

Asking for a Friend

Questions and Answers (Part 9)

- Introduction:
1. As we ask questions about spiritual matters, we must always remember that the Bible is our only source.
 2. Furthermore, we must remember to be content with the information that is given and not go “beyond what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6).

I. What Were the Waters Above the Firmament?

- A. Easy answer...I don't know.
- B. First, the Hebrew word translated “firmament” means “expanse.”
- C. What I do know is that God divided the waters on the second day, some below the expanse and some above it.
- D. Some suggest:
 1. The Canopy Theory.
 2. Condensation in the clouds.

II. When Should a Person “Go Forward” for Sin?

- A. Let's start here with what the Bible doesn't say...
 1. The Bible nowhere commands a person “go forward” to be saved or forgiven.
 2. The Bible nowhere says we must confess a sin as widely as it is known.
- B. Therefore, it is not a doctrinal matter, but an expedient matter.
- C. Here are ways in which it has served us well.
 1. It helps us accomplish what is biblical – responses to the gospel.
 2. It helps us let others know we have repented of sins of which others may be aware.
 3. It gives us an opportunity to shower the person with love.
- D. Here are ways in which it hasn't served us well.
 1. Viewing it as a walking through the gauntlet or a walk of shame.
 2. It becomes an obstacle to those with social anxieties.

III. Can a Christian Live with Someone of the Opposite Sex?

- A. The question states that the man and woman are not sexually involved, just splitting rent.
- B. Again, this is a question that is not explicitly answered in Scripture, so we must apply biblical principles that speak to this situation.
- C. I must say that there exists situations that would not be condemned by any biblical principle of which I am aware.
 1. (1 Kings 17:8-16) Elijah
 2. A great age difference between the two.
- D. However, there are situations that I believe would violate biblical principles.
 1. (Romans 13:14).

2. (1 Corinthians 10:31-33).
 3. (Romans 12:17).
 4. (Luke 17:1-2).
- E. When “Three’s Company” aired in 1977, it was surrounded with scandal.
1. The National Religious Broadcasters opposed the show.
 2. The AFA organized a nationwide boycott of the show.
- F. Why was there such opposition? Because it was seen as an affront to morality and decency.

IV. Are There Degrees of Punishment in Hell?

- A. According to the Bible, the answer to this question is “yes.”
- B. Jude 7 states that Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them would suffer the vengeance of eternal fire.
- C. But Matthew 11:24 states that it would be worse for Capernaum than it is for Sodom.
- D. The same thing is said in Matthew 10:15.
- E. What makes some punishment worse than others?
1. Knowledge.
 2. (Luke 12:42-48).
- F. Let’s conclude with these thoughts.
1. There is punishment for the disobedient (Matthew 25:30).
 2. Greater opportunity brings greater responsibility (Luke 12:48).
 3. Hell will be terrible, regardless of the degrees.

- Conclusion:
1. I hope these answers have been biblical and helpful.
 2. Keep studying, and be content with nothing less than, “What do the Scriptures say” (Romans 4:3)?