

Lawful or Sinful
Acts 5:27-29
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of obeying God over man.

Intro:

1. There are times that certain laws allow us to do things but does the Bible?
2. It is fine to do things that the law permits so long as it doesn't violate the word of God.
3. However, we must remember God comes first!

I. Lawful or Sinful – Marriage Divorce and Remarriage.

A. Matt 19:3-10

1. There is no more debated topic today that that of MDR. However, the Bible speaks plainly today just as it did during the time it was written.
2. (commit & continue to commit when unscriptural married).
Fornication – sexual sin that requires physical contact.
The one who marries one who has been put away commits adultery as well.
3. It was never in God's plan for people to divorce thus there is one reason and one reason only that allows a person to do so with God's approval – fornication.

B. 1 Cor 7:12-15

1. if the unbeliever departs, there is little you can do about it, but YOU still are not eligible for remarriage (**Matt 19:9**). Desertion or being deserted by the husband or by the wife does not break the marriage bond.
2. The person is allowed to depart because we are not slaves to God in the idea that we would have to remain with them and forsake Christ (if that was the mate's desire for them), but that the mate might be converted by the believing persons faith, example, etc. (**1 Cor 7:16**).

II. Homosexuality & Abortion

A. Rom 1:22ff

1. Though the lifestyle of homosexuality isn't illegal, it certainly isn't scriptural.
2. Until 1972, homosexuality was diagnosed as a mental illness. Even though the world's diagnosis has changed, God's hasn't.

B. Jer 1:5

1. Despite what scientists may think life begins long before the child leaves its mother.
2. The Bible talks about how God knows someone in the womb, God knows people not cells.

III. Gambling, Alcohol, & Modesty

A. Casting Lots (Lev 16:8, Josh 18:6) Decisions were made

1. We find in the O.T that lots are cast for determining things.
2. It also was used to decide who received what land for an inheritance.

B. Only once for material things (Jn 19:24)

1. They soldiers cast lots for the robe of Christ, and this is the only time such a thing is done using lots.
2. They also did this to fulfill prophecy.
3. Gambling also encourages greed (**Pro 27:20, Titus 1:7b**)

C. Modesty

1. What is modesty? Adam & Eve (**Gen 3:7, 10-11, 21**)
2. Workout apparel is not public apparel (yoga outfits (tight fitting tops and pants)
3. Ladies if ... (**1 Tim 2:10** – professing godliness)
 - a. you can't lean forward without exposing yourself
 - b. you can't sit down without pulling your skirt or dress down
 - c. your clothing is "excessively tight"
 - d. can't feel comfortable wearing clothing in front of your grandmother because the message is provocative or lewd

Then--it's not Christian apparel!

4. Men....
 - a. Wearing shirts with lewd messages/images or drug references is not just immodest but is UNACCEPTABLE for a man who is commanded to be an example (**1 Tim 4:12** "in conduct").
 - b. wearing undershirts in public (undershirts...are things to be worn under clothing, thus you are wearing UNDERWEAR not proper clothing.)
5. Just because people wear anything in public doesn't make it acceptable for a Christian.

Conc:

1. We have seen that we must obey God over the ideas of men (**Acts 5:27-29**).
2. If we do not obey God we will pay the price. (**Lk 6:46, Gal 6:7**)
3. Invitation