

# PLAIN SPEECH

Volume 1 – Issue 44 – 17 August 2008

**“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)**

By Scott Parker

## CAN STAN AND SUSIE LAWFULLY REMAIN MARRIED?

I grow tired of hearing “Christians” say things like “*We are not to be law-keepers today.*” Those who make such statements have not read their Bibles carefully enough. True, we must not follow the Old Testament law (**Gal. 5:1-4**). However, God has still laid down law (**James 1:25; 2:12; Rom. 3:24**). Moreover, all accountable persons (both saints and alien sinners) are amenable to God’s law; i.e. the New Testament (**1 Tim. 2:5-6; John 12:32; Acts 1:8**). Seems easy enough, right?

Yet, when it comes to who may lawfully marry (**Matt. 19:3-9; Mark 10:11-12; Rom. 7:1-4; 1 Cor. 7:10-11**), not everyone accepts this truth. Those who hate the light (**John 3:19-21**) try to find a way around it (**Rom. 10:3**). Their attempts give birth to sundry false teachings which seek to justify unlawful marriages. One particular brand of error I’ve heard over the years states that only those who are “in Christ” are accountable to the terms of the New Covenant. Thus, the errorists “reason” that one’s marriage record is of no consequence prior to obeying the gospel.

To help sink the point, note the following fictitious quote made by Joe Goodspeaker: “*Susie has been divorced (not for fornication). Stan has been divorced (not for fornication). Stan and Susie met, fell in love, and were married. Two years after their wedding, both Stan and Susie obeyed the gospel. Stan and Susie may remain in their current marriage, with God’s approval, since they both have been baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins. They are now bound by God’s law concerning marriage, whereas they were not liable to said law when they were alien sinners.*”

Balderdash! Joe Goodspeaker is as wrong as he can be. Here’s the simple truth of the matter: their marriage is not lawful (**Mark 6:17**). Is that a sad reality? Most definitely. However, tears may drop until the Amazon overflows, but the fact remains: the hypothetical couple cannot continue their marriage and be pleasing to God. Despite what men say, God says Stan and Susie are living in adultery (**Rom. 7:3**). As adulterers, they have but two choices. They may either (1) repent of their adultery (i.e. end their marriage and thereby truly obey the gospel – **Acts 2:38; 3:19; Luke 14:26**) or (2) they may come up out of the water, continue to live as adulterers, and, in the end, miss heaven (**1 Cor. 6:9-10**).

Folks, many share Joe Goodspeaker’s faulty thought process. Such drivel is damnable heresy which leads to utter ruin (**2 Pet. 2:1, 12**). Resolve never to get entangled in such a wicked web of deceit (**Ps. 119:104; Rom. 12:9; Eph. 5:15-17**). Commit to hold fast the form of sound words (**2 Tim. 1:13**). Seek to advance the simple truth stated earlier: all accountable persons, including alien sinners, are amenable to God’s law. Below is some ammunition to help you in your efforts.

1. All men will be judged by the gospel (**2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:16**) which is part of the New Testament (**Heb. 10:1-10**).
2. God created all mankind and has expected all of mankind to obey Him since the beginning (**Isa. 64:8; Gen. 2:16-17**).
3. All creation (including mankind) belongs to God (**Ps. 24:1**). Thus, He can rightfully expect all men to obey His rules.
4. Scripture says that “**the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness**” (**Rom. 1:18**).
5. The Bible clearly teaches that all those who do not conform to the will of God will be condemned (**Rom. 2:12**).
6. God condemned the whole world once; not just those who followed after Him were accountable to His will (**Gen. 6:1-7**).
7. Jesus, Himself, plainly stated that all men are accountable to the New Testament (**Matt. 28:19**).
8. Jesus also stated that unbelievers will be damned (**Mark 16:15-16**).
9. Jesus also stated that those who have no interest in His words will be surprised in the last day (**John 12:48**).
10. All men (not just those in the kingdom) are expected to conform to the wishes of the King (**Dan. 7:13-14**).
11. Peter preached that non-Christians will be destroyed (**Acts 3:12-23**).
12. God commands all men to repent (**Acts 17:30-31**). Why? Simple, because all men are accountable to His law.
13. Why reach out to those outside of Christ since they are not accountable? Leave them alone and let them go to glory.