LOVE VS LAW

EDITED AND ILLUSTRATED
BY HART INKLETTER
FIRST OF ALL, WE KNOW THAT ALL MOSAIC LAWS ARE NULL AND VOID AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED TODAY AS CHRISTIANS!

EVERYTIME THAT CHRIST HIMSELF QUOTED THE LAW HE WAS ILLUSTRATING A POINT FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, JUST LIKE WE SOMETIMES EXPOSE PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN ARGUMENTS WHEN THEY CONTRADICT THEMSELVES. HE SAID:

YE HAVE HEARD THAT IT HATH BEEN SAID, "THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY." BUT I SAY UNTO YOU:

WHOSOEVER LOOKETH ON A WOMAN TO LUST AFTER HER HATH COMMITTED ADULTERY WITH HER ALREADY IN HIS HEART. (MT. 5:27, 28).

NOW WHAT MAN ON GOD'S EARTH CAN POSSIBLY LOOK UPON A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, NO MATTER WHO SHE IS, WITHOUT LUSTING AFTER HER? NOBODY! NOBODY'S THAT SAINTLY, NOBODY'S THAT GOOD, AND JESUS KNEW IT!

HE WAS QUOTING THAT SCRIPTURE TO PROVE TO THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS HYPOCRITICAL SCRIBES AND PHARISEES THAT NOT EVEN THEY COULD POSSIBLY KEEP THE LAW!

By Father David from Letter No. 647 (Written: July 1977)
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO BE GOOD ACCORDING TO THE MOSAIC LAW! THE MOSAIC LAW MAKES EVERY ONE OF US A SINNER BECAUSE NOT ONE OF US CAN KEEP IT! NOBODY HAS EVER KEPT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS EXCEPT JESUS HIMSELF, NOBODY! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

SINCE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO KEEP GOD'S LAWS, THEN HOW COULD WE BE SAVED?

THAT'S WHY JESUS HAD TO DIE FOR US, SO THAT WE COULD BE FORGIVEN AND BE SAVED BY HIS GRACE AND HIS MERCY AND HIS LOVE WITHOUT THE LAW! BY THE LAW WE ARE JUDGED FOR OUR SINS AND CONDEMNED TO DIE AND TO SUFFER. BUT JESUS CAME TO SAVE US BY LOVE, BY HIS GRACE, BY HIS MERCY, SHOWING THAT LOVE AND MERCY ARE GREATER THAN THE LAW, AND HE SAYS SO!

AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T HEAL ON THE SABBATH DAY NOW, CAN YOU?

IN OTHER WORDS, I WOULD RATHER SEE YOU HAVE LOVE RATHER THAN SACRIFICAL DUTIFUL LAW-KEEPING OFFERING OF SACRIFICES AND DUTIES.

YOU NEED TO GO BACK AND LEARN WHAT GOD MEANT WHEN HE SAID, "I WILL HAVE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE." *
ANOTHER CASE THAT I REMEMBER IS WHEN THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF ADULTERY WAS BROUGHT TO HIM (JOHN 8) AND THEY SAID, "NOW MOSES IN THE LAW COMMANDED US THAT SUCH SHOULD BE STONED: BUT WHAT SAYEST THOU?" WHAT DID HE SAY? -- "OKAY, LET'S PICK UP STONES BOYS AND THROW THEM AT HER!" -- NO! HE SAID,

"HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, LET HIM FIRST CAST A STONE AT HER!"

-- AND THEY ALL SLUNK AWAY BECAUSE THEY ALL KNEW THEY WERE SINNERS!
THEY WERE PROBABLY LUSTING AFTER HER RIGHT THAT MINUTE!

SO IN EVERY SUCH CASE AS THIS THE LORD WAS EXTREMELY FORGIVING.

ANOTHER TIME THAT JESUS SPOKE ABOUT ADULTERY HE SAID THAT MOSES SAID YOU COULD DIVORCE YOUR WIFE AND MARRY ANOTHER. THEN HE SAID, "BUT I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT WHOSOEVER SHALL PUT AWAY HIS WIFE EXCEPT FOR THE CAUSE OF ADULTERY, CAUSETH HER TO COMMIT ADULTERY." (MAT 5:32)

NOW THAT'S TALKING ABOUT DIVORCE AS BEING A FAR GREATER SIN THAN ANY OTHER TYPE OF MARITAL SIN OR SEXUAL SIN. HE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT ADULTERY BEING SUCH A GREAT SIN, HE IS TALKING ABOUT DIVORCE BEING THE GREATER SIN. DIVORCE, IN OTHER WORDS, NO LONGER LOVING YOUR WIFE, NO LONGER CARING FOR HER, NO LONGER LOVING HER, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

JESUS WAS TRYING TO SHOW HOW THE LAW OF LOVE WAS EVEN MORE STRICT THAN THE MOSAIC LAW!
UNDER THE MOSAIC LAW YOU COULD DIVORCE, PUT YOUR WIFE AWAY, ALTHOUGH GOD SAID HE HATED IT. THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO HAVE THE CONSENT OF THE WOMAN IN THOSE DAYS, AS LONG AS THE MAN JUST WAS NO LONGER PLEASED WITH HER.

WELL, NOW HE WON'T TOLERATE IT UNLESS SHE'S GUILTY.

(MARIA: IF YOU PUT HER AWAY WHEN SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE PUT AWAY.) EXACTLY. I MEAN IT'S AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THING WHEN THEY DEPART.

ANY WOMAN WHO DENIES HERSELF TO HER HUSBAND HAS LEFT HIM! EVEN IF THEY'RE STILL SLEEPING IN THE SAME BED TOGETHER, SHE HAS IN SPIRIT AND IN BODY DEPARTED FROM HIM. THE CHURCH HAS GOT THIS THING SCREWED UP FOR SO MANY YEARS IT'S PITIFUL.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF SIMPLY BECAUSE OF HER DESIRE TO SAVE HER HOME AND HANG ON TO HER HUSBAND IN NAME ONLY AND HER MEAL TICKET AND HER JOB AND HER CHILDREN, THAT SHE PRETENDS OPENLY THAT SHE'S STILL HIS WIFE, BUT IS REFUSING HIM THE PRIVILEGES OF A HUSBAND, AND REFUSING TO BE A WIFE TO HIM IN BED?
THE SCRIPTURE EXPLICITLY FORBIDS YOU TO WITHHOLD YOURSELVES FROM EACH OTHER, EXPLICITLY! SO ANY WOMAN WITHHOLDING HERSELF FROM HER HUSBAND IS BREAKING THE LAW OF LOVE AND THE LAWS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, I COR. 7TH CHAPTER, VERSES 3-5.

(MARIA: THERE'S A LOT OF WOMEN WHO DO THAT!) OH YES, THERE SURE ARE! THE CHURCH SOMETIMES ADVISES WOMEN TO DO IT JUST TO TRY TO CONTROL THE HUSBAND THROUGH THE WOMAN. THAT'S A COMMON PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH!

IF SHE'S REFUSING TO BE A WIFE TO HIM IN BED SHE IS NO WIFE! SHE HAS LEFT HIM IN SPIRIT AND BODY AND HAS DEPARTED!

AND GOD'S WORD SAYS, "LET HER DEPART! A BROTHER OR A SISTER IS NOT BOUND IN SUCH A CASE!" NOT BOUND FOR WHAT? HE'S NOT BOUND TO HER ANYMORE. MEANING WHAT? HE'S FREE! FREE FOR WHAT? TO FIND SOMEBODY ELSE IF HE WANTS TO, WHO'LL GIVE HIM WHAT HE NEEDS, RIGHT? SO IF HE DOESN'T GET LOVE FROM HIS WIFE, HE IS FREE TO FIND IT SOMEWHERE ELSE ACCORDING TO GOD'S LAW OF LOVE, AND THAT'S THE TRUTH! THAT'S GOD'S WORD AND THAT'S IT! HE'S NOT BOUND!
Jesus said you're committing a great sin if you put away your wife or divorce her except for the cause of fornication. (Mt. 5:32). He was saying that you're just as bad as an adulterer if you divorce your wife because you forced her to become the wife of some other man, which is a lack of love and in his eyes was adultery.

He doesn't say you make her an adulteress by loaning her to somebody, but still honouring her and loving her and taking her back when she gets through. That's not what he's talking about at all. We're not even in that class at all.

When I gave her to others because I loved them, there was no sin whatsoever. I did it in pure sacrificial unselfish love for them, because I even loved them, in a sense, more than I loved myself! But I deliberately, willfully, knowingly myself gave her to them, loaned her to them for a little while that she might love them! This was no sin on my part, this was love!

He had the need, like a little baby, and he received what he needed. If he received it by faith he also has no sin because he is receiving love as a gift of love. How could it be a sin for him to receive our love? We both willingly gave it, so it's no sin for him.
GOD NOW ONLY JUDGES US ACCORDING TO WHETHER WE HAVE LOVE OR NO LOVE — WHETHER WHAT WE DO IS DONE FOR LOVE OR SELFISHNESS AND LACK OF LOVE. IN OTHER WORDS THERE IS NOW NO OTHER LAW BUT LOVE. SO AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED AND AS FAR AS THE BIBLE SAYS, FOR US THERE IS NO SUCH THING ANYMORE AS ADULTERY! — AS LONG AS WHATEVER IS DONE IS DONE IN LOVE. IF YOU KNOW YOU'RE ACTING IN LOVE, THEN YOU CAN GO AHEAD BY FAITH ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD AND YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE!

OF COURSE YOU BETTER WATCH OUT FOR MAN AND HIS LAWS, AND SOMETIMES PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL OPERATING UNDER MAN'S LAWS AND CHURCH LAWS AND TRADITIONS. MAN'S LAWS DON'T ALWAYS JIVE WITH GOD'S LAWS, ESPECIALLY HIS LAW OF LOVE!

MAN'S LAWS ARE BASED ON CHURCH LAWS, WHICH AS JESUS SAID, "YE DO BY YOUR TRADITIONS MAKE OF NONE EFFECT THE LAW OF GOD!" (MT 15:6) AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SOME CHURCH LAWS DO AND SOME MEN'S LAWS DO — THEY MAKE OF NONE EFFECT THE LAW OF GOD. THE LAW OF LOVE!

WE CANNOT PLEASE EVERYBODY, WE CAN'T ALWAYS PLEASE THE GOVERNMENT, CERTAINLY NOT THE CHURCH, AND VERY OFTEN NOT EVEN OUR HUSBANDS AND WIVES!

SO, LOVE!

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