

Ruth Class

Discussion Questions

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Ruth 1:1-5

1. **What is the difference between the 1st and 2nd Commandments?**

The first commandment is about knowing and acknowledging that the God of the Bible is the only true God and to worship and glorify Him accordingly. The second commandment is about rightly worshipping and glorifying the true God, or in other words receiving and keeping, what the Bible teaches concerning Him and what He requires of us.

2. **How does one discern the true Christian?**

“If you love Me, you will keep my commandments” [John 14:15]. So, in general, one can gauge the authenticity of one’s conversion through the fruits that he or she produces [Matt 17:15-29]. For this reason, this is probably best applied to one’s self.

Importantly, the Christian knows that he or she is constantly unfaithful in heart, mind, and strength in obeying God’s commandments. However, this does not mean that the Christian does not keep the commandments. So then, how does a righteous sinner keep the commandments? By confessing his transgressions with a broken and contrite heart while resting on Christ’s righteousness, does the law breaker uphold the law [Rom 3:31], for Christ’s work of redemption paid the penalty of sin. To deny our sin is to deny Christ and His work of redemption [1 John 2:1-12]. The true Christian is a sinner saved by grace, who confesses their sin and through Christ, repents.

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3. What are the only Biblical rules for entering into Marriage?

See 2 Corinthians 6:15. There are only two Biblical Rules for entering Marriage

1. Christian Male and Female
2. Unmarried

4. Why is this so important and central to Christian courtship?

In general, a Christian should give a fellow confessor the benefit of the doubt of the authenticity of their conversion. A Christian should also give him or herself the same benefit of the doubt.

However, in courtship, both the Christian man and woman should be fully convinced in good conscience of both the authenticity of their own conversion as well as the authenticity of their beloved's. Why? It is because believers are not to marry unbelievers [2 Corinthians 6:14-18]. However, because of our sin, this answer is often insufficient. The reason is that we confuse our fallen desires with God's will and so become enslaved to sin and misery. God does not will His people to enter into fallen relationships.

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5. **Give examples of how the following idolatrous considerations affect dating and marriage, as well as male-female relationships generally in the world:**
 - A. Form of the wedding, whether civil or religious, simple or complex
 - B. Social, economic, racial, cultural, or other standing of either person
 - C. Similarities or differences in taste, habit, interests, dress, etc.
 - D. Level of sexual attraction or so-called chemistry
 - E. Career of either or both persons
 - F. Age of either or both persons
 - G. Future plans
6. **Which of the above are idols for you and how do you know that?**
7. **How is the story of Ruth and Boaz so different from the world's view of marriage and dating?**

See next page for full explanation

There are lots of biblically unimportant and often idolatrous considerations to marriage

1. Form of the wedding, whether civil or religious, simple or complex
 - Boaz and Ruth were married through a 3rd party transaction
2. Social, economic, racial, cultural, or other standing of either person
 - Boaz is an elder whereas Ruth is a foreigner
 - Boaz is rich whereas Ruth is destitute
 - Boaz is a Jew (although the son of Rahab the Harlot) whereas Ruth is a Moabite
3. Similarities or differences in taste, habit, interests, dress, etc.
 - Boaz is a “man among men” whereas Ruth is a lonely stranger on society’s margin
4. Level of sexual attraction or so-called chemistry
 - No indication of any level of sexual attraction or chemistry however the sexual purity here is unmistakable
 - Attraction here is based on Christ’s righteousness
5. Career of either or both persons
 - Boaz is a gentleman farmer whereas Ruth has no career to speak of
6. Age of either or both persons
 - Boaz is old whereas Ruth is young
7. Future plans
 - Boaz subordinates his future to Ruth, and importantly, her dead husband, Mahlon
 - Ruth subordinates her future to Naomi

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8. How does one discern God's will? Apply the below principles of call in a non-dating context:

- Is the _____ forbidden according to the Scriptures?
- Can I do the _____ in good conscience?
- How does the _____ relate to God's covenants?
- Through the _____, what group of people does God want me to minister to?
- Has God equipped me with the necessary spiritual gifts to do the _____?
 - Be careful not to confuse talents with spiritual gifts
 - Inventory which spiritual gifts you may or will need
- What does the church say about the _____?
 - **Matthew 18:20** "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
 - For example, have you discussed the _____ with your small group?
- How will God shape my character through the _____?
 - Remember – FAITH WORKS CHARACTER

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9. How did the concept of call apply in the case of Ruth and Boaz?

- Is the _____ forbidden according to the Scriptures?
- Can I do the _____ in good conscience?
- How does the _____ relate to God's covenants?
- Through the _____, what group of people does God want me to minister to?
- Has God equipped me with the necessary spiritual gifts to do the _____?
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