

EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULES

INTRODUCTION

- A. There are rules and there are exceptions to rules.
- B. “I” before “E,” except after “C” is the rule and its exception which most of us learn early in our academic careers.

I. CHRIST HAS “ALL AUTHORITY”

A. The Rule

1. **Matthew 28:18**

In commissioning His apostles to spread the gospel throughout the world, the Lord Jesus claimed “*all authority.*”

2. **Matthew 7:28-29**

Those who heard Him speak, understood this easily enough.

3. **Ephesians 1:21-23**

Christ is “*far above all.*”

4. **Philippians 2:9-11**

All those on earth, as well as in heaven, will bow before Him.

B. The Exception

1. **1st Corinthians 15:27-28**

“It is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.”

- a. Jesus even said His authority was “*given*” to Him (**Matthew 28:18**).
- b. Someone else “*put all things under His feet*” (**Ephesians 1:22**).
- c. God is the one who exalted Him (**Philippians 2:9**).

2. **1st Corinthians 11:3**

“The head of Christ is God.”

II. MARRIAGE LASTS “AS LONG AS HE LIVES”

A. The Rule

1. Such a common statement in wedding vows as “Till death do us part,” is actually a principle from scripture.
2. **1st Corinthians 7:39**
Marriage is meant to be a life-long commitment.
3. **Romans 7:2-3**
One who marries another while a spouse remains alive is guilty of adultery.
4. **Matthew 19:4-6**
Far be it from any person that they attempt to separate what God has joined.

B. The Exception

1. **Matthew 5:32**
The **only** exception to this rule is when an innocent person divorces a spouse for the cause of fornication. Otherwise, divorce should never occur.
2. **Matthew 19:9**
Without this extremely limited exception, the rule should read: *“Whoever divorces his wife... and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery”*, which is just how it appears elsewhere (**Luke 16:18**).

III. “ALL DIE”

A. The Rule

1. **Ecclesiastes 9:5**
It’s no secret; we are all aware that we will face death!
2. **Job 30:23; Hebrews 9:27**
Death is an appointment every living soul must keep.
3. **Romans 5:12**

"Death spread to all men."

4. **1st Corinthians 15:22**

"All die."

B. The Exception

1. **Genesis 5:22-24; Hebrews 11:5**

Enoch was spared from this fate.

2. **2nd Kings 2:11**

Elijah also avoided death.

3. **1st Corinthians 15:51-53; 1st Thessalonians 4:15-17**

Those alive when Jesus comes will not die.

IV. ALL WILL RESURRECT AT THE LAST DAY

A. The Rule

1. **John 5:28-29**

Everyone, whether good or evil, will rise from the dead to meet their fate.

2. **Acts 24:15**

This is our hope.

B. The Exception

1. **Matthew 28:6**

Jesus Christ rose much earlier than the rest of us.

2. **1st Corinthians 15:20**

This makes Him *"the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."*

V. "ALL HAVE SINNED"

A. The Rule

1. **Romans 3:23, 9**

The problem of disappointing our Maker by violating His will is universal in scope.

2. **1st John 1:8, 10**

Those who claim otherwise are liars and indict the Lord as such.

B. The Exception

1. **Hebrews 4:15**

Although He was subject to the same tests we are, if not worse, He never sinned.

2. **1st Peter 2:22**

This was in accordance with prophecy.

3. **Luke 23:41**

Even one of the criminals who died next to Him understood this.

4. **2nd Corinthians 5:21**

He didn't sin, but He was punished for our sins.

VI. SINNERS WILL BE PUNISHED AT JUDGMENT

A. The Rule

1. **2nd Corinthians 5:10**

Christ will judge all.

2. **Hebrews 9:27**

Judgment follows death.

B. The Exception

1. **Acts 5:1-11**

Ananias and Sapphira were punished for their sins before the great Judgment Day.

2. **Acts 12:20-23**

Herod, too, was punished immediately for his sin.

CONCLUSION

A. Understand that these are the **exceptions** to the rules.

B. We must expect the rule to prevail ordinarily.

C. Therefore:

- 1.** We've all sinned.
- 2.** We all face death.
- 3.** We can expect to resurrect.
- 4.** We can expect to be judged according to our actions at the resurrection.