

Does God actually expect Christians to live holy lives? After reading the following scriptures, you can decide.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

I'm saved by grace, so works do not justify my salvation, right?

It is true that we can not justify our salvation by works, but only by the blood of Jesus. It is the free gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

But Romans 12:1 tells us that after we are saved, that living a holy life is our reasonable service. This means that by doing so, we aren't going above our required duty, but just meeting expectations!

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Rom 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.

I think it is an appropriate illustration to compare salvation to working a job. If an employer gives us a position in their company, they will have certain expectations and requirements to keep the job. Requirements such as our attendance at work and performing the duties for which we were hired. If we do not meet these expectations, then we can expect to lose our position. Just like working a job, there are certain reasonable expectations and requirements that go along with salvation.

A few of the many scriptures relating to God's expectations of a holy life

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. **How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?** 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

1John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself, even as he is pure.** 4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him **sinneth not**: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 **He that committeth sin is of the devil**; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

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.**

Can we forfeit our gift of salvation or "backslide"? From the scriptures below, the answer is a definite yes.

Proverbs 14:14 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

1Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

1Timothy 5:15 For some are already turned aside after Satan.

Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

James 5:19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Jude 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Backsliding happens gradually and results in spiritual poverty

Proverbs 24:33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 24:34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelth; and thy want as an armed man.

In the book of Revelations, God warns the end time churches that being lukewarm will not be tolerated

Revelations 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelations 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

Peter tells us that returning to sin (backsliding) will result in a worse ending than never having known the Lord.

2 Peter 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

In the last days, the "love of many shall wax cold" or backslide. It doesn't take too much understanding to know that we are in those days.

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Jesus tells of the terrible state of a backslider

Matthew 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 12:44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 12:45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself **seven other spirits** more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the **last state of that man is worse than the first**. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Can a backslider return to the Lord? Yes!

Jeremiah 3:22 Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

Hosea 6:2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Hosea 14:1 O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. 14:2 Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. 14:3 Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy. 14:4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Jeremiah 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

The Lord Jesus gave us the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32, which illustrates the return of a wayward son to God.

Some may say that the sixth chapter of Hebrews (see text below) tells that a backslider can not be restored, as it says that it is impossible for the person described "to renew again unto repentance". I think we must remember what the Lord said in Luke (Luke 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.) First we should notice the description is not your average Christian, but a Holy Ghost filled Christian that has tasted of the heavenly gift and the powers (spiritual gifts described - 1 Corinthians 12) of the world to come. If a person grows to the spiritual state described by Paul and backslides, then he or she is likely to become a reprobate (Matthew 12:43) or very hard hearted. I could understand the unlikelihood of this person returning to God. For example, could you imagine a minister with the gift of healing or some other spiritual gift, backsliding and how difficult a recovery would be? This "impossibility" that Paul refers to would not be the Lord's limitation, but the difficulty of the apostate from overcoming the hold of Satan. From the scriptures, we know that there is only one sin that can't be forgiven, which is blaspheming against the Holy Ghost (Matthew 12:32). I can say that God definitely is a God of second chances, as I have witnessed several backsliders that have returned to the Lord. If nothing else, this scripture should cause Christians to be aware of how serious a lukewarm or backslidden state can become.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 6:2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 6:3 And this will we do, if God permit. 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

What is Sin and what are the expectations of a holy life style? Does the Bible define what is expected?

I don't expect to provide a comprehensive list of all things that may or may not be sinful acts, but will attempt to list some of the controversial topics for today and scriptures related to these. If we can't provide a bible basis for certain beliefs, then it must be from man's traditions and not from God. This doesn't mean that a topic has to be expressly mentioned by name but tied to a fundamental Bible doctrine. The basis of most Christian and ethical beliefs can be referenced to the Ten Commandments.

First Commandment: Exodus 20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Second Commandment: Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Third Commandment: Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Fourth Commandment: Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Fifth Commandment: Exodus 20:12 Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Six Commandment: Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Seventh Commandment: Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Eighth Commandment: Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Ninth Commandment: Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Tenth Commandment: Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

Jesus identified the two most important of the Ten Commandments. Notice that the other eight commandments fall under these.

Matthew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Below I have listed some of the more controversial topics of our time (not necessarily listed in order of importance):

If I didn't mention the areas where you have questions, then I recommend that you go to the Word of God and study to find God's views. If a Church doctrine can't be identified by commandments or fundamental truths of the Bible, then it must not be based on God's desire, but man's. In the book of Revelations, we can see what God thinks about adding undue hardships to the Word or ignoring selective verses.

Revelations 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man **shall add unto** these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall **take away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

In the first chapter of Philippians (text below), Paul warns that some ministers preach with envy and strife to add afflictions to the hearer. The principles of Holiness should not be compromised, but they should be presented with God's love and compassion as the Christian experience is one that requires continual spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:2 and 1 Corinthians 3:2 describe new Christians as "newborn babes" that desire the sincere milk of the word). We definitely do not want to add unnecessary afflictions that are based on man made doctrines. As a sinner, would you be most receptive to a sermon presented in anger or with one presented with the Love that God represents?

Philippians 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

1Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, and other habits harmful to our bodies

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

1 Samuel 1:14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. 15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

Isaiah 5:11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! 22 Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

Isaiah 28:1 Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

2 Peter 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest: to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever. 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. 2Pe 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: **for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.**

Busybodies or gossiping

1Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a **busybody** in other men's matters.

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear **false witness** against thy neighbor. (One of the ten commandments)

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; **whisperers**, 30 **Backbiters**, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

1Timothy 5:11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; 12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And withal they learn to be **idle, wandering about from house to house**; and not only idle, but **tattlers also and busybodies**, speaking things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some are already turned aside after Satan.

Proverbs 11:12 He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbor: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace. 13 A talebearer revealeth **secrets**: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

Gambling

Lottery, betting, raffle tickets, casinos games

Dictionary definition: Gambling, the act of playing for stakes in the hope of winning (including the payment of a price for a chance to win a prize);

Proverbs 13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase.

Proverbs 23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. 11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? 12 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

1Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Luke 16:1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. 2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Gambling, by its nature, is selfish and self-seeking. The gambler seeks personal gain and profit by taking other people's possessions without requiting them. Such is completely contrary to love.

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

If gambling produces many forms of evil, which it does, this confirms the conclusion that gambling is evil of itself. Fruits of gambling: Poverty, neglect of families, quarreling, and divorce because gamblers often gamble with money the family needs. Drinking and drugs, alcoholism and addiction. Lying because gamblers seek to hide their habit and their losses. One out of every five homeless people admit that gambling contributed to their poverty. Among the fifty states Nevada, long known for gambling, has the highest rate of divorce and the highest rate of high school dropouts.

Proverbs 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

Gambling preys on the desperation of the poor. The National Gambling Impact Study Commission found that those with incomes less than \$10,000 spend more on lottery tickets than any other income group. High school dropouts spend four times as much as college graduates. Scripture exhorts us to look out for the poor and disadvantaged, and issues strong warnings against taking advantage of their plight.

Lying, Profanity, and using the Lord's name in vain

Ephesians 4:29 **Let no corrupt communication** proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, **filthy communication** out of your mouth.

3:9 **Lie not** one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

James 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the **same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing**. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

I find it surprising at how many Christians use the Lord's name in vain in normal conversation without thinking of what they are doing. Do we not realize that this is breaking one of the Ten Commandments?

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in **vain**; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Proverbs 17:3 The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts. 17:4 A wicked doer giveth heed to **false lips**; and a liar giveth ear to a **naughty tongue**.

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a **lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A **false witness** that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the **devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, **and the father of it**.

Prejudice toward other races or nationalities

Gal 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

1John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

1John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. 2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; 3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: 4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

The Occult

Horoscopes, Satanism, witchcraft

Jeremiah 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the **signs of heaven**; for the heathen are dismayed at them. 3 For the customs of the people are vain: for

Jeremiah 27:9 Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, **nor to your diviners**, nor to your dreamers, nor to your **enchanters**, nor to your **sorcerers**, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: 10 For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.

Deuteronomy 18:10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to **pass through the fire**, or that useth **divination**, or an **observer of times**, or an **enchanter**, or a **witch**, 11 Or a **charmer**, or a consulter with **familiar spirits**, or a **wizard**, or a **necromancer**. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these **abominations** the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, **witchcraft**, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Leviticus 20:27 A man also or woman that hath a **familiar spirit, or that is a wizard**, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

Exodus 8:18 And the **magicians** did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, **but they could not**: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. 19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Homosexual lifestyle

Why has homosexuality become a “normal” way of life in our society?

In 1948 Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey produced the “Kinsey Report” which stated that 10 to 47% of Americans were homosexual. Even though the statistics that Kinsey provided in his report were falsely represented, his reports have been credited to starting the homosexual revolution and destroying laws that once outlawed indecent homosexual acts. The “Kinsey Institute” conducted this so called research at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana from the late 1930s to the early 1950s. The irony is that people accepted these statistics as accurate and did not consider the background of the subjects being observed (convicted sex offenders, prisoners, known homosexuals, and even children that were exposed to this type of people).

26% (1,400) of Kinsey's alleged 5,300 white male subjects were already "sex offenders." As far as the data can be established, an additional 25% were incarcerated prisoners; some numbers were big city "pimps," "hold-up men," "thieves;" roughly 4% were male prostitutes as well as sundry other criminals; and some hundreds of homosexual activists at various "gay bars" and other haunts from coast to coast. This group of social outcasts and deviants were then redefined by the Kinsey team as representing your average person. With adequate press and university publicity, people believed what they were told by our respectable scientists, that mass sexual perversion was common nationwide-so our sex education and our laws must be changed to reflect Kinsey's "reality." Legitimate estimates last year show that the actual percentages are likely less than two percent. Of course that is two percent too many.

Is God pleased with this movement? What do the scriptures tell us?

1 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**, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Dictionary definition: Effeminate - To make womanish; to unman; to weaken;

Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is **abomination**.

Leviticus 20:13 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.

Dictionary definition: Abomination, Anything associated with the worship of other gods and any behavior that perverts the lifestyle God intended human beings to live. Leviticus 18 contains a list of unlawful behaviors (eg, incest, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality).

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to **dishonor their own bodies** between themselves: 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 1:26 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: 1:27 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 recompense of their error which was meet. 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Homosexuality is also referred to as the sin of sodomy. This reference comes from an account in the Bible of two exceedingly wicked cities, Sodom and Gomorrah, which the Lord destroyed. Sodom was known for its rampant homosexuality. When the Lord sent angels to warn Lot (who lived in Sodom) of his plans to destroy the cities, the wicked men of Sodom asked Lot to send the angels out to them that they may know them. We then see that the angels struck the men with blindness.

Genesis 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Jud 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

These scriptures clearly state that these vile affections of men lusting for other men (gay men) or women lusting for other women (lesbians) are not the natural affections God created men and women to have for one another. We know that God loves all homosexuals, but he hates their deeds because they are sinful. God did not create any human being as a homosexual. They are not born that way, just as murderers are not born that way. People become homosexuals because they yield to abnormal acts or lust. It is through some source that they have received a demonic spirit that drives them to their lust. Viewing evil videos, pornographic pictures, and visiting strip tease establishments are ways of opening the door for Satan to over come one with an evil, perverse spirit.

Can homosexuals be saved? John 3:16 tells us the answer is undeniably yes! I do believe that people saved from this lifestyle will endure a continuous struggle against the snares of the devil. The keys to over coming these or any temptation is studying the Bible, prayer, church attendance, and fasting.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Pornography

Pornography opens the door to other sins such as fornication, adultery, child molestation, rape, homosexuality and other related sins. But one does not have to physically commit the sin of adultery to be guilty of adultery. Jesus said even if a married man looks at a woman to lust after her in his heart, he is guilty of adultery.

Matthew 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever **looketh on a woman to lust after her** hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 5:30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Psalms 101:2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. 101:3 I will **set no wicked thing before mine eyes**: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Job 31:1 I made a **covenant with mine eyes**; why then should I think upon a maid?

Are sins like pornography this hidden from God?

Numbers 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and **be sure your sin will find you out.**

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

We only have to look at recent history and how pornography led Ted Bundy to mistreat and murder fifty women. Bundy said he began casually reading soft-core pornography when he was 12 or 13 years old and gradually became addicted to it. During an interview with Dr. Dobson, he made the following statements: "But slowly throughout the years reading pornography began to become a deadly habit". "My experience with pornography ... is once you become addicted to it, I would keep looking for more potent, more explicit, more graphic kinds of material. Like an addiction, you keep craving something that is harder, something which gives you a greater sense of excitement. Until you reach a point where the pornography only goes so far, you reach that jumping off point where you begin to wonder if maybe actually doing it would give you that which is beyond just reading or looking at it." His religious training and morality initially restrained him from acting out his fantasies, but he confessed that finally, "I couldn't hold back anymore." While committing the murders, Bundy said he felt as if he was possessed by "something ... awful and alien. There is just absolutely no way to describe first the brutal urge to do that kind of thing, and then what happens is once it has been more or less satisfied and recedes, you might say, or spent, that energy level recedes and basically I become myself again." This description describes the conditions of a demonic possessed person that is capable of any hideous crime known to man. The devil has no mercy nor does he have respect of person or God.

Television and Movies

We learn in Ephesians 2:2 that Satan is the prince of the power of the air. Is it any surprise that he has used television and to a lesser degree radio (across the air ways) to weaken the morality of our country and the world? Television and movie theaters may have seemed harmless enough in the beginning (early 1900s), but even then the Holiness preachers at that time condemned them as sinful. They must have had incite to what the devil had planned, as we see that it has gradually eroded the convictions of our nation and the world.

Psalms 101:2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. 101:3 **I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes**: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

The movie "Gone with the Wind" (released in 1939) is credited (or discredited) as the first movie to have actors using profanity. Many people of that day were appalled by this use of foul language but it only opened the door for Hollywood and the devil to condition the American people by gradually slipping more and more sinfully acts into their broadcasts.

In 1938, at the very dawn of the age of television, news anchorman, E.B. White stated these words: "I believe TV is going to be the test of the modern world, and in this new opportunity to see beyond the range of our vision, we shall discover either a new and unbearable disturbance of the general peace or a saving radiance in the sky. We shall stand or fall by TV, of that I am quite sure." Well, we have had sixty plus years to put TV to the test, and it has failed miserably. Not only has TV become "an unbearable disturbance," it has become one of Satan's chief devices in his deceitful plot to destroy our nation. Over ninety-seven percent of all American homes have at least one TV with most having two or more.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 5:22 **Abstain from all appearance of evil.**

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 **Be not ye therefore partakers with them.** 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. 14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 **Redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. *(Is watching television "redeeming" the time?)*

Some people use the excuse that I only watch the News or Family programs, but from what I hear, the commercials are as full of ungodliness as the programming! Even the results of secular studies prove the negative effects of television on our society (see a few of the many negative findings below. You can also find resources in the library or Internet with more statistics):

(Can you identify any real benefits from television?)

- 1) Children spend more time learning about life through media than in any other manner. The average child spends approximately 28 hours a week watching television, which is more than they spend in school.
- 2) The average American child will witness over 200,000 acts of violence on television including 16,000 murders before age 18.
- 3) A study of population data for various countries showed homicide rates doubling within the 10 to 15 years after the introduction of television, even though television was introduced at different times in each site examined.
- 4) Studies suggest that higher rates of TV viewing are correlated with increased tobacco usage, alcohol intake and younger onset of sexual activity.
- 5) Forty-six percent of all television violence identified by the study took place in children's cartoons. Children's programs were least likely to depict the long-term consequences of violence (5%) and they portray violence in a humorous fashion 67% of the time.
- 6) The average television watcher now sits entranced for 7.2 hours per day.

I dare say that most professing Christians know all the actors and the details of the popular shows and movies, but the same ones would struggle to name the books of the Bible or many of it's characters! Where are our hearts and minds? Evidently not in the word of God! What are we teaching our Children by exposing them to this filth? How vile will the broadcasts be for future generations? The next time you find yourself watching a movie or show with profanity and lewdness, ask yourself if you would be ashamed if Jesus came at that time. Would God be pleased with the violence, profanity, homosexuality, nudity, and other sinful acts that are shown through the TV in your home? Would you equally welcome these same people or acts into your home to educate you and your children to their lifestyles?

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight, and the sin** which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

You may say that you don't see TV as sin, but the verse above tells us to lay aside every weight and sin. Can it be denied that it is a weight that vexes our souls like Sodom did Lot's (see the verse below)? Even Lot's wife looked back at what she left and was turned to a pillar of salt. Had her soul been vexed to the point that she accepted these wrongs as right? Do you now accept wrong as right?

Dictionary definition : VEXED - Teased; provoked; irritated; troubled; agitated; disquieted; afflicted.

2 Peter 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly; 2:7 And delivered just Lot, **vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked**: 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds);

1 John 2:15 **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. 16 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. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things**.

Isaiah 33:15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and **shutteth his eyes from seeing evil**;

Matthew 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery;

5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to **lust** after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

James 1:8 A **double minded** man is unstable in all his ways.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that **call evil good, and good evil**; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

1 John 5:18 We know that **whosoever is born of God sinneth not**; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Proverbs 17:3 The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts. 17:4 A wicked doer giveth heed to **false lips**; and a liar giveth ear to a **naughty tongue**.

Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD **men depart from evil**. 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and **depart from evil**. 3:8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. 3:9 Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

2 Timothy 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 2:17 And their word will eat as **doth a canker**: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

James 1:21 Wherefore **lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness**, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. 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.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded**.

Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 5:16 **Redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

The Internet

The "Internet" is a network of computer systems all over the world that is used for business, education, government, research, and entertainment. It's a shame that the Satan has already populated it with so much pornography and ungodly sites. The other dangers involve young and old alike getting involved in "chat rooms" or conversations that lead to divorce, marital problems, and abductions. I would recommend that anyone using the Internet should use "Parental Filtering" to avoid accidental or intentional access to these sites. Children's use should be monitored and limited to protect them from the dangers that are present. Jesus told us that if our eye offends us to pluck it out, so if we are tempted by the wrong things – then disconnect it!

Mark 9:47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

See the reference verses for Television and Pornography

What types of Music should Christians listening to?

I make an assumption that if you are a Christian, that you know enough fundamental doctrine to understand that Country, Rock, Rap, or other non-Christian music is not pleasing to God. With that in mind, we see that many of the so-called Christian artists are relying on secular styles of music and calling it Gospel. Does God need to copy the devil's styles for his music? I think not. To determine what type of music Christians should listen to, we should go to the scripture. After reading the verses below, you should determine that the **purpose of Christian music is to Praise the Lord**. Anything short of that goal is not edifying or worthy of our time.

Psalms 9:2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

Psalms 21:13 Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

Psalms 28:6 Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. 7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalms 33:1 Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. 2 Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. 3 Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

Acts 16:24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Sadly, much of what goes by the name Christian Music today is NOT Christian. It does not testify, praise or sing about the Lord Jesus Christ or God the father. In fact, a great deal of it does not even mention the Lord Jesus Christ. Much of today's Christian Music goes out it's way to avoid the name of Jesus Christ – or any Christian content whatsoever.

Martin Luther (Christian reformer of the early 1500's) put his views of the state of salvation bluntly: "whoever does not want to sing and speak of it shows that he does not believe it".

According to the Lord Jesus Christ, Satan's goal is to uplift man and not God :

Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

A Christian's music is sung to the Lord. It is not for the world.

Psalms 40:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. 3 And he hath put a **new song in my mouth**, even **praise unto our God**: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Psalms 144:9 I will **sing a new song** unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.

Can you even understand the lyrics of some of the contemporary styles of music?

1Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will **sing with the understanding** also.

Psalms 66:1 To the chief Musician, A Song or Psalm. **Make a joyful noise** unto God, all ye lands: 2 Sing forth the honor of his name: make his praise glorious.

Hebrews 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I **sing praise unto thee**.

Psalms 149:1 Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. 2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. 3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them **sing praises** unto him with the timbrel and harp.

Men's Hair

1 Corinthians 11:14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a **man have long hair**, it is a shame unto him?

David Lee Roth of the rock group Van Halen (who has songs like "Running with the Devil") says his long hair "is a flag" and "anti-establishment". In other words — REBELLION: "[his long hair] It's a flag. It's Tarzan. I'll always be anti-establishment". (USA Today)

But didn't Jesus have long hair?

The paintings of Christ are simply artists' conceptions and have no Scriptural authorization. At least one historian of Jesus' day described him as being a tall man with short chestnut-colored hair, parted in the middle.

The oldest representations (going back to the first Christian century, found chiefly in the catacombs of Rome) all pictured Him without a beard. All the pictures of Christ down to the beginning of the first century and even later are of this kind. Students of the first century and of Roman history are aware of the fact that the time of Christ was characterized by short hair for men.

Feb. 24, 2004, Associated Press article reports: "'Jesus didn't have long hair,' said physical anthropologist Joe Zias, who has studied hundreds of skeletons found in archaeological digs in Jerusalem. 'Jewish men back in antiquity did not have long hair.' 'The Jewish texts ridiculed long hair as something Roman or Greek,' said New York University's Lawrence Schiffman" ("Jesus Scholars Find Fault in Gibson's 'Passion"). However, it wasn't at all typical among even the Greeks and Romans, as plenty of statues and coins from the time attest. "Along with extensive writings from the period, experts also point to a frieze on Rome's Arch of Titus, erected after Jerusalem was captured in AD 70 to celebrate the victory, which shows Jewish men with short hair taken into captivity".

Women's Hair

1 Corinthians 11:6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be **shorn**: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. 11:13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? 14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? 15 **But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.** 16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

In the 16th verse (above) Paul said that there is no reason to argue about this topic because the church doesn't have any other custom other than for the women to have long hair! What about you or your church, do you have other customs? If so, it isn't Bible based and should be reprov'd. How long is long? I think that it is long enough for God as long as it's not being trimmed or cut. Paul went as far as saying if women do not have this covering of long hair, then let her be shorn or shaved. In other words, if you cut it short, you might as well shave it off.

Dictionary definition: CONTENTIOUS 1. Apt to contend; given to angry debate; quarrelsome; perverse.

2. Relating to contention in law; relating to litigation; having power to decide causes between contending parties; as a court of contentious jurisdiction. 3. Exciting or adapted to provoke contention or disputes; as a contentious subject.

1 Corinthians 11:9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. 1Co 11:10 For this cause ought the woman to have **power on her head** because of the angels.

Some Bible commentators have interpreted from the 9th verse (above) as "power" representing a veil. Since the 15th verse said that a women's hair is her GLORY, I think the term "Power" is also referring to her long hair. Does the verse continue to tell us that the Angels are offended by women with short hair? I must admit that I can not say with certainty what Paul was referring to with the term "because of the angels", but anyone reading the eleventh chapter with an open mind can determine that women should have long hair.

In conclusion, men should have short hair as a sign that they assume their responsibilities as being made in the image of God and as rulers over their households. Women are to wear long hair to symbolize their submission to husband or father in the case of the unmarried, taking their place with meekness as women surrendered to the will of God and subject to the authority God places over them. How about that for fodder for the women's Liberation movement?

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.

Dictionary definition BRAID To weave or infold three or more strands to form one.

1Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

Dictionary definition PLAINTING Folding; doubling; braiding. Braiding; intertwining.- hair style formed by braiding or twisting the hair

Paul instructs that a women's hair should not be braided or plaited.

Women and Men's clothing

All through history, the clothing used by men and women have been unique so that there was a clear distinction between the genders. Thousands of years ago both men and women wore types of cloaks or types of robes, but even then there were differences that allowed a person to identify the gender.

Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Among the Hebrews neither men or women was permitted by Mosaic Law to wear the same form of clothing as was used by the other. A few articles of feminine clothing carried somewhat the name and basic pattern, yet there was always sufficient difference in embossing, embroidery, and needlework so that in appearance the line of demarcation between man & women should be readily detected.

What makes you think that pants are a man's garment?

1) "Breeches" were an article of clothing designed by God for the priests who were all men. The word does not occur very often in scripture, but in every case it's men's apparel (Exodus 28:42, Leviticus 6:10, 16:4). According to the Hebrew lexicon, "breeches" means "trousers that extend to the knee, below the knee, or to the ankles." This would include pants or culottes.

2) Until Hollywood came along, everyone (including lost people) knew that pants were men's apparel and dresses were women's apparel, and they dressed accordingly. Our culture's acceptance of cross-dressing has resulted largely from the influence of television, the placement of women in the workforce, and the pressures of twentieth century feminism.

3) The universal symbol for designating a men's bathroom is a stick figure wearing a pair of pants. The universal symbol for designating a woman's bathroom is a stick figure wearing a dress. Even our sinful society recognizes that there is a difference in a man's and woman's clothing.

4) Pants are a symbol of authority, as evidenced by the saying "I'm the one who wears the pants in the family." Sadly, most women might as well wear the pants, since they rule their homes anyway!

Cross dressing is one of the devil's clever moves to advance the "women's liberation movement" and to obscure the Biblical distinction between man and woman. "Unisex clothing" began to show up in the factories during WWII when women first started wearing slacks. At the same time: short hair, cigarettes, swearing became acceptable feminine behavior. Down that same path has come to Abortion, Divorce, Single Parent homes, extreme feminism.

Some people want to ignore verses like Deuteronomy 22:5 because it is listed in the Old Testament and they say it is not expressed in the New Testament. But if we look at the reference book Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (printed over one hundred years before women wore pants) we see that it cross references Deuteronomy 22:5 to 1 Corinthians 11:3-14. That proves that men that study the Bible, not just in our day but years ago, have seen that 1 Corinthians 11 contains the same principle that is stated in Deuteronomy 22:5.

1 Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5 For after this manner **in the old time the holy women also**, who trusted in God, **adorned themselves**, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

Immodest clothing (bathing suites, shorts, short dresses...)

When Adam & Eve had their conscious awaked, the first thing they did was cover themselves. Then God clothed them with animal skins. God's intentions since then is for humanity to be clothed.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. 8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. 9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. 11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? 21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Early church doctrine taught that a women's dress or skirt should be below the knee (whether sitting or standing) and that the neckline should not be low. Anything shorter than the knee would not be modest. The length of a dress or skirt should be considered to end where any splits begin.

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest apparel**, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.

Modest dress doesn't call attention to the wearer. This is a reason why clothing that exposes your nakedness is immodest. Harlot's were identified by their attire. This indicates the immodest dress is used to draw attention to one's self and to incite lustful thoughts.

Proverbs 7:10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of a harlot, and subtle of heart. 11 (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: 12 Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

In comparing Babylon to a degraded women, God notes that bare legs and thighs are nakedness.

Isaiah 47:1 Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. 2 Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, **make bare the leg, uncover the thigh**, pass over the rivers. 3 Thy **nakedness shall be uncovered**, yea, **thy shame shall be seen**: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.

Makeup

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array. 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

The Greek word for modest is kosmious, which means orderly, well-arranged, seemly, or modest. In other words, "modest" refers to clothing that is neat and appropriate for the occasion. The Greek word that is translated shamefacedness is aidos, which means having a sense of shame, modesty, and reverence. The Greek word for sobriety is sophrosuna. This is a person of sound mind, with self-control, of good judgment, and moderate in all that he does.

Early church writings (less than two hundred years after Jesus was born) condemn the use of face painting (see below).

Those women who wear gold imitate the Egyptians. They occupy themselves with curling their locks. They are busy anointing their cheeks, painting their eyes, dyeing their hair, and practicing the other pernicious arts of luxury. The truth is that they deck the covering of their flesh in order to attract their infatuated lovers. Clement of Alexandria (circa 195 AD), 2.272.

Whatever is born is the work of God. So whatever is plastered on, is the devil's work.... How unworthy of the Christian name it is to wear a fictitious face — you on whom simplicity in every form is enjoined! You, to whom lying with the tongue is not lawful, are lying in appearance. Tertullian (circa 198 AD), 4.21.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 **Let your moderation be known** unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Archaeologists have found the earliest evidence of cosmetics (makeup) being used in Egypt dating back to the fourth millennium BC. They found ancient artifacts of eye makeup and objects used for the application of scented unguents. The people of Egypt were typically considered to be wicked and ungodly in the Bible. Leaving Egypt is a symbol of leaving a sinful life.

Revelations 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Exodus 5:2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

Wicked women of the bible wore makeup

2 Kings 9:30 And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.

Ezekiel 23:39 For when they had slain their children to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and, lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house. 40 And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, **paintedst thy eyes**, and deckedst thyself with ornaments.

Did you know that the American colonies outlawed makeup between 1700-1800? Until the 1940s, it was considered sin by most churches.

Jewelry

1 Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of **wearing of gold**, or of putting on of apparel;

1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or **gold**, or **pearls**, or costly array. 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Gen 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

Exo 33:4 And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments. 5 For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now **put off thy ornaments** from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. 6 And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.

Isa 3:16 Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: 17 Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts. 18 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their **tinkling ornaments** about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, 19 The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, 20 The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the **earrings**, 21 The rings, and nose jewels, 22 The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins,

Definitions: Cauls: a jeweled netting for the hair. Round Tires: round pendent for the neck (moon shaped) .

Mufflers: a long veil. Wimples: a wide cloak

Body Piercing and tattoos

Leviticus 19:28 Ye shall not make any **cuttings** in your flesh for the dead, nor **print any marks** upon you: I am the LORD.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Should Christians marry non-Christians?

2 Corinthians 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath **he that believeth with an infidel?** 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

1Co 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; **only in the Lord.**

If a Christian is already married to a non-Christian

1 Corinthians 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. 12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13 And the woman which hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is **sanctified by the wife**, and the unbelieving wife is **sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.** 15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. 16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

Divorce & Remarriage

We can read in both the New and Old testaments that God hates divorcement, as he made marriage to be until death.

Malachi 2:14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. 16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth **putting away:** for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Mark 10:9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Mat 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away 8 He saith unto them, Moses **because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so**

1 Corinthians 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

1Co 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; **only in the Lord.**

What does God say about adultery?

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. (one of the **Ten Commandments**)

1 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, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

It is evident from many scripture verses, including one of the Ten Commandments that God views adultery as Sin, but what is defined as adultery?

Dictionary definition: **ADULTERY**, voluntary sexual intercourse between a married man and someone other than his wife or between a married woman and someone other than her husband;

Romans 7: 2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, **she shall be called an adulteress**: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

Mark 10:11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, **committeth adultery** against her. 12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she **committeth adultery**

1Co 7:39 The wife is **bound by the law** as long as her husband **liveth**; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

What if I was in this adulterous state before being saved, doesn't God forgive me of my sins?

Yes the Lord forgives us but can we continue in sin? Does salvation change the fact that one of the spouses already has a living husband or wife? If the sin in question is that of an alcoholic, can he continue drinking alcohol after being saved?

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?** 2 God forbid. **How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?** 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Doesn't the clause, "except it be for fornication" allow for divorce and remarriage when a spouse is unfaithful.

Matt 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever **shall put away** his wife, **saving for the cause of fornication**, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Mat 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever **shall put away** his wife, **except it be for fornication**, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Dictionary definition: **FORNICATION**, The incontinence or lewdness of **unmarried persons**.

The key to "rightly dividing the word" here is to understand what Fornication means. Since adultery is used several places in the Bible, the use of the word Fornication is not trivial here. If God had meant that unfaithfulness after marriage was grounds for divorce and remarriage, then the word used would have been adultery. Since Fornication is referring to unfaithfulness between unmarried people, how can you have fornication after a marriage is consummated? The answer is, you can't by today's customs, but by the Jewish engagement and marriage ritual, you could.

Example of putting away prior to marriage – Mary & Joseph

Mat 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

The Jewish Marriage of Biblical times has has Four Phases

1) matchmaking (or falling in love) 2) betrothal or engagement 3) return of groom & time alone together 4) week of celebrating

In the Jewish customs, a woman was considered bound to the man while they were engaged or "betrothed." Immorality during this "betrothal" period would then be the only valid reason for a divorce.

The engagement period was usually one-year in duration. This engagement could be broken by a bill of **divorce** (not just "sorry, changed my mind") During the year (or so) the husband built a bridal chamber onto his father's house (a Vanderhaan).

You may say that you have never heard such a thing before, but read the scripture below that is often used in the Christmas season. You will see that Joseph was espoused (engaged) to Mary and finding that she was with child (thus adultery involved) he would "put her away" privately (divorce her). That is the Bible way even if it is contradictory to what most churches preach and teach today.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother **Mary was espoused to Joseph**, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Mat 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to **put her away privily**.

Even in the Holiness ranks, there is acceptance that a person can be forgiven of adultery and stay in the relationship with the "new" partner without being in sin. The Bible is clear that a marriage is binding as long as both original spouses are living. This is clear in the text below where Jesus stated that the woman at the well had many husbands but the one she was with was not her own.

John 4:16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. 17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: 18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. 19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

Look back to the words of Jesus in "Mark 10:11" above and see if he left any loopholes for living in an adulterous state.

The Holy Trinity or Godhead

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become **as one of us**, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let **us** go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will **go for us**? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

"Let US make man in OUR image": Three plural pronouns, (We, Us, Our) used six different times in four different passages: Gen 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isa 6:8. The unanimous opinion of the early church was that the Father was talking to Jesus.

The Jews consider the verse in Deut 6:4 as one of the most sacred. (Deut 6:4: "Hear, O Israel! Yahweh is our God, Yahweh is Echad"). The Holy Ghost could have used a Hebrew word that represented the numeric or solitary oneness of God ("yachid" or "bad"), but he used the Hebrew word "Echad". God also used the word "echad" in Genesis 2:24 when indicating that a married man and women become one. It is clear that a married couple still have separate identities and bodies, but they act as one or agree as one.

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.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is **one** LORD:

Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

Genesis 19:24 "Then Yahweh [on earth in human form] rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from Yahweh [in spirit form in heaven] out of heaven. Genesis 19:24. In this text Abraham is visited by three individuals, one being Yahweh and the other two angels. Here we have the Son of God on the earth (Jesus) and God in heaven (father) sending down fire from heaven. This incident when Abraham met with Yahweh is what Jesus referred to when he said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." (John 8:56) The unanimous opinion of the church Fathers was that Jesus visited Abraham in Genesis 18 and 19.

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

God the Father says that the Messiah shall come forth from Bethlehem unto himself. Would it not seem strange to state that I will come forth unto myself?

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the **Word was with God**, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

After reading the following verse, how can a reasonable person think that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are one single being or deity?

John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. 18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also **that God was his Father**, making himself equal with God. 19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The **Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do**: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. 20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. 21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. 22 For the **Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son**: 23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Would Jesus speak in the "second person" if he and the Father were the same entity?

John 8:54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is **my Father that honoureth me**; of whom ye say, that he is your God: 55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. 56 Your father **Abraham rejoiced to see my day**: and he saw it, and was glad. 57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? 58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

John 19:7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is

above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

All three members of the Holy Trinity identified at one time. Jesus was being baptized, the Holy Ghost came in the form of a dove, and the Father spoke from heaven.

Luke 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 3:22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Jesus refers to his Father being in Heaven while he is on the Earth

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Does one entity or deity need two thrones in heaven?

Revelations 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the **throne of God** and of the **Lamb** shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

Jesus instructs how Christians should be baptized. Would he mention all three members of the Trinity if they were not three separate deities?

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

From these scriptures, I think we can fairly state that the Holy Trinity or Godhead is made up of three distinct entities: God the Father, the Son of God (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost (comforter) with all three agreeing as one and working together as one.

I'm reminded what Jesus said in Mark 12:34 when thinking about how some of the Oneness groups hold close to the standards of Holiness but do not accept the Godhead as the true trinity, but a uni-personal God that takes on different roles at different times. God will be the ultimate judge to determine how much this inaccurate "Oneness" interpretation matters in the end.

Mark 12:34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly he said unto him, **Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.** And no man after that durst ask him any question.

Tithing and offerings

Dictionary definition: TITHE (from Old English teogotha "tenth") is a one-tenth part of something, paid as a voluntary contribution or as a tax or levy, usually to support a Jewish or Christian religious organization. Today, tithes (or tithing) are normally voluntary and paid in cash, checks, or stocks, whereas historically tithes could be paid in kind, such as agricultural products.

Abraham pays tithes to Melchizedek (see verses below)

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him **tithes** of all.

Lev 27:30 And all the **tithe** of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, **is the LORD's**: it is holy unto the LORD.

Numbers 18:20 And the LORD spoke unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel. 21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi **all the tenth** in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

1Corinthians 9:13 Do ye not know that they which **minister** about holy things **live of the things of the temple**? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? 14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

1Timothy 5:18 For the Scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The laborer is worthy of his reward.

God asks if we will rob him in tithes and offerings and instructs us to prove him. He promises a blessing that there is not room enough to receive to those that pay tithes to God. (see verses below)

Malachi 3:8 **Will a man rob God?** Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? **In tithes and offerings.** 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and **prove me** now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and **pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**

Closing Remarks

Many churches have compromised the Word of God to a point that they have lost the concept of salvation and a sanctified life and have become a social gathering like any other club or organization. I hope that some of these simple remarks and scripture references in this document will help you understand what God expects from a Christian. I don't claim to "know it all" but I tried to take some of the current topics and provide a fair evaluation of the scriptures relating to them. The list of topics in this document should not be considered all encompassing, but the scriptures provided should provide a good foundation for evaluating God's expectations.

Paul provided guidance in the following verse, to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling". Many people have used this verse as a crutch that they will live "their own salvation" the way they think is right. If we proceed as Paul explains with the Fear of God that causes us to be cautious or tremble, then we should not err in understanding God's Word.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.

2Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation.** 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

I have found that the keys to maintaining a sanctified Christian life are held in the following four actions:

- 1) **Studying the Bible** (not just reading a few verses, but studying to understand it - 2Timothy 2:15)
- 2) **Prayer** (not just a simple kid's bedtime prayer, but one that touches God with faith and spiritual fire - 1Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:16)
- 3) **Attending Church services regularly** (not just when convenient with your schedule - Hebrews 10:25)
- 4) **Fasting** (Jesus told us that some answers to prayer only come by Prayer and Fasting - Mark 9:29)

If we are willing to accept God's direction, this way of Holiness is not complex or unreasonable. Isaiah wrote that it was so simple that a fool shall not err therein. (see the verse below)

Isaiah 35:8 And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The **way of holiness**; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

I feel that we are very near the time (likely in this decade) for the Rapture of the Church and/or the Great Tribulation (in which ever order God provides) and it is time for God's church to awake out of sleep and redeem the time. To witness to the lost and help them come to God.

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to **awake out of sleep**: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us **therefore cast off the works of darkness**, and let us put on the armor of light.

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this commentary, you can email me at holyliving@gmail.com.

My web site for additional commentaries and information is www.trinity-holiness.com.

May the grace and mercies of God bless and keep you!

Brother S. Evans