

Members of the clergy cannot marry. In 1 Timothy 3:1-5 it says, “**THIS** *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre, but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well

his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?).” This Scripture teaches that one of God’s specific requirements to become a bishop is a man is required to be married to one wife and be able to run his own household well before becoming the bishop of a church. It also indicates other clergy that may later become bishops should be married only once to one wife, because one must perform at a lower clergy position level in many churches before one can become a bishop. Not permitting clergy to marry replaces God’s instruction in 1 Timothy 3:1-5. No one is to replace God’s instruction. Not permitting clergy to marry is not in agreement with another Scripture, 2 Timothy 2:15, because it is not being diligent in rightly imparting God’s words of truth without deviation to others. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” To show oneself approved by God and to be able to rightly divide/impart God’s Word to others it is necessary to study the Bible to learn for certain what the words of God say. We should not assume what church leaders tell us is true because Satan can deceive even church leaders. For example, leaders in the Catholic Church have taught for centuries the Pope cannot marry, yet Peter who leaders in the Catholic Church say was the first Pope was married. By studying the Bible we can learn

that Peter was married. In Luke 4:38, 39, speaking about Jesus, it says, "And he rose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them." This Scripture confirms Jesus' disciple, Simon, who Jesus called Peter, was married and had a sick mother-in-law. Mark 1:29, 30 and 1 Corinthians 9:5 also confirm Peter, who leaders in the Catholic Church say was the first Bishop of Rome and the first Pope, was married. In 1 Corinthians 9:5 Paul uses Cephas, the name Jesus gave to Simon Peter in John 1:42, to declare Peter was married.

When one dies He goes immediately to heaven, hell, or another place. In John 5:28, 29 Jesus says, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Jesus is confirming here when people die they go to and remain in the grave until He calls them out of the grave on the last day to one of the two resurrections, the resurrection of life for the saved or the resurrection of damnation for the lost. Therefore, according to Jesus Himself, who John 14:6 says is the way, the truth, and the life, the truth is as Jesus states in John 5:28, 29; that is, the dead are in the grave. They do not go to heaven or

anyplace else immediately after they die. Later, when Jesus calls them from the grave on the last day, they will go to heaven, or be condemned and burn in the lake of fire and brimstone as stated in Revelation 21:8 and 14:10. Other locations throughout the Bible that confirm the dead do not go immediately to heaven, hell or someplace else when they die are Genesis 3:19, 1 Kings 2:10, Job 7:21, Job 14:10-12, Psalm 88:10-12, Matthew 16:27, 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Many Christians have been taught once they die they can go immediately to heaven because Jesus returned to the Father in heaven the day He died on Calvary. Jesus did not go to heaven the day He died on Calvary. After Jesus died He remained in the grave for three days and later He appeared to Mary Magdalene. When Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene after He rose from the dead He had not yet ascended into heaven. This is confirmed in John 20:17, where it says, "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." John 20:17 confirms Jesus did not go to heaven the day He died on Calvary. Like Jesus, we also will not go to heaven immediately after death. When we die we go to the grave and remain there until Jesus calls us from the grave on the last day.

Many Christians have been taught the spirit is the same as the soul and the soul returns to God immediately

after one dies. According to Genesis 2:7 the spirit and the soul are not the same. In Genesis 2:7 it says, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Thus, the soul is composed of dust from the ground and the breath of life (the spirit). It is the spirit, the breath of life from God that returns to God when one dies, not the soul (the breath from God and dust from the ground). The body formed from dust by God returns to the ground (Genesis 3: 19). The soul no longer exists after the spirit and the body ceases to be the one unit of the soul.

In addition to Genesis 2:7 pointing out the soul and spirit are different, in Hebrews 4:12 it indicates there is (1) a soul and (2) a spirit. Within Hebrews 4:12 it says, "For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit." Here in Hebrews 4:12 it says the Word of God pierces the division of soul (one entity) and spirit (a separate entity). They are separate entities, not the same. Thus, according to God's Word the soul is not the spirit.

There are supposedly exceptions where God allowed people not to die and go to heaven, where God resides on His throne, before Jesus returns and calls the dead from the grave. Many Christians believe there are three exceptions where God allowed this to happen. The supposedly exceptions are Moses, Enoch in Genesis 5:24, and Elijah in 2 Kings 2:11. However, because of what it

says in John 3:13, other Christians believe Moses, Enoch, and Elijah are in the grave, not in heaven. In John 3:13 Jesus says, “And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven.” This Scripture, John 3:13, appears to contradict other Scripture; Genesis 5:24 concerning Enoch, 2 Kings 2:11 concerning Elijah, and Matthew 17:2, 3, 9 concerning the Transfiguration where the disciples saw Moses and Elijah, assumed by many to have come from heaven, talking with Jesus in a vision.

In only one of the three Scriptures, 2 Kings 2:11 concerning Elijah, is the word heaven actually mentioned. In 2 Kings 2:11 it says Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. It is possible the other Scriptures, Genesis 5:24 and Matthew 17:2,3,9 which do not specifically mention heaven, have been misinterpreted to lead to the belief Enoch and Moses are in heaven. Because of the seemingly contradiction in John 3:13 where Jesus said no man ascended to heaven except he that came down from heaven, with 2 Kings 2:11 where it says Elijah went up to heaven, further study and enlightenment of Scripture is required to ascertain which of the two beliefs is correct. Scripture does not contradict itself because it is the infallible Word of God. Numerous times in the past when Scripture seemed to contradict itself it was later revealed the contradictions were due to former misinterpretations of Scripture. Are Enoch,