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FACING THE CHURCH**

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Office: (606) 672-2609



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## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the ladies of the Hurts Creek Church of Christ. We certainly appreciate all the work our fine ladies do to make our lectureship possible.

**Robinson TypeSetting**  
304 Ripley St.  
Corinth, MS 38834  
(610) 286-6575

# The Home As God Would Have It

*Everett Spencer*

1. What is a home/family?
  - a. Waltons?
  - b. Single parent?
  - c. Married couple?
  - d. Couple living together?
2. What are changing attitudes related to the family?
  - a. Why have children?
  - b. Will the family become obsolete as we know it?
  - c. The traditional family is changing by the world's standards.
3. Parents have the fullest life in a commitment to each other.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **I. THE BIBLE VIEW OF WHAT A FAMILY IS.**

- A. Ephesians 3:14-15, God revealed Himself as our Father.
  1. Luke 15:11-24, Jesus gave us the idea of a family when a son disappointed his father.
  2. Hosea 2,3, God loves us even when we are unfaithful, waiting for us to return home.
  3. God, the Father, has shown us what a family means, a Father who loves us.
- B. I Corinthians 12:26, Paul uses the church to show disappointment and joy, as in a family.
  1. I Corinthians 13:4-8, these verses describe how Christians are to live together as a group of believers.
  2. In a family, "love bears all things."
- C. Mark 7:10, "Honor father and mother."
- D. I Peter 3:1,7, Christ makes a difference in family relationships. The submissive wife and husband who honors the wife shows the world the influence of Christ.

### **II. GOD'S MODEL FOR THE HOME.**

- A. Heterosexual marriage is the basic unit for a home.
  1. Genesis 1:38.

2. Homosexual relationships are a perversion of God's plan. (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27, 32).
- B. God's way is for one mate for life.
  1. Divorce is not acceptable for just any cause. (Matthew 19:5).
  2. This should be motivation for young people to postpone marriage until "maturity."
- C. Married couples establish a home separate from parental ties. (Genesis 2:24).
- D. The twain shall become one flesh.
  1. Genesis 2:21-23, A married couple becomes one flesh in marriage and love for one another causes them to be one in life's relationships.
  2. Ephesians 5:28-29
- E. For the home to withstand the stress of modern society, God must be at the center.
  1. Genesis 1:27-28
  2. Genesis 2:8-9, God will supply the needs of the home.
  3. Psalm 127:1
- F. In God's home, there will be work and responsibility.
  1. Genesis 2:15; 3:17
  2. I Timothy 5:8 *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."*
  3. Titus 2:4-5, Young women are to be "...homemakers...."
  4. Children need to be taught responsibility. An ancient Hebrew proverb says, "He that does not teach his son a trade, trains him to be a thief."
- G. God commanded the first family to *"be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth"* (Genesis 1:28).
  1. Psalm 127:3
  2. There exists a society of people whose goal and purpose is to persuade couples to have no children.
    - a. Coleridge — "What a melancholy world this would be without children."
    - b. Mary Hewitt — "God sends children for another purpose than merely to keep up the race—He sends them to enlarge our hearts; and to make us unselfish and full of kindly sympathies and affections; to give our souls higher aims; to call out all our faculties to extend enterprise and exertion; and to

bring round our fireside bright faces, happy souls, and loving, tender hearts.”

3. Abortion is murder of the unborn. January 22, 1973 is a day of infamy when the Supreme Court ruled that the killing of the unborn is an act protected by the constitution of the United States.

#### H. Parents are to be teachers in the home.

1. Children need to learn values which relate to helping people as opposed to materialism.
2. Responsibility cannot be delayed for the formal classroom. The home acts as a classroom to teach responsibility and accountability.
3. Discipline involves “training which corrects, molds, strengthens or perfects.” (Webster)
4. Proverbs 13:24; 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 12:11.
5. An appreciation for who we are and what we have is a trait to be fostered in the home. (Colossians 3:15).
6. Teach children to love God and their fellow man. (Matthew 22:37-39; John 13:34; Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4; Matthew 5:44).

### III. THE HOME: HEAVEN ON EARTH?

- A. An active and expressed love for God and one another is a requirement.
- B. A Christian home will cultivate an atmosphere of teaching and learning God’s word. (Romans 12:2).
- C. Supreme happiness is contingent on an environment of peace. (Ephesians 6:4).
- D. Togetherness is an essential quality many families need to promote/do.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Stability of the home is the bulwark of society and the church.
2. The family arrangement is THE WAY from the beginning. Security, moral stability, and a sense of what is right enjoys the eternal approval of God.
3. A home established on a scriptural marriage, commitment and devotion to one another, and confronting problems of life as a family, glorify God and promote the good of society.

## Dancing Is A Sin!

Craig Melton

1. The people of God are “called out” of the world unto a holy life.
2. We are a holy people, a peculiar people, God’s own possession.
  - a. I Peter 2:9 *“But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”*
  - b. Colossians 3:1-2 we set our affections on things above...  
*“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*
  - c. I John 2:15-16 *“Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”*
  - d. II Timothy 2:4 *“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*
  - e. Romans 12:2 *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*
  - f. James 1:27 *“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.”*
3. The question before us in this lesson is concerning DANCING.
  - a. Is dancing of the world?
  - b. Does it help us set our mind on things above?
  - c. Does it inspire us to holier service in the Lord’s kingdom?
  - d. Is it the practice of keeping oneself unspotted from the world?
4. What are we talking about when we speak of dancing?



**DISCUSSION:****I. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF DANCING?**

- A. "Dancing consists in the rhythmical movement of any or all parts of the body in accordance with some scheme of individual or concerted action which is expressive of emotions or ideas."
- B. "Rhythmic movement having as its aim the creation of visual designs."

**II. WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID CONCERNING DANCING.**

- A. **J. Edgar Hoover**, longtime head of the FBI:  
"Most juvenile crime has its inception in the dance hall, either public or private."
- B. **Taiwan**, at one time dancing was banned by police, the reason being:  
"Overindulgence in dancing affects a student's scholastic work and his sense of moral decency."
- C. **William H. Holmes**, a former dancing teacher:  
"I found the ballrooms an avenue of destruction to multitudes..."
- D. **Former owner of one of Chicago's largest dance halls**:  
"We know the natural desires of youth. We know that sex is the strongest impulse planted in the human race.... You can picture the effect on a boy or girl when this hunger is keenest... at one of these dances which calls for close abdominal contact and frequently brings the cheeks together and entwines the limbs.... There is...but one reason for its popularity. That reason is sex appeal. I hasten to assure you that I do not believe that dancers always are conscious this is the reason they enjoy this position and the steps that go with it. But this lack of consciousness is merely an added factor of danger."
- E. **Arthur Murray**, the noted dancing teacher was quoted in READERS'S DIGEST:  
"The difference between wrestling and dancing is that, in wrestling, some holds are barred."
- F. **Homes for orphan children** tells us that 9 months after the school proms they have a lot of babies.

**III. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DANCING?**

- A. I Thessalonians 5:22 "*Abstain from all appearance of evil*"

- B. II Timothy 2:22 *"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."*
- C. I Peter 2:11 *"Dearly beloved, I beseech [you] as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;"*
- D. Romans 1:24 *"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:"*
- E. James 1:27 *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world."*
1. A boat can sail on the water safely, but when the water gets in the boat, you better watch out!
  2. I Corinthians 10:13 God provides a way to escape temptation  
*"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]."*
  3. James 4:4 Dancing promotes friendship with the world.  
*"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."*
- F. Matthew 7:17-20 Dancing is bad fruit from a bad tree.  
*"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."*
1. Dancing has never produced more love for God, more devotion for the church, more respect for the opposite sex, more Bible reading, more prayer, more interest in heaven.
  2. Dancing has never led to ANY good thing!
  3. Instead, it causes people to loose interest in the church, Bible study, holiness, teaching the lost, heaven.

#### IV. DANCING IS “LASCIVIOUSNESS” WHICH IS A WORK OF THE FLESH (Galatians 5:19-21).

*“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

A. Lasciviousness comes from a Greek word which is used 9 times in the New Testament.

1. It is translated “**lasciviousness**” 6 times:

a. Mark 7:22 *“Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, **lasciviousness**, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:”*

b. II Corinthians 12:21 *“[And] lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and [that] I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and **lasciviousness** which they have committed.”*

c. Galatians 5:19 *“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, **lasciviousness**,”*

d. Ephesians 4:19 *“Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto **lasciviousness**, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”*

e. I Peter 4:3 *“For the time past of [our] life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in **lasciviousness**, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:”*

f. Jude 4 *“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into **lasciviousness**, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

2. It is translated “**wantonness**” 2 times:

a. Romans 13:13 *“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and **wantonness**, not in strife and envying.”*

- b. II Peter 2:18 *“For when they speak great swelling [words] of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, [through much] wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”*
        - 3. It is translated **“filthy”** 1 time
          - a. II Peter 2:7 *“And delivered just Lot, vexed with the **filthy** conversation of the wicked:”*
- B. It's meaning is:
- Vine:** *“absence of restraint, indecency, the prominent idea is shameless conduct.”*
- Thayer:** *“Unbridled lust, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females.”*
- Robertson:** *“Unrestrained sexual conduct”*
- Greek:** *“sensuality, inclination to sensuality (a fondness for or indulgence in sensual pleasures), conduct which excites lustful desires.”*
- C. If lasciviousness does not describe dancing, then nothing does!!

## V. BIBLE EXAMPLES THAT SHOW THE FRUITS OF DANCING.

- A. Exodus 32:6-7, 19 Israel danced at Mt. Sinai and corrupted themselves.
1. *“And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted [themselves]: <sup>19</sup>And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.”*
- B. Daniel 5:1, 30-31 The night Cyrus of Persia marched his armies under the walls of Babylon, Belshazzar, the king, and a thousand of his lords were being entertained by a thousand slave girls dancing on the tables before them!
1. *“Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. <sup>30</sup>In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. <sup>31</sup>And Darius the Median took the kingdom, [being] about threescore and two years old.”*

2. Though the Bible does not record the details of the dancing, this is exactly what took place as recorded by secular historians.
  3. The pagans always entertained themselves by having beautiful seductive women to dance to music so as to excite lustful emotions and desires.
- C. Herod's birthday, Salome (daughter of Herodias) danced.
1. Matthew 14:6-7 *"But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask."*
  2. Mark 6:21-23 *"And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief [estates] of Galilee; <sup>22</sup>And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give [it] thee. <sup>23</sup>And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give [it] thee, unto the half of my kingdom."*
  3. What caused Herod to make this vow?
  4. What emotions did she stir in him?

### CONCLUSION:

1. There's no way in the world that dancing can be justified from the scriptures.
2. It is a bad fruit, devilish, a work of the flesh, lascivious, damnable!!
3. Titus 2:11-12 we are taught to deny ungodly lusts.
  - a. *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup>Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"*
4. All who engage in it have SINNED! The Bible says "repent or perish."
  - a. Luke 13:3 *"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."*

## **Pornography: Pollution Of The Mind**

*Paul Vaughn*

1. Today there is a great war going on.
  - a. This war is against our children.
  - b. It is against our homes.
  - c. It is against the church.
  - d. Satan is the enemy and one of his weapons is **PORNOGRAPHY**.
2. What is Pornography?
  - a. "Writings, pictures, etc. intended primarily to arouse sexual desires" (Webster).
  - b. Pornography is perversion.
    - 1) It perverts literature.
    - 2) It perverts art.
    - 3) It corrupts that which is good.
    - 4) It exploits men, women and children.
    - 5) It pollutes the mind and destroys the heart.
  - c. Pornography is a big problem in our society.
    - 1) Morality is on the decline.
    - 2) Multitudes have turned from the Word of God.
  - d. The pollution of pornography is destroying and will destroy our mind today, if we let it!

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **I. PORNOGRAPHY'S BID FOR YOUR CHILDREN.**

- A. Children are being attacked, Satan wants their minds and souls.
  1. Books.
    - a. Pornography in magazines (Playboy, etc.)
    - b. It begins with profanity.
  2. Music.
    - a. Country and rock music.
    - b. People become what they are singing.
    - c. Music can change lives (Ephesians 5:19).
    - d. Examples:
      - 1) "Rock of Ages"
      - 2) "Holy, Holy, Holy"

- 3) "At Calvary"
- 4) "Just As I Am"
3. Sex.
  - a. We are living in a sex sick society.
  - b. Schools pass out condoms, but can't pray or read the Bible in school.
  - c. Sex belongs in marriage (Genesis 2:24; Hebrews 13:4).
4. What can be done?
  - a. Teach your children about God (Ecclesiastes 12:1-8).
  - b. Attend church with your children (Hebrews 10:24,25).

## II. PORNOGRAPHY'S EFFECTS ON THE MIND.

- A. It can change values, morals and conscience.
  1. Look at the changes in television during the last thirty years.
  2. There is a need to be concerned about what we watch, hear and read. (Example: Ted Bundy)
- B. Keep the mind pure.
  1. Psalm 24:3,4
  2. Matthew 5:8
  3. I Timothy 5:22
  4. Titus 1:15
  5. Romans 12:1,2

## III. THE END OF PORNOGRAPHY.

- A. It begins with you (Ephesians 6:10,11)!
- B. Listen to: Live By God's Word (Romans 12:21).
- C. Ten righteous persons could have saved Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 10:32).
- D. Seek God first in your life (Matthew 6:33).

## CONCLUSION:

1. We are living in trying times.
2. Pornography is growing like a plague.
3. We need to put out the fires of sin and live for God.
4. Time is running out, there is a moral crisis in the land.
5. Do not be ashamed to stand up for that which is right (II Peter 4:16).

# Gambling

*Larry Cole*

1. The moral fiber of our country is quickly deteriorating and biblical values are being tossed overboard. Things that were generally considered to be harmful to society are now becoming acceptable and even becoming legal. Gambling is one such practice.
2. It has become a viable form of amusement to millions of Americans with a view toward getting rich quick.
3. Even in the church, uninformed, unstudied Christians see the purchase of lottery tickets as innocent behavior.
4. Therefore, it is appropriate for us to study this subject in a lectureship such as this.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. WHAT IS GAMBLING?

- A. "A simple definition of gambling would be, desiring the possession or possessions of another (prize) the gambler creates a risk (that of losing his own possession) in an attempt through chance to gain the possession or possessions of another with nothing given in exchange."
- B. "Gambling takes many forms: card games, dice, numbers, betting on elections, buying sweepstakes tickets, betting on horse races, slot machines, betting on sports events, various types of sports pools, punch boards, bingo (for money or prizes), buying tickets in raffles, betting on recreational activities, matching for cokes, and even pitching pennies." Thomas Eaves, Flip Flop Tract Series "Gambling & the Bible," Star Publications.
- C. Gambling is robbery by consent. Gambling is a matter of KIND, not DEGREE.

### II. WHY OPPOSE GAMBLING?

- A. Gambling is wrong:
- B. Because it is "seeking something for nothing" (Ephesians 4:28).
- C. Because it encourages laziness and indolence (II Thessalonians 3:10).



- D. Because it exhibits a desire to take what belongs to another without giving a fair return (Ephesians 5:5).
- E. Because it violates God's teaching against stealing.
- F. The gambler abuses the stewardship of financial means God has entrusted him with (I Corinthians 4:2).
- G. Gambling is a habit forming addiction (II Timothy 3:3).
- H. Gambling bears evil fruit (Matthew 7:16-17).
- I. Evil companions of the gambling world will corrupt you (I Corinthians 15:33).
- J. Motivated by greed (I Timothy 6:9-10).
- K. The very nature of gambling is in direct conflict with the heart of Christianity (Matthew 7:12). Gambling is also wrong because of the way it affects the individual and society.

**III. ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS FOR GAMBLING IS THAT IT IS BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE BELIEF THAT IT PROVIDES RECREATION AND THE TAXES FROM IT BUILD ROADS AND SCHOOLS. SUCH IS NOT SO.**

- A. The effect on society goes so much deeper.
- B. Organized gambling interests have frequently corrupted public officials and business leaders.
- C. History will show that crime and corruption have always been companions to gambling.
- D. Gambling is the destroyer of homes.
  - 1. It takes away food, clothing, shelter, and medical care from mates and children.
  - 2. I Timothy 5:8
- E. In the 1950's, the late Senator Estes Kefauver from Tennessee headed a Senate committee investigating organized crime. His report stated: "Gambling produces nothing and adds nothing to the economy or society of our nation. America will be in a bad way if we have to resort to taxing crime and immorality for the purpose of raising revenue to operate our institutions."
- F. The ends do not justify the means. No matter how worthy may seem the purpose of using a lottery, pool, bingo game, or any similar gambling device, it is still wrong.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Christianity and gambling do not mix. Consider what Paul proclaimed in Philippians 4:8.
2. In years past, society in general, and the Lord's church in particular, understood that such matters as dancing, drinking, smoking, cursing, and gambling were wrong. But times, circumstances, and sentiments have changed. Nevertheless, God's word does not change.
3. May our Heavenly Father help us to get back to the Bible and once again strive to follow God's will for our lives.

# The Sin Of Homosexuality

*Eddy Craft*

1. Does the following disturb you? Michael Swift was invited to write for *Gay Community News*, February 15, 1987. He wrote: "We shall sodomize your sons, emblems of your feeble masculinity, of your shallow dreams and vulgar lies. We shall seduce them in your schools, in your dormitories, in your gymnasiums, in your locker rooms, in your sports arenas, in your seminaries, in your youth groups, in your movie theater bathrooms... Wherever men are together...Our only God is handsome young men."
2. Now doesn't that just turn your stomach!
3. It is obvious that the homosexuals are committed to destroying the morals of America.
4. It is so sad that we live in a time when economy is more important than morality! It is not uncommon to hear people say, "**a person's character doesn't matter.**" Now, my friends, my Bible doesn't teach such!
  - a. Read carefully Genesis 13. Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom because the plain of Jordan was well watered. (Genesis 13:10). He looked solely on the economy.
  - b. The men of Sodom were "*wicked and sinned before the Lord exceedingly*" (Genesis 13:13). But Lot moved his family into this kind of environment any way, because he was interested in economy rather than morality.
  - c. Even members of the church of our Lord are swept away into this kind of thinking and that disturbs me greatly.
  - d. No wonder homosexuality is running rampant when we see the attitude of people in and out of the church.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. HOMOSEXUAL TERMS DEFINED:

- A. "Male sexual pervert" (Barclay M. Newman, Jr. from Metzger's Greek N.T.).
- B. "A male homosexual, pederast, sodomite" (Arndt-Gingrich).
- C. "Sodomite" (Liddell & Scott).
- D. "Lying with a male" (Young).

- E. "Soft, soft to the touch... effeminate, a catamite, a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness" (Thayer).
- F. "Sodomy, and unnatural crime, consisting of the defilement of man with man, and thus differing from bestiality, which is the defilement of man with brutes. The name is derived from Sodom, in which city the crime was frequent" (Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, Vol. IX, Page 859).
- G. "A sodomite was one who practiced that unnatural vice for which Sodom was noted" (Pictorial Bible Dictionary).
- H. "Sodomite 1. An inhabitant of Sodom. 2. A person who practices sodomy [abnormal sexual intercourse, as between persons of the same sex or between a person and an animal]" (Webster).

## II. A TRACT THAT TRIES TO DEFINE HOMOSEXUALITY.

- A. Brother Clayton Winters and I received a tract that we dealt with on the Biblical Viewpoints Television Program which I would like to use and answer at this time:
  - 1. "You may have been deeply hurt by a particular priest's or minister's attitude toward homosexuality, but **do not judge**. Any time you let a **hypocrite** stand between you and God, the hypocrite is then closer to God than you are."
    - a. Observe: the homosexual is urged not to judge priests or ministers who are critical of their practice.
    - b. The very next sentence then classifies the same as hypocrites who stand between the homosexual and God. It's the same old sin story. No one ought to speak a word against this abominable practice: Jesus came to love, not to condemn; but they can blast us with the harshest of epithets who stand for moral purity and the Bible way. It is equivalent to saying: *"Please don't pass judgement on these priests and ministers, they are nothing but a bunch of hypocrites anyway."*
    - c. With this kind of inconsistency on page one (1) of the tract, one could hardly expect to find much consistency in the author's dealings with the Scripture text itself; and this certainly proves to be the case.

2. "In addition to the attitude of certain ministers, the Scriptures seem to present a stumbling block for some persons who perceive themselves to be both homosexual and Christian."
  - a. Observe: if there is not another smidgen of truth in the tract, this statement certainly hits the nail square on the head.
3. "Genesis 19:1-28. This is the Old Testament passage most often used to show that God is displeased with homosexuals. According to many people and churches, these cities were destroyed because people in these cities committed the 'sin of homosexuality.' But the Prophet Ezekiel in another inspired book of the Bible tells us that God was displeased with Sodom for a very different reason, *Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, surfeit of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty, and did abominable things before me* (King James: committed idolatry); *therefore I removed them, when I saw it...* (Ezekiel 16:49,50)." The author then goes on to explain that the sin of pride and inhospitality was the sin of Sodom; no homosexuality involved at all.
  - a. No one has ever said that homosexual practice was the only sin of Sodom; but it is *the* sin that the Bible writer used to epitomize the total corruption of the city. Besides this, the very quotation given lists abominable things, (or idolatry); and anyone who knows anything about this ancient practice, knows that the very taproot of it was sexual licentiousness and homosexual practices.
  - b. But perhaps his greatest subterfuge is when he says that "know" is used **"943 times in the Old Testament and in only ten places does it mean sexual intercourse—and each time it refers to heterosexual relationships."**
    - 1) How far will a person actually go to cover sin? The men of Sodom requested the angels that they might "know" them. Lot offered his two virgin daughters instead (showing that homosexual relations were considered more abomina-

ble than even the forced violation of these virtuous women).

- 2) Note other translations of this phrase:
  - a) "know them carnally" (NKJV);
  - b) "have sex with them" (NIV);
  - c) "have intercourse with them" (NEB);
  - d) "have relations with them" (NASB)
4. "Another Scripture verse that is used to show that the Bible condemns the gay life-style is found in the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, 18:22, 'Thou shalt not lie with a man as thou would with a woman.' Anyone who is concerned about this prohibition should read the whole chapter or the whole Book of Leviticus: No pork, no lobster, no shrimp, no oysters" etc.
  - a. He finally hits on a Bible truth when he says that this was a part of the Old Testament law, which was done away in Christ. Great, so why is he so vitally determined to pervert Genesis 19? The truth is, Leviticus 18:22 forever settles the question as to what homosexuality is. That will be vitally important when we come to his discussion of Romans 1.
  - b. But at least we now have his admission that homosexual practices were condemned outright in the Old Testament. Why, if it is such a natural and God-given thing as he contends?
5. "For example, there are two Greek words used in the oft-quoted passages. They are *malakos* and *arsenokoitai*. These words are used in several passages by St. Paul. Neither word meant 'homosexual' anywhere that Greek was used in the age when Paul wrote. Yet the translators have attached various 'homosexual' meanings to these words. Scholars are still trying to agree on just what these words meant to the people Paul wrote them to."
  - a. So the priests and preachers who oppose homosexual practices are hypocrites, and all our Bible translators were ignorant as dodos. Even all the scholars are still rambling around trying to find out what these two words mean. Talk about the pride of Sodom...

- b. He then quotes three different translators to show how they differ (trying to infer that they did not know what was meant). But they absolutely do not differ, they only use different words to express the exact same idea. There is a world of difference in these last two statements.
- 1) *“Men, leaving the natural use of women, burned in their lust one toward another”* (KJV).
  - 2) *“In the same way men give up natural sexual relations with women and burn with passion for each other”* (TEV).
  - 3) *“Similarly the men, turning from natural intercourse with women, were swept into lustful passions for one another”* (Phillips).
6. “It [Romans 1:26,27] says you should not indulge in sexual behavior that is unnatural for you. It says heterosexuals should not try to become homosexuals. It condemns lust, which we know is wrong for heterosexuals and homosexuals.”
- a. It would certainly be interesting for the author to try and define what the natural use of women in this context is, as opposed to men working with men. If the men working with men is just lust, then is it natural (and therefore right) to lust after women? This shows beyond a doubt that Paul is teaching that intercourse between men and women is natural (by creation, biologically, in procreation, and spiritually), but men with men and women with women is unnatural in the same ways.
  - b. **“True homosexuals as we know them today were seemingly quite unknown by the writers of the Bible.”** Strange! How could Paul teach that homosexuals should not become heterosexuals, when such was unknown by him? One surely meets himself coming back when he tries to make the Bible a homosexual book.

### III. SCRIPTURES DEALING WITH HOMOSEXUALITY:

- A. Deuteronomy 23:17,18 <sup>17</sup>“*There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.*  
<sup>18</sup>*Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a*

- dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these [are] abomination unto the LORD thy God."*
- B. Leviticus 20:13,23 <sup>13</sup>"If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood [shall be] upon them. <sup>23</sup>And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them."
- C. I Kings 14:24 "And there were also sodomites in the land: [and] they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel."
- D. I Kings 15:12 "And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made."
- E. I Kings 22:46 "And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land."
- F. II Kings 23:7,8 <sup>7</sup>"And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that [were] by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove. <sup>8</sup>And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beer-sheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that [were] in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which [were] on a man's left hand at the gate of the city."
- G. Romans 1:26,27 <sup>26</sup>"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: <sup>27</sup>And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."
- H. I Corinthians 6:9 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,"
- I. I Timothy 1:10 "For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for men stealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;"



**CONCLUSION:**

1. Homosexuality is a very dangerous and damaging sin. It affects the lives of innocent people and brings eternal condemnation to those who practice it.
2. We as Christians and a nation must stand against the immorality that is running rampant in our society.

# The Joy Of Moral Living

*John W. Barcus*

1. If Christianity does not make a man happy, it does not make him anything at all.
2. We do well to remember that ours is meant to be a life of Christian joy and full of radiance.
3. The religion of the Bible is a religion of joy. Such is apparent in both the Old and New Testament.
4. The Old Testament:
  - a. Psalm 32:11
  - b. Psalm 96:11,12
  - c. Deuteronomy 16:11
5. The New Testament:
  - a. Philippians 4:4
  - b. Philippians 3:1
  - c. Romans 12:15
  - d. I Thessalonians 5:16
  - e. I Peter 4:13
6. The faithful servant of God can find joy, all around, in service, nature, and sorrow. But there is also great joy to be found in **"Moral Living."**

## DISCUSSION:

### I. MORAL LIVING DEFINED.

- A. Moral living has to do with a conforming to the standard of right behavior (living right). Therefore, we find joy when our lives conforms to righteous behavior, Paul states, *"Be not conformed to the world: but be ye transformed..."* (Romans 12:2).

### II. WHAT IS MORAL LIVING?

- A. Titus 2:12
- B. Philippians 4:8
- C. I Corinthians 6:18
- D. Galatians 5:22-25
- E. Ephesians 6:10-18
- F. II Peter 1:5-7

### III. MORAL LIVING IS JOYOUS BECAUSE:

- A. It keeps us in God's care.
  - 1. Psalm 16:11
  - 2. Proverbs 2:20; 10:2-4; 11:31; 12:3; 18:10
- B. It helps us to avoid some physical problems.
  - 1. Diseases
  - 2. Anxieties, stress, and emotional set-backs that can hinder our effectiveness, for the Lord.
- C. It encourages and **keeps** us happy.
  - 1. David failed to practice such living at one time in his life and it stole his joys (Psalm 51:12).
  - 2. Proverbs 11:21.
  - 3. Habakkuk 3:17-19.
    - a. My strength.
    - b. Allows me to walk on the high ground.
- D. It helps me to avoid living a life that is guilt ridden and always being on guard (Proverbs 28:1-17).
- E. It sets the proper example before the world.
  - 1. Matthew 5:16 "...see your good works" (right living).
  - 2. Proverbs 10:11; 11:6,18
- F. It pleases God.
  - 1. Nehemiah 8:10
  - 2. Psalm 11:7; 34:15; 72:7; 92:12; 146:8
- G. It has the promise of living with God eternally.
  - 1. Psalm 112:6; 118:20
  - 2. Proverbs 14:32

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. There is great joy when:
  - a. We live above the world (II Corinthians 1:12).
  - b. When we avoid everything inconsistent with joy.
    - 1) Gross sin (II Corinthians 1:12).
    - 2) Unbelieving thought.
- 2. Joy, is constant trust and doing the will of God (Philippians 3:1).

# Honesty: A Basic Virtue

*Dale Turner*

Thesis: To stress the need for honesty in our daily walk of life.

1. Story of Diogenes search for an honest man.
2. If Diogenes were alive today, he might still be searching for honesty, it is in very short supply in our society.
  - a. Jeremiah 5:1
  - b. The foundation plank of honesty is so rotten that laws, contracts, etc. are disregarded at the slightest encouragement.
  - c. Not just big institutions which prove dishonest and untrustworthy, but "everyday folks" often display a lack of honesty.
3. The Dictionary defines honesty as "a refusal to lie, steal or defraud, or deceive under any circumstances-being just and fair."
  - a. Honesty and honor are inseparable—two sides of the same coin.
  - b. Honest people are honorable people, and honorable people are honest people.

## DISCUSSION:

- I. **HONESTY IS A FUNDAMENTAL, BASIC TRAIT OF CHARACTER FOR THE CHRISTIAN.**
  - A. Romans 13:13 *"Let us walk honestly, as in the day."*
  - B. Romans 12:17 *"Provide things honesty in the sight of all men."*
  - C. I Peter 2:12 *"Having your conversation honesty among the Gentiles."*
  - D. Honesty is not enforced from without, it comes from within, from the heart.
    1. Proverbs 4:23; 23:7
    2. Matthew 15:11, 17,20
- II. **WE MUST BE HONEST IN OUR SPEECH.**
  - A. Lying is sinful.
    1. Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9

2. Proverbs 6:16,17,19
3. Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15
- B. Any attempt to deliberately deceive or mislead is a lie.
  1. Not talking about an honest mistake.
  2. There is many ways to lie in word.
- C. NO where in scripture can we find justification for:
  1. "White Lies" or "Little Fibs."
  2. Lies which are told to save us from some personal difficulty.
- D. An area of special concern for the Christian is to keep from lying to God about our service or devotion.
  1. Example of Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5.
  2. It requires scrupulously honest self-examination to avoid this error.
- E. Many will be lost in eternity because some false prophet lied to them.
  1. I John 4:1
  2. I Kings 13

### III. WE MUST BE HONEST IN OUR CONDUCT.

- A. Perhaps the greatest test here is when it comes down to a choice between honesty and dollars!
- B. Questions we should ask ourselves:
  1. Do we misrepresent a product or service when engaged in a business deal?
  2. Do we try to avoid paying legitimate debts we have made?
  3. Do we give an honest account of ourselves to our employers?
  4. Do we cheat on school work or tests?
  5. Do we keep promises we have made?
- C. All of us may not be rich, or powerful, or clever, or brilliant. But all of us can be honest, and that makes you a big person!

### CONCLUSION:

1. Honesty is the best policy.
2. Not necessarily the best policy for those who want profit, power, ease, etc. at any cost.
3. It is the best policy for:
  - a. Living with yourself.
  - b. Living with people around you.

- c. Living with God.
- 4. Luke 8:15 tells us that those who have "*good and honest hearts*" will receive the Word of God and be saved. It is our prayer and hope that you are in this group.

# Divorce And Remarriage

*David Pharr*

1. We should begin with 3 foundation points.
  - a. All we can possibly know is what the Bible says. This is actually quite simple. Many complicated questions and situations arise, but still all any of us can know is what the Bible says.
  - b. In approaching this study we should be reminded that we are not to be busybodies (I Peter 4:15). This issue tends to prompt such activity.
  - c. We must not attempt to interpret Scripture in the light of current conditions. The teaching of the Bible is the same always, regardless of changes in society.
2. Our study will be a simple analysis of Matthew 19:3-12. Obviously this is a foundation text. It should, of course, be compared to Matthew 5:31-32; Luke 16:18; and Mark 10:11-12.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. THE ISSUE RAISED (V. 3).

- A. It was raised by the Pharisees, not His disciples. They were His enemies, not His followers. His answer applies to His friends and foes alike.
- B. They were trying to get Him to take a position that would involve Him in a difficulty. One lesson we can learn from Jesus here is to refrain from trying to settle every point in every case. Instead, simply state the truth and stop there.

### II. THE ORIGINAL AND UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE (VV. 4-6).

- A. One spouse for life.
- B. Jesus' approach to this complex issue was simply: What does the Bible say?
- C. Genesis 1:27; 2:24. Monogamous and permanent. (Cf. Romans 7:1-3).
- D. Verse 6 shows God's involvement and prohibits man's interference. Marriage is a Divinely ratified covenant. See Malachi 2:14-16.

**III. THE PHARISEE'S OBJECTION ANSWERED (VV. 7-8A).**

- A. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 did not indicate Divine pleasure, but human hardness.
- B. The Mosaic law was theocratic. The divorce provision was for the protection of women.
- C. The church leaves civil matters to civil authorities. Civil authorities have no part in determining the morality of divorce and remarriage.

**IV. GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN STILL STANDS (VV. 8A-9).**

- A. One who puts away his/her spouse and marries another commits adultery. (Cf. Mark 10:11-12).
- B. In contrast to the Pharisees' assumption about Deuteronomy 24:1-4, the one put away is not eligible to marry another. (Cf. Matthew 5:31-32).
- C. The only exception is "for fornication" — when one divorces his/her spouse because that spouse has been guilty of fornication.
- D. Any interpretation of I Corinthians 7:10-15 must be in harmony with Matthew 19:9. Otherwise Jesus' only exception would not be His only exception! (Cf. I Corinthians 5:1; 6:13; 7:2; II Corinthians 12:21).

**V. THE DISCIPLES' RESPONSE AND JESUS' REPLY (VV. 10-12).**

- A. It is evident that the disciples immediately understood that Jesus had declared a strict standard. The seriousness of the issue must not be minimized.
- B. Jesus' reply reminds us that every person (for example, the unscripturally divorced person) does not have the "right" to sexual fulfillment.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. There is a growing temptation to try to make the Lord's words accommodate trends in the world and in the church. We must stand firm with the biblical standard.



# Humanism

Garland M. Robinson

Modern Humanism had its beginning in Florence, Italy, in the 15th century.

1. A group of writers rebelled against Roman Catholicism and its political machinery.
2. They turned primarily to the Pagan culture of Greece (500 B.C.) which basic philosophy was: “**man is the measure, the total summary of all things**” and that “**contradictions are true.**”
3. This idea replaces God as the center of man’s interest and sets man himself and his welfare as the central and most important of man’s thoughts and concerns.

## I. WHAT HUMANISM SAYS.

- A. The *dictionary of philosophy* defines Humanism: “as twentieth century philosophy...that rejects belief in all forms of the supernatural; that considers the greater good of humanity on this earth as the supreme ethical goal; and that relies on the methods of reason, science and democracy for the salvation of human problems” (p.132).
- B. In the 1982 printing of **HUMANIST MANIFESTO I and II**, notice this statement in the preface: “Humanism is a philosophical, religious and moral point of view as old as human civilization itself. It has roots in classical China, Greece and Rome; it is expressed in the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, in the scientific revolution and in the twentieth century. ...In 1931 a group of 34 liberal Humanists in the United States...drafted Humanist Manifesto I...expressing a general religious and philosophical outlook that rejected orthodox and dogmatic positions and provided meaning and direction, unity and purpose to human life. It was committed to reason, science and democracy....”
- C. In **HUMANIST MANIFESTO II, 1982**, we read:
  1. “We believe, however, that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual or creed above human needs and experience do a

disservice to the human species. ...We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of the survival and fulfillment of the human race. **As non-theists, we begin with humans not God, nature not Deity.** ...We can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. ...Humans are responsible for what we are or can become. **No deity will save us, we must save ourselves.**" (pp.15-16)

2. "We find that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and **situational**, needing no theological or ideological sanction. ...Happiness and the creative realization of human needs and desires, individually and in shared enjoyment are continuous themes of humanism. We strive for the good life **here and now.**" (p.17)
3. A 4th part follows: "Reason and intelligence are the most effective instruments that human kind possesses. There is no substitute. ...The controlled use of scientific methods must be extended further in the solution of human problems."

## II. THIS SATANIC PHILOSOPHY HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL ON THE CHURCH TODAY AND CONTINUES TO DO SO.

### A. Humanism exists in every community in America!

1. It is known as: Secularism, Naturalism, Materialism, Feminism, Hedonism, etc.
2. It is there whether or not it is recognized by any Christians!
3. It is there regulating most individual and community conduct in all areas of life: whether social, civil, political, educational or otherwise.
4. It is hard to oppose an enemy you do not know even exists! **BEWARE BRETHERN!**

### B. A majority of professing Christians are practicing the anti-Biblical values of Humanism without even knowing it.

1. Self-centeredness and the desire for pleasure is the same basic philosophy.
2. "If it feels good do it" is one of its basic tenets.

- C. It is the main fiber of American social life, far more so than Christian values. Evidence abounds!
1. 1½ million unborn babies are murdered by abortion every year (over 4,000 a day).
  2. One third of all pregnancies in America end by abortion.
  3. The U.S. has the highest divorce rate in the world.
  4. A third of all children in America will have spent part of their childhood in a single parent divorced family.
  5. Divorce is the primary cause for the rise of poverty in this nation.
  6. There were three times more unwed couples living together in 1980 than there were ten years before.
  7. Child crime has risen more than 1,100% within the last 20 years.
  8. Two thirds of all Americans no longer hesitate to gamble.
  9. Pornography has become an extremely large underground multi-billion dollar industry.
  10. Alcohol and other drug abuse is rampant.
  11. Homosexual conduct is becoming acceptable as an alternative lifestyle.
  12. Euthanasia is also growing in social acceptance.
  13. Parental authority for the nurturing, disciplining, and training of children is eroding as government agencies seek control over the lives of children.
- D. Humanism is the primary culprit that has promoted and made these things prevalent in America (and is doing so around the world).
1. Humanism is now in control of all major professions such as: Law, Medicine, Media, Arts, Entertainment, Education, Social Sciences, Psychology.
  2. Most people are not even aware of what is happening and don't really care — not interested in it!

Humanist Manifesto I (printed in 1933) set forth the following affirmations (among others).

### III. RELIGIOUS HUMANISTS REGARD THE UNIVERSE AS SELF-EXISTING AND NOT CREATED.

- A. Gen. 1:1 *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*

- B. There are only three choices for the existence of this universe:
  1. It is itself, eternal.
  2. It created itself sometime in the past.
  3. A supreme divine being created it.
- C. Evolutionists do not really like either of the first two choices and cannot explain either, but they know one thing for sure, they will not accept the third and final option: the fact that GOD CREATED IT!

#### IV. HUMANISM BELIEVES THAT MAN IS A PART OF NATURE AND THAT HE HAS EMERGED AS THE RESULT OF A CONTINUOUS PROCESS.

Humanist Manifesto II, (p.17) **“...Science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces.”**

- A. Science, true science, does not affirm the natural process of evolutionary forces!
  1. Everything in science points to an all wise creator. The beauty of design!
  2. Psalm 19:1 *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”*
- B. Rom. 1:20 *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”*

#### V. HUMANISM HOLDS TO AN ORGANIC VIEW OF LIFE, THEREFORE, THEY FIND THE IDEA THAT MAN HAS A BODY AND SOUL UNACCEPTABLE.

- A. Zech. 12:1 *“...which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him”*
  1. Isa. 42:5 *“Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein”*
  2. Ecc. 3:21 *“Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth”*

3. Ecc. 12:7 *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it”*
- B. Even the scientists cannot deny that unique part of man that distinguishes him from the whole animal kingdom: INTELLIGENCE, the process of THINKING!

## VI. HUMANISM ASSERTS THAT THE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE DEPICTED BY MODERN SCIENCE MAKES UNACCEPTABLE ANY SUPERNATURAL OR COSMIC GUARANTEES OF HUMAN VALUES.

- A. The whole world recognizes this claim to be false. It is evident because of the law enforcement and court system.
  1. From the beginning, God placed within man a moral sense of decency, right/wrong.
  2. It has always been wrong to: steal, lie, murder!
- B. God gives every man the right to make his own choice... right/wrong.
  1. Deut. 11:26-28 *“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; <sup>27</sup>A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: <sup>28</sup>And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God...”*
  2. Joshua 24:15 *“...choose you this day whom ye will serve....”*

## VII. HUMANISTS SAY, “WE ARE CONVINCED THE TIME HAS PASSED FOR THEISM, DEISM.”

- A. They are saying the time has long passed for people to believe in the God of the Bible, eternal, all wise, all powerful.
  1. Deism — the belief that a supreme being created the universe and everything in it but no longer is involved with the operation of it today.
  2. They think man has grown beyond a belief in God.
- B. Heb. 1:3 the God of the Bible upholds all things by the word of his power!
  1. Matt. 5:45 God makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sendeth his rain on the just and unjust.
  2. Dan. 4:25 the Most High God ruleth in the kingdoms of men.

**VIII. RELIGIOUS HUMANISM CONSIDERS THE COMPLETE REALIZATION OF HUMAN PERSONALITY TO BE THE END OF MAN'S LIFE AND SEEKS ITS DEVELOPMENT IN THE HERE AND NOW.**

- A. They say this is all there is to life, what we experience in the here and now!
- B. Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:12-13

**CONCLUSION:**

1. In the 7 other affirmations, religion is down-played and requested to change with the times.
2. Humanism denies:
  - a. The existence and deity of God (they say all religion is the result of social evolution)
  - b. Creation by Divine Deity (they say man evolved from purely natural means, organic evolution)
  - b. Inspiration of the Bible
  - c. Divinity of Christ Jesus
  - d. Existence of the soul (they say man is totally a physical being)
  - e. Life after death
  - f. Reality of sin
  - g. Salvation and heaven
  - h. Damnation and hell
  - i. There are any absolutes (right and wrong) — (they teach such is decided upon each individual situation, situation ethics).
3. Humanism advocates:
  - a. No distinct roles for male and female
  - b. Sexual freedom for all
  - c. Premarital sex
  - d. Homosexuality
  - e. Lesbianism
  - f. Incest
  - g. Abortion
  - h. Euthanasia (so-called "mercy killing")
  - i. Evolution
2. Basically, humanism is communist in thinking. They emphasize citizenship in a single worldwide community.
3. They totally reject the supernatural, refusing to accept God-given values.

4. Their doctrine and philosophy has spread widely in the last 50 years. So much so that a sizeable number, possibly the majority, of school text books bear evidence of being written by Humanists.
  - a. A study funded by the U.S. Department of Education appearing in the Religious section of the Houston Post, p. 26A, on Feb. 1, 1986, reads as follows: **“An examination of text books used in U.S. Public Schools finds that they virtually ignore religion as an element in American life and discount traditional family values.”**
  - b. Example: A fourth grade teacher in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, presented this scenario to her class.  
If you, your father, mother, grandmother, brother and sister were in a boat on the ocean and conditions arose that necessitated getting rid of weight or the boat would sink and all lives be lost, what would you do? Which one of your family should you throw overboard to spare the rest? When the students did not respond the teacher exclaimed, grandmother of course!
  - c. This is situation ethics—the new morality!
  - d. This is what humanism is all about — UNGODLYNESS!!
5. We must fight it by living the godly life and teaching it to others also.

## Respecting Authority And Rebellion Against Authority

*Jimmy W. Bates*

1. One of the most disturbing trends in the world today is the growing disregard for Authority.
2. What is “**Authority**?”
  - a. “The power or right to give commands, enforce obedience, take action, or make final decisions; jurisdiction...” (Webster’s New World Dictionary, page 94)
  - b. Authority (Gr. EXOUSIA) means, “the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed).” (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon, page 225)
3. “**Respecting**” Authority:
  - a. “Respect” — “to feel or show honor or esteem for; hold in high regard; to consider or treat with deference or dutiful regard; to avoid intruding upon or interfering with.” (Webster’s New World Dictionary, page 1211)
  - b. Gr. verb (APOBLEPO), “to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on some one thing; to look at attentively.” (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon, page 60)
  - c. To respect authority is to show in word and action proper honor and esteem and dutiful regard through submission and obedience to the will or commands of that Authority. And, refraining from intruding upon or acting without proper authorization.
4. “**Rebellion**” Against Authority:
  - a. “Rebellion” — “...a defiance of or opposition to any authority or control.” (Webster’s New World Dictionary, page 1183)
  - b. To fail or refuse to submit to and obey the will of one in authority, (thus, failing to show proper honor and respect), is “rebellion” against such authority and is associated with “stubbornness” (wanting to do one’s own will). Cf. I Samuel 15:10-23.



**DISCUSSION:****I. GOD — THE SUPREME AUTHORITY OF ALL MANKIND.****A. God is the source of original Authority.**

1. He is eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. (cf. Psalm 90:1,2)
2. He is, "*The Almighty God.*" (Genesis 17:1; cf. Exodus 3:14).

**B. God the Father gave Jesus his power and authority, so that he spoke the words which the Father gave him. (John 17:8; cf. 17:2,6; 8:26,29)**

1. "*God...hath...spoken unto us by his Son.*" (Hebrews 1:1,2)
2. Jesus claimed power and authority to teach truth and lead people to God. (Matthew 11:27-30; John 14:6; 17:1,2)
3. People were "astonished" and "amazed" at his power and authority. (Matthew 7:28,29; Mark 1:22; John 7:46)
4. He has all authority and power. (Matthew 28:17-20; cf. Ephesians 1:19-23; Philippians 2:9-11)
5. Further affirmation of his authority. (Romans 1:4; Acts 2:33, 36-38; 7:56; 9:6; 10:36; Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18; John 12:47,48; Acts 3:22-23)

**C. Authority Delegated To The Apostles.**

1. Jesus gave the apostles the word he had received from the Father. (John 17:8,14)
2. Holy Spirit to GUIDE them into "all truth." (John 14:26; 16:13)
3. Their message was confirmed with "*signs, wonders, and divers miracles.*" (Hebrews 2:3,4; Mark 16:20)
4. These inspired men accurately preached and recorded the Gospel and that same Gospel is now in the inspired BOOK! (II Timothy 3:16,17)
5. We must "continue steadfastly in the Apostles' Doctrine." (Acts 2:42; cf. Galatians 1:6-9; II John 9-11)

**D. Summary:** God gave Christ "all power" or "authority." (Matthew 28:18) Christ delegated authority to the apostles, and the Holy Spirit unerringly guided them in teaching and recording the Gospel of Christ. (John 17:8,14; 14:26; 16:13) These inspired men revealed and confirmed the final message of God to man. (Hebrews 1:1,2; Matthew 28:20) When we read in the New Testament what they recorded,

we can understand the will of God. (Ephesians 3:4-6; 5:17,18) That Will or Testament being now in force. (Hebrews 9:15-17; 10:9-10) Therefore, our authority today in all matters pertaining unto "life and godliness" (II Peter 1:3) is the New Testament, the Will and Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

## II. LET US "RESPECT" DIVINE AUTHORITY.

- A. In all we teach and practice in religion. (Colossians 3:17; I Thessalonians 5:21; II Corinthians 5:7)
  - 1. The Church: Organization, Name, Worship, Mission/ Work, fellowship, etc.
  - 2. Moral Conduct
- B. Respect both Generic and Specific Authority.
  - 1. General or "Generic" authority includes all that is demanded in the execution of a command when the details are not specified. (Cf. Matthew 28:19)
  - 2. "Specific" authority is derived from specific commands where God specifies what he wants and thus all else is excluded.
- C. Respect the "Silence" of the Scriptures. (Deuteronomy 29:29; II Corinthians 5:7)
- D. Much "Rebellion" Against Divine Authority.
  - 1. Modernism
  - 2. Denominationalism
  - 3. Liberalism
  - 4. Anti-ism
  - 5. Worldliness
  - 6. Unfaithfulness
  - 7. ALL Disobedience

## III. LET US "RESPECT" AUTHORITY IN THE HOME.

- A. The Husband is the head of the wife. (Ephesians 5:22-24) His authority is to be exercised through love. (Ephesians 5:25-33)
- B. Parents are to exercise authority over their children.
  - 1. Genesis 18:19; Ephesians 6:4
  - 2. Must discipline children. (Proverbs 22:15; 23:13,14; Hebrews 12:9,10)
  - 3. Provide for their physical needs and their spiritual training. (Titus 2:4; I Timothy 5:8; Proverbs 22:6)
- C. Children commanded to respect authority of parents.

1. Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20
  2. Be "subject" to parents. (Luke 2:51)
  3. One's attitude toward authority begins in the Home!
- D. Much rebellion against Authority in the Home.
1. Parents who will not accept the responsibilities of the roles God has given them.
  2. Rebellious Children

#### IV. LET US "RESPECT" CIVIL AUTHORITY.

- A. Civil government is authorized of God.
1. Romans 13:1-7; cf. John 19:10,11
  2. Matthew 22:17-22
- B. Obey civil powers
1. Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 2:13-17; Titus 3:1
  2. Except, when they conflict with God's law. (Acts 5:29; 4:19)

#### CONCLUSION:

1. The doctrinal and moral problems we face today in the church and the world are caused primarily by a disregard of proper authority in religion, in the home, and in civil government.
2. Until men begin to respect the Authority of God through submission and obedience to His word, these problems will persist and intensify.

## **Music – TV** **(Media Assault On Christians)**

*Sidney White*

1. Most powerful force introducing temptation into our lives.
2. Has left it's mark on each of us.
3. Genesis 6:5; Matthew 15:19; Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 5:1-5, 10ff.

### **DISCUSSION:**

- I. **ONCE WHOLESOME ENTERTAINMENT – NOW:**
  - A. Uses home settings — this is what the home is like; the way it should be; that's the message—but it's wrong!
  - B. Uses entertainment — Parents leave it to babysit.
  - C. Uses cartoons — people think that if in animated form, must be O.K. for children—not so!
  - D. Uses children — if children are in the program, must be O.K. for children to watch—wrong again!
  - E. Program directors, producers — “Our programs simply reflect how it is in society.”
  - F. How many million view successful T.V. programs — 20 million? 40 million?
  
- II. **DRASTIC AND UNBARRED CHANGES IN ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY:**
  - A. Not “pay TV” — by major network, prime time TV — not HBO, Showtime, MTV, etc.
  - B. Adultery and fornication acceptable form of life.
  - C. Homosexual/lesbianism alternate life style — “Must have been born that way, so I can't change it, so must accept it.”
  - D. Immodesty as the norm.
  - E. Sexual innuendos as wholesome comedy.
  - F. Vile and vulgar language a part of us — even among educated.
  - G. Murder and abortion as God-given right.
  - H. Disrespect to parents, civil authority — even in cartoons. “You have arrived.”
  - I. Plunged head first into junkyard.

- J. Long way from Andy Griffith, Dick Van Dyke, Beverly Hillbillies, etc.

### III. INTERESTING STATISTICS:

- A. More people in America own TV's than refrigerators or indoor plumbing.
- B. Average American averages 35 hours weekly watching TV.
- C. Ranked 3rd as things we like to do, behind sleep and work.
- D. Average person exposed to 9,320 sexual acts a year on non-pay TV.
- E. Add to this movies at theaters, rentals, pay TV — we pay extra to see.

### IV. EXAMPLES OF LAST 10 YEARS:

- A. Roseanne — in home setting.
- B. Doogie Howser, MD; Beverly Hills 90210 — make light of sex, the home, hurl insults at our Lord and His precious Word.
- C. 1980 new "comedy" Adam & Yves — 2 middle aged homosexuals (ABC).
- D. Flesh and Blood (CBS) incestuous relationship between mother and son (movie, 1980).
- E. Quantum Leap, January 15, 1992.
- F. Coach — gay football player; coach shamed for homophobia — show closed with coach in gay bar coming to his senses as men dance with each other in the background.
- G. Sisters, January 11, 1992 — defends AIDS stricken homosexual.
- H. L.A. Law — defends homosexual life style; has shown lesbian scenes.
- I. "Newsweek" reports homosexual jokes cleared with Gay Liberation Task Force before airing by some major TV shows.
- J. Civil Wars — October 1992 — nude scenes.
- K. MTV — includes condom commercials.
- L. This list doesn't include violence, heterosexual fornication, profanity.

### V. LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING:

- A. Softening affect —

- B. Because of rise in immorality, over last 18 years — we murdered 27 million children through abortion. (over 4,100 per day)
- C. Politicians even taking advantage.
- D. Teenage pregnancies up 300% in just last 5 years.
- E. Not talking about the future — NOW!!

#### VI. WHERE DOES THE CHRISTIAN FIT IN?

- A. Matthew 5:8.
- B. I Timothy 1:5; 4:12; 5:22; II Timothy 2:22.
- C. Yet, 85% of those who claim to be N.T. Christians, within Christian homes, who are faithful service attenders, active visitation workers, etc. view such.
- D. Most devastating harm not done outside the home, but inside— TV.
  - 1. Galatians 6:7-8
  - 2. Hebrews 3:7,8,15; Luke 13:3
  - 3. James 4:8, do we do this daily? Is this your life?

#### CONCLUSION:

- 1. Not a fun subject.
- 2. Can you truthfully say, “I’m a godly father, mother, teen”, and continue to watch the filth on TV?
- 3. Is your heart pure? (Philippians 4:8; Psalm 119:11).
- 4. If infected with this, come out before it destroys your soul and the souls of others.

## Affects Of Feminism On Society

*Charles Huff*

1. Webster's definition for **feminine** — "female; of women or girls. Having qualities regarded as characteristic of women and girls, as gentleness, weakness, delicacy, modesty, etc.; womanly."
2. Webster defines **feminism** — "theory that women should have political, economic, and social rights equal to those of men; the movement to win such rights for women."
3. Surely none of us would be against women having equal rights socially, the right to vote and hold political office, the right to receive equal pay for equal work.
4. Yet feminism has become to mean much more than these just rights for women in today's society. Winford Claiborne in a lecture on "Radical Feminism" said on the lectureship at Freed-Hardeman College in February 1981, and I quote:

"One of the most ungodly, immoral, and illogical movements this country has ever witnessed has been variously called '**radical feminism**,' the 'Women's Liberation Movement,' or simply, 'the Women's Movement.' It is my sincere conviction that the home has never had a more damaging and insidious enemy than radical feminism. The major goals of this fast growing unchristian movement have not been hidden by the nationally recognized leaders. Women such as Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Germaine Greer, and Caroline Bird have publicly and enthusiastically announced that they intend to revolutionize child-rearing, education, marriage, the family, medicine, work, politics, the economy, religion, psychological theory, human sexuality, morality, and the very evolution of the race. Unfortunately, the feminists are achieving the objectives more rapidly than most Americans can even imagine.

"When the modern feminist movement first began to receive media coverage in the United States, the women liberationists pretended that their intentions were primarily to gain for women equal pay for equal work, equal credit, and equal educational opportunities — and these are legitimate concerns for everyone —

but they no longer visualize these as their opposition to the patriarchal home and to men. The feminists are utilizing every means at their disposal to achieve their radical aims.

“Modern feminism received its initial impetus from Betty Friedan’s book, ‘The Feminine Mystique.’

“The feminists view the patriarchal home as the root cause of their heartaches and miseries. The National Organization for Women (NOW) published a small booklet, ‘The Document: Declaration of Feminism,’ which articulates their bitter feelings toward marriage and the family. ‘Heterosexual relationships’ are by their very nature oppressive to women in a male dominated society. In Western society sexual roles are defined for the benefit of men. The woman is treated as a sexual object, a thing which exists for the gratification of man to ensure his physical comfort and his sexual pleasure. In the eyes of men this is woman’s place — for Eve was created from Adam’s rib — or so the story goes.

“Kate Millett argues that the biblical account of ‘the myth of the Fall’ still exerts an enormous influence on women. Even though modern man has long ago abandoned the literal belief in the story of creation, according to Millett, women in the home and in society in general are still dominated and abused by men because of the teachings of Genesis. Millett agrees with Marx and Engels that the home as we know it has outlived its usefulness and the time of its death is overdue.

“Betty Friedan insists that the role of a housewife oppresses a woman and that no woman of adult intelligence can retain her emotional and spiritual equilibrium in the housewife role. She compares the woman who loves her role as a housewife to the millions of Jews who marched to their own deaths in the German concentration camps and to the millions of Germans and others who refused to believe that those camps even existed. If the women liberationists succeed in convincing young women that the role of housewife does not allow a woman to be fulfilled, that a woman who wants to be ‘just a housewife’ does not have adult intelligence, you can readily understand the serious implications of this godless philosophy.

“Obviously, the women liberationists have moral values which differ considerably from Bible teachings. They make no attempt to hide that fact. Many of the feminists advocate the eradication of most sexual differences between men and women...Many of the feminists are not homosexuals, but some of them envision homosexuality as a means of escaping the oppression of men and



a way of punishing men. Martha Shelley claims that she has met many feminists who are not lesbians, but she has never met a lesbian who was not a feminist. The feminist movement unquestionably encourages perversion, and from their point of view, why not? When one rejects the moral values given by divine inspiration, on what basis can he condemn homosexuality or any other activity?...Letha Scanzonia and Nancy Hardesty who call themselves 'Christian feminists' argue that Paul was prejudiced toward women, but he was not too far off base considering his rabbinic background. Paul King Jewitt of Fuller Theological Seminary rejects Paul's demands that wives submit to their husbands and accuses Paul of making three grievous errors."

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **I. AFFECTS OF FEMINISM ON THE CHURCH.**

- A. Legions are the religionists who contend that Paul, the apostle of Jesus was a "male chauvinist."
  - 1. His inspired guidelines that set certain restrictions on women serving as leadership of the church and their participation in leading public worship assemblies, have long been ignored by many denominations of religion.
- B. It often follows that what ever affects society as a whole, eventually affects the church of our Lord.
  - 1. Who among us would have even dreamed, twenty-five years ago, that the role of women in leadership would be a great point of controversy in our contemporary brotherhood?

### **II. THE TRUE MEANING OF "BIBLICAL SUBMISSION."**

- A. We need to understand that "Biblical submission" does not mean inferiority of the sexes.
  - 1. The necessity of women being in a submissive role is founded upon two important considerations:
    - a. First, her submission is directly commanded by God (Titus 2:5; I Peter 3:1; Ephesians 5:22).
    - b. Second, her submission is a product of practicality.
  - 2. Submission does not indicate that the one submitting is inferior.
    - a. Jesus submitted himself to Joseph and Mary as his parents, but did this mean He was inferior to them (Luke 2:51)?

- b. The principle of submission is evident in government (Titus 3:1).
- c. The principle of submission is evident in the work place (Colossians 3:22,23).
- d. The principle of submission is evident in the Godhead (John 4:34; 14:28; Matthew 26:39).
- 3. Submission does not mean inequity nor inferiority (Galatians 3:26-29).
- 4. Whenever the principle of submission is ignored, in any system, chaos and anarchy follow.
- 5. This also holds true in the man/woman, parent/child relationships, in the church, and in the home.
- B. The true spirit of Jesus Christ would never degrade any person on the basis of race, sex, nor social level.
- C. The inspired, unerring, verbally inspired Word of God continues to elevate our sisters and mothers in Christ.
  - 1. The Bible does not suppress women in any God ordained role of their work (Titus 2:3-5).
  - 2. The Holy Spirit commended godly women in many passages of Scripture, even those written by the pen of Paul (Romans 16:1; II Timothy 1:5; Philippians 4:2-3).
- D. The limitations placed upon women by Divine injunction include:
  - 1. Public proclamation of the Word (I Corinthians 14:34).
  - 2. Teaching and otherwise exercising dominion (rule, or authority) over men (I Timothy 3:8-15).
  - 3. Serving in offices of leadership and service of the congregation exclusively reserved for men who meet "Scriptural qualifications" (I Timothy 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-9).
    - a. Many male members do not qualify to serve as elders or deacons. Does this make them inferior as Christians? Women can not serve in these positions but this does not make them inferior as Christians anymore than it does the man who does not qualify.

### III. WOMEN'S ROLE IN SOCIETY.

- A. In our society it is very common for a wife and mother to also have a career and work outside the home. **This does not mean she is a feminist.**
- B. The beautiful picture painted by inspiration in Proverbs thirty-one, shows that this "virtuous woman" was held in

respect by both her husband and children. She was an efficient homemaker, putting the welfare of her household at the top of her priorities, and yet she was a shrewd business woman both in manufacturing and trading.

- C. A Christian wife and mother must not neglect her domestic duties for a career, civic or recreational involvement, not even in work for the church.
- D. Young Christian mothers are to be, "...discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." (Titus 2:5).
  - 1. "Keepers at home" does not mean that she must stay at home all the time.
  - 2. But, it does mean that her home and her family come first and that she does not involve herself in anything outside that God given sphere that causes her to neglect that role.
- E. Irene Taylor wrote: "That woman's primary role of importance is in the home is evident throughout the Bible. It is here she performs her greatest service to God and mankind. That woman has failed to fully appreciate the magnitude of her God-given role is evident by the discontent prevailing today."

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. We commend the good work that has been, and continues to be done by faithful, godly sisters in Christ. The church in many locations was begun and has survived because of the dedication and devotion of such women.
- 2. In the days of Isaiah the prophet, the nation of Judah had degenerated to such a condition that the men failed to fulfill their God ordained role of leadership. God said through that prophet, "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isaiah 3:12).
- 3. Brethren, let us be men. Let us fulfill the role of leadership that God has ordained for us. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, (be brave) be strong" (I Corinthians 16:13).
- 4. When we walk before God in the light of His word, then our wives and sisters will be challenged to be what God would have them to be (Ephesians 5:22-33).

# Abortion

*Clayton Winters*

1. On January 22, 1973, now known as "**Black Monday**," the United States Supreme Court handed down its law that made abortions legal. Since then, more than thirty million babies have died at the hands of abortionists.
2. What you are about to see and hear is not pretty (abortion is a bloody business), but it is happening; and to hide our heads in the sand will not change the facts—abortion is happening all around us.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. ABORTION IS A CRUEL AND INHUMAN ACT.

#### A. Some methods of abortion.

1. D & C (Dilation and Curettage) — used up to the twelfth week of pregnancy. The baby is cut to pieces in the uterus, then scrapped out into a container for disposal.  
"When the pregnancy is under 12 weeks, we use a suction curette, sucking out the material under pressure. As long as we stay inside the uterus, everything's okay. But if we happen to perforate that softer uterus, then the machine can suck out lots of things—like intestines" (William J. Sweeney III., *Readers Digest*, April, 1973).
2. Hysterotomy — used after 14th or 15th week. The abdomen is surgically opened, and the baby lifted out. One hundred percent of these are live births. Once delivered, they are killed or left to die from lack of attention.
3. Salting — used on babies after 12th week. About a pint of saline solution is injected into the uterus. It kills the baby, and the mother delivers the dead body a few hours later.
4. Prostaglandin — drugs injected into the uterus to kill the baby. 24 to 36 hours later the mother delivers a dead or very sick baby.

5. D & X — all the baby is delivered through the opening of the uterus except the head (which is too large to pass through). The doctor then rams dull scissors into the base of the skull, enlarges the womb, and sucks out the brain. The skull collapses, and he is able then to complete the abortion.
- B. Abortion is a cruel and bloody business, a fact even those engaged in it will admit.

## II. ABORTION IS THE DESTRUCTION OF INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE.

- A. When the male sperm penetrates the ovum, the little human life begins, having received from each of its parents 23 chromosomes that will determine almost every thing it is going to be: color of eyes, the size of the feet, etc.
  1. The heart begins to beat at 18 to 24 days.
  2. Electrocardiogram recordings can be made as early as 10 weeks.
  3. Electroencephalographs have been recorded as early as 43 days.
  4. Actual skeletal movements begin at six weeks.
  5. At 9 to 10 weeks the baby squints, swallows, moves his tongue; and if you stroke his palm, he will make a tight fist.
  6. At 11 weeks he vigorously sucks his thumb.
  7. At 12 weeks he has fingernails.
  8. At 16 weeks he grows eyelashes.
- B. God carefully watches over the formation of this new being in the womb (Psalm 139:13-17).
- C. Abortionists have learned to carefully avoid the term baby, choosing rather to call it blob of tissue, product of the womb, fetal tissue, etc. The New Testament, however, calls it what it is (Luke 2:12,16; Acts 7:19).
- D. By the destruction of these innocent little beings, we bring a blood curse on ourselves and on the land.
  1. *“Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person [to cause him] to die. Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which [is] guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death. And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to the city of his refuge, that he should*

*come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest. So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye [are]: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it” (Numbers 35:30-33).*

**CONCLUSION:**

1. It has been said, “All that is needed for evil men to triumph, is for good men to do nothing.” Isn’t it about time our voice was heard, and heard loudly, in this bloody matter?
2. Blood is defiling our land and we will have to pay the penalty.

# Christ's Victory Over Immorality

*HalliBurton Greer*

1. Morals defined, Thorndike/Barnhart 3rd edition:
  - a. Good in character or conduct; virtuous according to civilized standards of right and wrong; right; just.
  - b. Capable of understanding right and wrong.
  - c. Having to do with character or with the difference between right and wrong.
2. The trouble with this definition is that "civilized standards can change and do change." So we need to modify that definition to state that moral is good in character or conduct; virtuous according to GOD's standards of right and wrong; right; just.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. GOD'S STANDARDS.

- A. Ten commandments (Exodus 20:1-17 & Deuteronomy 5:7-21).
  1. Sabbath day is no longer one of GOD's standards.
- B. GOD'S "great commandment" (Deuteronomy 6:5; 10:12; 30:6).
- C. The Second like unto it (Leviticus 19:18).
- D. Treating neighbor as self (Leviticus 19:9-18; Deuteronomy 22:1-4; 25:13-15).

### II. JESUS' TEACHINGS.

- A. The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37; Luke 10:26-27; Mark 12:29-30).
- B. The Second like unto it (Matthew 22:39; Luke 10:27; Mark 12:31).
- C. Liars, lies, false witness (John 8:41-45, 53-55; Revelation 21:8; Matthew 19:18; 26:59-61).
- D. Adultery (Matthew 5:27-32; Mark 10:11-12; John 8:3-4).
- E. Kill/Murder (Matthew 5:21-24).
- F. Treasures (Matthew 6:19-20).
- G. Stewardship (Luke 12:42-48; Matthew 25:14-30).
- H. Jesus' attitude towards the sinner:

1. Woman taken in adultery (John 8:1-3).
2. At dinner with Simon (Luke 7:36-50).
3. The impotent man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-16).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Jesus condemned immorality—sin, but He had compassion for the sinner.
2. We need to go and do likewise.
3. We need to teach that morals do not change.
4. Immorality will bring its sorrows, heartaches and pain.
5. Unrepented of immorality will lead us down the primrose path to hell.



# The Responsibility Of Moral Training In The Home

George L. Rogers

1. "Moral Issues Facing The Church," must be thought of as something facing us right now, not something in the distant future.
2. The church has always had its problems, but no greater problem faces us now than that of moral training in the home.

## DISCUSSION:

### I. A DEFINITION OF TERMS.

- A. Webster defines responsibility as, "Condition, quality, fact, or an instance of being responsible; obligation, accountability, dependability; a thing or persons for whom one is responsible."
  1. Down through the ages of time, men have placed great importance on responsibility.
  2. Abraham Lincoln said, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading today."
  3. Another has said, "Responsibility without accountability brings no results."
  4. Sir Josiah Stamp wrote in *The English Digest*, "It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our responsibilities."
  5. Daniel Webster was called upon and asked, "What is the most important thought you ever entertained?" He replied, "My individual responsibility to God."
    - a. A young man once answered an ad for a responsible person to fill a job. When the manager of the company asked the young boy why he considered himself a responsible person, the boy answered, "Well, on every job I have had, when something went wrong, the boss said, you are responsible." There is, it seems, another side to responsibility.
- B. By home we mean that institution created by God and instituted at the beginning of history.

1. Genesis 2:18 *"And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."*
  2. Genesis 2:24 *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."*
  3. Matthew 19:6 *"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."*
  4. The home is a sacred arrangement in which the husband and wife are bound together by the Lord until separated by death.
  5. Marriage is a life time proposition (Romans 7:1-4). The two are to "cleave" to each other. To separate is not God's will.
  6. The husband and wife have a mutual responsibility to *"bring up the children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4).
  7. **Nurture** means training or discipline. **Admonition** means to put in the mind of the child a respect for the Lord.
  8. The wife is to submit to the husband. The children are to respect, obey, and honor the parents. "Honoring father and mother" is the first commandment with promise.
  9. Disobedience to parents in the home is one of the "dark sins" set forth in the Word of God. (II Timothy 3:2)
- C. By moral training then we mean that teaching and training that is in harmony with the word of God.
1. Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*
  2. Christian homes seek to develop children who are respectful, responsible and obedient.
  3. This goal is not achieved over-night. The shaping, molding and training of children can never start too early in life.

## II. OUR PRESENT CONDITION.

- A. The home is in trouble in today's world. Marriage is entered with little or no preparation or concern. Preachers of the land still utter the words, "until death do us part," but it falls on deaf ears.

- B. The Bible is still God's standard for all peoples and cultures.
- C. We are living in a difficult and trying age, times that try the souls of men and women alike.
- D. As Charles Dickens once said, "It was the worst of times, it was the best of times. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair. We had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going directly the other way."
1. When we stop and reflect on the present condition of our homes in America today, it seems that we are not only living in "the best of times, but in the worst of times."
  2. America has not only economic and political problems, but moral and spiritual problems of huge proportions. The Psalmist has said, "*If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do*" (Psalm 11:3)?
  3. The Lord's people must stand up and tell the nation that God's Word is the standard for moral training in the home today.
  4. It does not matter so much who is in the White House today, but **who is in your house**.
    - a. Joshua 24:15 "... *but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*"
  5. Our nation is falling apart at the seams morally and spiritually, but we must realize that "*it is not in man to direct his own steps*" (Jeremiah 10:23).
- E. It is one thing to diagnose a problem, and yet another to provide a cure. Moral issues are not to be decided by the attitudes and actions of the world around us, but by the teachings of the Word of God as recorded in the Bible.
1. The world accepts many issues today that are contrary to Biblical morality. Such issues as:
    - a. Abortion.
    - b. Aids.
    - c. Drugs.
    - d. Pornography.
    - e. Homosexuality.
    - f. etc.

2. Proverbs 14:34 *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin [is] a reproach to any people.”*
- F. Jesus spake a parable to his disciples and said:
  1. Matthew 13:24-25 *“...The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.”*
    - a. Many of us in the home and church have been sleeping and tares have been sowed, and as a result of our sleeping the home is falling apart morally from within.

### III. FACTS SHOW AMERICAN HOMES WITH PROBLEMS.

- A. Mothers of today are encouraging their unwed daughters to have abortions.
  1. Our high schools all over the nation must have armed guards or policemen on duty to protect life and property.
  2. One of the latest reports is that over one million divorces are granted in the United States each year.
  3. Pornography is a multi-million dollar industry and is growing all the time.
  4. Men are marrying men and women are marrying women.
  5. Homosexuality is now looked upon with favor as the “third sex” among consenting adults.
- B. It appears that the sexual revolution of the sixties has so infiltrated society that topless, bottomless and nude bars are main attractions on “Main Street” U.S.A.
  1. The pill has opened the door for fornication and adultery throughout the land. It is now “safe” to sin!
  2. There is much corruption and dishonesty and immorality in all levels of our government. Gone is the trust in the great American dream.
  3. Talk shows are filled with moral corruption as if to speak to the “signs” of the times.
  4. What can be done? Edmund Burke once said, **“All that it takes for evil to triumph, is for good men to do nothing.”** We can stand up and be counted good.
- C. What is the solution to our great moral problems?

1. We must recognize that we have a responsibility and that responsibility lies in the home.
2. We must let sinful men know that God did not and will not tolerate sinful and immoral actions.
  - a. Moses said, *"Be sure your sins will find you out."*
  - b. Paul said, Acts 17:30 *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."*
3. We must preach the Gospel in love. We must let the sinner know that there is hope "in Christ," only if he repents and abandons his sinful ways.
4. Parents and children alike must learn that wrong doing is sin, and results in harm to the home and the nation.
  - a. Proverbs 29:15 *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left [to himself] bringeth his mother to shame."*
  - b. Proverbs 29:17 *"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."*
5. A balanced discipline by parents in the home will overcome evil with good.
6. One of the greatest of all desires of mankind is security. When there is love and discipline in the home there is security.

## CONCLUSION:

1. We have emphasized that America is in trouble especially in the moral training of our children in the home.
2. The Bible places the responsibility of moral training upon the parents in the home.
3. The father must take the lead as head, and wives must be in submission.
4. The children are to obey the parents in all things.
5. Christian wives will be submissive, and Christian parents will teach their children to obey. (Colossians 3:18-20)
  - a. George Herbert once said, "One father is worth more than a hundred schoolmasters." Many children are growing up these days without a father image, this is tragic.
6. As parents, grandparents, and children, we must once again stand for moral teaching and training in the home.
7. Joshua 24:15 *"...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

8. What kind of moral training is going forth from your house?  
If Christians follow God's plan in the home for moral training then there will be peace in a world of strife, love in a world of hate, and security in a world of fear.



