God to resurrect that body.

The bodies of Christians who died a thousand years ago have, by now, completely turned into dust.

This will in no way prevent God from being able to resurrect their bodies. He created them in the first place; He will have no difficulty re-creating them.

Workplace violence; should you report it? What if reporting it causes someone who has a family to lose their job?

The Bible doesn't really say anything that I can use on the subject of workplace violence and/or reporting it; here are my thoughts:

1. Violence against another person, other than protecting oneself or during war, is wrong.
2. Look at what we've seen in the news. Workplace violence is a real problem.

Should I report it?

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What if the person has and is supporting a family?

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My first recommendation is that you pray that the violence will stop, but you ought to be prepared to act if needed.

Also, your company policy must be adhered to. You may find yourself embroiled in something that may cause you to lose your job if you don't adhere to the policy.

Everyone has the right to live and work without the threat of violence.

### **Lottery and scratch tickets?**

The Bible does not specifically condemn gambling, betting, or the lottery.

The Bible does warn us, however, to stay away from the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10; Hebrews 13:5).

Scripture also encourages us to stay away from attempts to "get rich quick" (Proverbs 13:11; 23:5; Ecclesiastes 5:10).

Gambling, most definitely, is focused on the love of money and undeniably tempts people with the promise of quick and easy riches.

What is wrong with gambling? Gambling is a difficult issue because if it is done in moderation and only on occasion, it is a waste of money, but it is not necessarily evil.

What we may need to consider is... Will it open the door in my life to bondage?

People waste money on all sorts of activities. Gambling is no more or less of a waste of money than seeing a movie (in many cases), eating an unnecessarily expensive meal, or purchasing a worthless item.

At the same time, the fact that money is wasted on other things does not justify gambling. Money should not be wasted. Excess money should be saved for future needs or given to the Lord's work, not gambled away.

While the Bible does not explicitly mention gambling, it does mention events of "luck" or "chance."

As an example, casting lots is used in Leviticus to choose between the sacrificial goat and the scapegoat.

Joshua cast lots to determine the allotment of land to the various tribes.

Nehemiah cast lots to determine who would live inside the walls of Jerusalem.

The apostles cast lots to determine the replacement for Judas.

The roman soldiers casted lots for the garments of Jesus when he was at the cross.

Proverbs 16:33 says, "The lot is cast in the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."

What would the Bible say about casinos and lotteries?

Casinos use all sorts of marketing schemes to entice gamblers to risk as much money as possible. They often offer inexpensive or even free alcohol, which encourages drunkenness, and thereby a decreased ability to make wise decisions. Everything in a casino is perfectly rigged for taking money in large sums and giving nothing in return, except for fleeting and empty pleasures.

For several reasons I do not think it's a good idea for Christians to go to Casinos, etc...

The allure of "getting rich quick" is too great a temptation to resist for those who are desperate. The chances of winning are infinitesimal, which results in many peoples' lives being ruined.

Studies show that the vast majority of lottery winners are in an even worse financial situation a few years after winning a jackpot than they were before.

Few, if any, truly give the money to a good cause. Further, God does not need our money to fund His mission in the world.

Proverbs 13:11 says, "Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow."

1 Timothy 6:10 tells us, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

Hebrews 13:5 declares, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'"

Matthew 6:24 proclaims, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

I advise against gambling and the lottery.