

When You Lawfully Depart From The Pattern

I. Introduction: Let's define the terms of this lesson...

A. By using the word pattern, we are talking about “structure; by implication, a model, resemblance: — figure, form, likeness, pattern, similitude. Pattern, plan, form, construction...” (Strong's # H8403).

1. Think of a blueprint (i.e. **Exodus 25:8-9; 25:40** and **I Chronicles 28:11-12**).

2. Think of an example of something to be duplicated (**I Timothy 1:16** and **Titus 2:7-8**).

B. How can one then lawfully depart from that which is to be duplicated?

1. Consider **Matthew 19:1-12** as an example.

2. The pattern, no departure. However, there is a lawful exception; though it is not the pattern (**Malachi 2:14-16** and **Mark 10:6-9**).

3. Doesn't that then present challenges for the one who lawfully put away his or her spouse? What about any children? What about remarriage? Though divorce was not the issue, did Sarah care for Ishmael the same as she did for her own son Isaac (**Genesis 21:1-10**)?

II. Body: We Are Going To Consider Holding To The Pattern Wisely (**Proverbs 16:20**).

A. We have authorized liberties to choose our company to include those whom may be, in a limited sense (**James 4:4**), of the world (**I Corinthians 5:9-10** and **I Corinthians 10:27**).

1. How does **Proverbs 13:20** and **I Corinthians 15:33** fit into this?

2. Think about Barnabas.

a. He was a close companion of Paul by the will of God (**Acts 13:1-3**).

b. Paul was a pattern to be followed (**I Corinthians 11:1**; cf. **Acts 9:15** and **Galatians 1:1; 1:10-16**).

c. They parted ways (**Acts 15:36-40**).

d. What was the end result of his change in company (**Galatians 2:11-14**)?

B. There are many liberties within a Scriptural marriage. Such as who you marry (**I Corinthians 7:12-13** and **I Peter 3:1-5**).

1. How can a lawful, but not necessarily wise choice in spouse affect the pattern of **Ephesians 5:22-25**?

2. How about the choice in spouse, Christian or not, regarding what one is capable of and what you can expect from he or she (**Matthew 25:15** and **Luke 12:41-47**)? How does that affect Scriptures like **Proverbs 31:10-31**?

3. What about one's choice in spouse when it comes to raising children? What about a man who cannot or will not follow **Ephesians 6:4** and **Colossians 3:21**. Not all men are willing or capable (cf. **I Timothy 3:4-5**).
4. What if the man is not the provider (**I Timothy 5:8**) for lawful reasons (i.e. injury)? How could that affect **Colossians 3:18-19**?
5. What if a man chooses to have his wife help him with providing (**Proverbs 31:14-16**), but expects (though she is not the virtuous wife from which we just read) her to keep the house too as a woman who does not work outside the home would (**Titus 2:3-5**)?

C. When a lawful choice is made, but the pattern doesn't give the guidance of that decision, problems can arise.

1. A woman does not HAVE TO marry (**I Corinthians 7:6-9**).
2. As an unmarried young woman however, there is a pattern that is then broken... what was to be taught to young widows, what can arise from her choosing not to (**I Timothy 5:11-15**)
3. She could choose to focus on spiritual things (**I Corinthians 7:34**), but what if she doesn't? What then?
4. Remember, God designed man and woman for certain roles (**Genesis 2:18-25**). When the blueprint changes, the outcome can and often is altered.

III. Conclusion: Hold fast the form [pattern] of sound words (**II Timothy 1:13**).