



“The Heart of Commitment”

August 22, 2021

Matthew 5:31–32

[31] “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ [32] But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (ESV)

1. **Fun Question:** What are the top weirdest qualities you were/are looking for in a significant other?
2. Obedience to the commands given in the Sermon on the Mount will lead to an understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. What has your experience been in being discipled?
3. The Bible is not primarily a book of rules, but it does offer commands for living the life that God desires from us. For us to make sense of these rules within the Bible, it would be helpful to understand what “principles” and “basic convictions” are.

Principles are more general than rules, providing the basis for understanding rules (e.g., “love your enemies”, “love your neighbor as yourself”, “do not worry about your life”). *Basic convictions* are our most foundational beliefs about reality (“God is merciful and loving”, “God knows everything we need”, “we were made to give glory to God.”)

We need to know both, Biblical principles and convictions, in order to make sense of the rules given in the Bible. Without them, legalism becomes a viable possibility. Legalism deals with morality solely at the level of rules completely detaching them from the principles or basic convictions that gave rise to them.

What are some of the ways you’ve seen first-hand the trap of legalism, whether it’d be in your own life and/or in the life of your church community? What biblical principles or convictions speak into the legalism you encountered?

4. Read vs 31- 32. In what ways can we be legalistic when it comes to divorce and remarriage? In keeping biblical principles and basic convictions in mind, in what ways did the sermon challenge your prior notions or attitude towards marriage and divorce? How does this allow us to extend grace and compassion towards those who are going through (or have been through) a divorce?