

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Our God is a God of love. Everything in the Bible—both Old Testament and New Testament—point to His great love for those of us making this journey on earth.
- The good thing is, God is a God of second chances. When we mess up our lives or find ourselves in the midst of chaos of our own making, He doesn't reject us

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The Hard Questions

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Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

Dear Joy,

I've read your articles about sexual issues. They make interesting reading but you have a bias against sex outside of marriage. Surely there's a time or place where exceptions can be made, aren't there?

I'm pleased that you read my previous newsletters. I hope they have proved helpful to you and the many others who have read them. You might be interested to know that the most read articles deal with a married Christian woman in love with a married man, and the issue of soft porn.

To address your question, first I need to state emphatically that as a long-time follower of Jesus Christ, who is the Lover of my soul, I answer the questions scripturally. If I have a personal opinion I will state that but my opinions are almost always based on scripture.

Our God is a God of love. Everything in the Bible—both Old Testament and New Testament—point to His great love for those of us making this journey on earth. Any rules, any commandments, any regulations are for our benefit from the heart of a loving God. We tend to think He wants to do away with fun and laughter and anything enjoyable. What's the old saying? "Everything I like is either illegal, immoral or fattening." We judge God in this way as though He has a long list of "noes."

So why do we concentrate on the

forbidden? Because they are enticing and promise happiness, fulfillment and exquisite pleasure. But God has set forth His commandments in order to give us happiness, fulfillment, exquisite pleasure, peace, joy and His great love.

Look at it this way. We have to follow rules and regulations of all kinds. We even make some ourselves. Such as? You might ask. With our children we tell them not to touch a hot stove or run into the street. Why? We want to prevent any injury to them; we want to keep them from harm. In marriage we require faithfulness from our spouse, trust, honesty, self-control, kindness and the list goes on. We may not get all of those but we instinctively know they will bring about a closer relationship and greater fulfillment in our marriage. This then provides a better place to live and perhaps raise children.

God is a better parent than any of us ever thought of being and a better spouse than any human being can ever be. So He has set forth rules and regulations to bring us life more abundantly. John 10:10 states "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am

come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (KJV) Who wouldn't want a more abundant life? But instead of being thankful for His love and watchfulness, we look for loopholes in His rules, because. . .?

Therefore, I urge you to rejoice in God's commandments as they are meant for your good and your best welfare. You will find greater joy, peace and love when you follow Him and seek Him with all your heart, mind and soul.

The good thing is, God is a God of second chances. When we mess up our lives or find ourselves in the midst of chaos of our own making, He doesn't reject us. He's always ready to lift us up, set us on our feet and help us turn our life around. This doesn't give us an excuse for sinfulness but He knows we are human.



We have messy lives sometimes. We have a hard time turning away from our selfishness. And yet, He's willing and completely able to come to our aid and heal our lives. All we have to do is turn to Him and ask for His help.



I must confess, I, too, goof up occasionally and need His help. But I don't believe in finding loopholes in God's commandment; I believe in following them and so following God.

You see when we mess up, we get outside God's will for our lives and then we miss the blessings He wants to shower upon us. It's like stepping on a skateboard while walking down a steep hill and that lands us flat on our back. This is why it's so important to continually examine our life to see that we are in God's will or we will end up in a greater mess than when we started.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

“the Bible places clear limitations on sexual activity, but (some) consider these limitations merely old-fashioned, overly strict rules for a different time and a different culture. (Some) may believe the rules and moral precepts God laid out in the Old Testament had a purpose for that particular time and place, but they have a hard time accepting that God would intend these same precepts to apply to them in the twenty-first century.

To answer their objections we must help (them) understand the reason surrounding God's rules. Behind every negative commandment in the Bible, there are two loving motivations. One is to protect us, and the other is to provide for us. The “thou shalt nots” of the Bible come not from a tyrannical ruler who wants to spoil our fun but from a loving Father who has our best interest at heart.”

Excerpt from *Why True Love Waits* by Josh McDowell

RESOURCES & INFO

Web Sites:

[God's Love—A Blog Discussion of Romans 8:38-39](#)

[Learning to Live Loved by Max Lucado \(in PDF format\)](#)

Books:

A Love Worth Giving: Living in the Overflow of God's Love by Max Lucado

HELPING YOU FIND GENUINE JOY!

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QUESTIONS????? Write us.

Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

The Southern 10 Commandments (as told to me by my Southern friend...)

- (1) Just one God
- (2) Put nothin' before God
- (3) Watch yer mouth
- (4) Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
- (5) Honor yer Ma & Pa
- (6) No killin'
- (7) No foolin' around with another fellow's gal.
- (8) Don't take what ain't yers
- (9) No tellin' tales or gossipin'
- (10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff

Now that's plain an' simple. Y'all have a nice day now ya hear!

Just For Fun



"I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love."
~Mother Teresa

If you know someone who would be interested in or needs to see this newsletter, you can easily add their email address to our mailing list. Just send a quick email to: info@genuinejoyministries.org



THE HARD QUESTIONS — DO YOU HAVE ONE?