

## “We Are Living Together”

---

by Bill Crews

When I tell you that men and women have no right to live together in a conjugal manner unless they are legally married in the eyes of men (according to civil statutes) and, especially, in the eyes of God, I speak the truth. Listen to what God says: *“Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed (marriage bed, **BC**) be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge”* (Hebrews 13:4). *“But because of fornication, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband”* (1 Corinthians 7:2). *“For the woman that hath a husband is bound by law to the husband while he liveth; but if the husband die, she is discharged from the law of the husband. So then if while the husband liveth, she be joined (married) to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if the husband die, she is free from the law, so that she is no adulteress, though she be joined (married) to another man”* (Romans 7:2-3). *“And He answered and said, Have ye not read, that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”* (Matthew 19:4-5). *“And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery”* (Matthew 19:9). Mark gives these additional words: *“And if she herself shall put away her husband, and marry another, she committeth adultery”* (Mark 10:12). Please read Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17 for our obligation to obey civil authorities and civil laws.

We must obey the laws of men, except when those laws conflict with divine law or God’s law. In that case, *“We must obey God rather than men”* (Acts 5:29). We must respect the established mores and customs of the society in which we live, as long as those things are right within themselves and not in conflict with God’s will as declared in the Scriptures. But bear in mind that all of men’s laws and all of men’s customs cannot set aside, or change, or supersede God’s revealed word.

The laws of a nation may permit it, and society may accept it, but when men and women live together without legal marriage, they sin; they are fornicators or adulterers; God will judge them. The relationship cannot be justified; it cannot be dignified. No manner of rationalizing can ever condone it. No set of circumstances can ever support it. It is sin; it is wrong. In our society, in our nation it is more prevalent than ever before in our history. Advocates of it are brazen. Some commend it over marriage. Some recommend it as a sensible trial before marriage. It is entered into and flaunted with no sense of shame or feelings of guilt. We are just beginning to reap its bitter fruit. It will be one of the factors that contribute to the fall of our once great nation. The Bible says, *“Flee fornication”* (1 Corinthians 6:18). It is imperative that we listen to God.

343703