



GOD IS IN THE DETAILS CREATION REVELATION

THY WORD IS TRUE FROM THE BEGINNING: AND EVERY ONE OF THY RIGHTEOUS
JUDGMENTS ENDURETH FOR EVER. - PSALM 119:160

The Sin that You Love

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:31

His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant. Isaiah 56:10-12

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.... Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.... Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Isaiah 1:2, 4, 16-20

It's all about Me

BECAUSE OF our sin nature all men fail, primarily because we all have too much of ourselves as our focus. This message is necessary for us to ponder in this day and age where man has made himself god. This was mankind's problem from the beginning.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then **your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil. 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. Genesis 3:4-6

How Should We Live?

When Adam chose to disobey God and to follow Satan by eating the forbidden fruit, the world became Satan's domain. Each person who has been born thereafter is born as a citizen of Satan's kingdom... Each individual must make a choice – to do nothing and remain a citizen of Satan's kingdom or to turn to God by trusting in His Son, Jesus Christ, as Savior and Lord.¹

Do you truly believe that the God of the Bible is real? Do you truly believe that Jesus Christ is God in the



flesh, that He died on the cross as payment for your sins and mine, that He arose from the dead, and that He will come again to judge the living and the dead? I believe that many professing belief today do not truly believe, because, sadly, the fruit of their lives do not reveal true belief. I hope that I am wrong, but if I am right, those “spectator Christians” have a serious problem.

Because God is holy and therefore pure, sin is an offense and a barrier between Him and fallen human beings. God's attributes of holiness and justice require that a penalty be paid for sin. That penalty is the death of the sinner – both physical and spiritual separation from God forever.²

For **the wages of sin is death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Romans 6:23

How would you live your life if God suddenly appeared to you and convinced you of His existence? Would it make a difference in the way you approached life? Would it change your priorities? If God then said to you, “My Word is true, and you need to change your life and your priorities to match up to what I revealed in Scripture,” would you do it? Again, the question before you is this; do you really believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He is God in the flesh, and that He came to save you from the curse that resulted from the first sin? Do you really believe that?

A rich young ruler came to Jesus and asked Him what He needed to do to be saved (Mark 10:17-22). Jesus told him to love God and obey the commandments. The ruler answered that he already did that. Jesus then told him that he lacked one thing – he needed to get rid of his material things and then to follow Him. The man was sad because he had great wealth, and he was not willing to do it. Jesus does not always ask us to abandon our material wealth, but He does ask us to rid ourselves of the things that prevent a close relationship with God. The question remains, are we willing to rid our lives of the very things that prevent us from coming to fellowship with our Savior? Jesus told the parable of another rich man as follows:

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And **he thought within himself**, saying, **What shall I do, because I** have no room where to bestow **my** fruits? And he said, **This will I do: I will pull down my barns**, and build greater; and **there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods**. And **I will say to my soul**, Soul, **thou hast much goods** laid up for many years; **take thine ease, eat, drink, and**

be merry. But God said unto him, **Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?** So is he that **layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God**. Luke 12:16-21

In Matthew, Jesus speaks of true treasures and the way that leads to a fulfilled life when he says:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For **where your treasure is, there will your heart be also....** Therefore **take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for **your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things**. But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you**.
Matthew 6:19-21, 31-33

Where are your treasures stored? Are your priorities in order? Are you living your life as if you really believed that God exists and that the Scriptures are His Word to you? Somehow, as I look at this present age, I fear that we fall far short of the mark as we, generation by generation, abandon God. Whose is at fault?

Modern Life Situations

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water**. Let us **hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering**; (for he is faithful that promised;) And **let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but **exhorting one another**: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For **if we sin willfully** after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins**, but a certain **fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation**, which shall devour the adversaries. Hebrews 10:22-27



A father struggling to make a living for his young family decides he's tired and that he'll just stay home from church this Sunday – he'll make up for it next week. He is saying, "What's really important is what I want and how I feel." The little ones learn that what is okay for daddy, must be acceptable behavior. After all, making money is what is really important, and Sunday school is not as important as public school, is it?

A young 16 year old girl decides that she has just met the boy of her dreams. He makes her feel good. He promises the moon. It doesn't matter what her parents or anyone thinks – "He's just what I want - It's all about me." "What do my parents know anyway?" "They are just out of touch with today's values." Her parents try to reason with her using their considerable years of experience. She responds, "I don't care, I want to fit in – let me make my own mistakes."

Teens often make the mistake of believing that older people have forgotten what it was like to be young. They believe that older people, like their parents, are simply old fashioned. They fail to realize that their parents remember all too clearly the foolish things they did in their youth. This learned wisdom in the adult leads them to help their own children avoid the same foolish mistakes that are today disguised in modern garb. Young people in their teens still have foolishness in them that needs to be worked out before they make long term commitments affecting their entire lives. They simply do not have the life experience necessary to understand that "feelings" are not the gauge with which to make life decisions.

Sadly today, teens are not the only problem. The parents that raise them are truly out of touch. They have been influenced with the same degenerate values that their children are exhibiting. Parents have succumbed to the humanist message that is subtly promoted by the movies, the schools, and by your favorite TV shows. They simply have lost their moral compass because that don't study and understand the only source of absolute truth in this world, the Holy Bible.

Is God Relevant?

No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.

Humanist Manifesto II³

Humanism has been the key component of our educational system since long before the above humanist's words were penned. This is the outcome of public education in this country. In the two situations described in the previous section I would ask one question – "Is God relevant in their lives"? If you ask them, I believe that they would answer yes. For many, the answer is yes because they have been told that they are Christians. However,

they don't understand what it means to be Christian. For many, they think that to be Christian is to do good, and since they don't purposely hurt anyone they are good. But, this takes me back to the first question; do they really truly believe that God is real and that He came to save us?

We live in a "feel good" society. If we feel good about something then it must be good and it must be right. Humanism promotes this idea. It's all about feeling good about something, or yourself. The problem is that God has a habit of interfering with "feelings." Using your "feelings" as your gauge for what is right is the natural result of a humanistic mindset. Just because something feels good does not mean that it is good for us, or that it is right. That's also the attraction of sin. It feels good. "Everyone is doing it, so why can't I." That's the safety in numbers mentality. If you need to ask that question, then you already know that it's wrong. The foolishness of the young is well known throughout history.

That foolishness is even mentioned throughout Scripture, especially in Proverbs. The laziness of the parent in training up the child is inexcusable. That is a huge responsibility and must not be left to the "change agents" of the humanistic educational system. As parents we are responsible to train our children.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Where did the modern foolishness and laziness begin?

Modern Failure

And yet children are nowhere taught, in any systematic way, to distinguish true from false, or meaningful from meaningless statements. Why is this so? Because their elders, even in democratic countries, do not want them to be given this kind of education.⁴

As I look around today, I see a big difference in children that are exposed to the public school day by day when compared to the child that is home schooled. This may not always be the case, but I see home schooled children that are well mannered and able to engage in meaningful adult conversation and appear eager to learn, while I see some degree of immaturity and foolishness in children subjected to the amoral public school system.

The product of the materialistic society with its humanistic educational system seems only to promote an attitude in many of only accomplishing the minimum necessary to get by. This seems to be reinforced by the permissive attitude of many parents today, exhibited by their



own desire for gratification, and their “We are entitled to it” mentality.

Another thing that I have experienced as time has passed by is the general attitude concerning sin. There has been a profound change in the way people perceive what is right and what is wrong. That change has come about largely due to a gradual change in individual worldviews away from what used to be the prevailing Christian worldview toward a secular, materialistically focused, worldview of self gratification. What was once considered evil is now accepted as good.

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!.... Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Therefore is the anger of the Lord kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. **For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.** Isaiah 5:20, 24, 25

As a nation we have rejected God and His precepts. We have become a nation of sheep that follows after every new toy that is offered as “eye candy.” We say, “We do not want to hear of sin and we have no time for God myths.” In effect we are saying, “Cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.”

Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this is **a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:** Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, **cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.** Isaiah 30:8-11

The humanistic idea that there are no absolutes, moral or otherwise, contributed to the notion that anything is permissible as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else. That finished off Biblical morality and its Ten Commandments. Much of this change came about during the prosperity of the post World War II years. Everyone could immediately

have what they wanted now by the introduction of the small plastic credit card with the extremely high interest rate (a particularly evil form of usury). More than ever, we were able to indulge ourselves in self-gratification. The culture degenerated while Madison Avenue promoted the feminist mantra “You've come a long way baby,” and to the masses they instilled the phrase “it's all about me.” We suddenly could obtain what “I” want now, and we're therefore encouraged to feed “the sin that I love.”

The Sin that You Love

IN GALATIANS chapter 5, many people focus on, and memorize, verses 22 and 23 concerning the fruits of the Spirit that reveal the fruits of one who is walking in the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:** against such there is no law. And **they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh** with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-25

Many do not notice or consider the verses immediately preceding these verses that speak of the works of the flesh. Before we can realize the fruit of the Spirit in our life we must deal with the works of the flesh. We must crucify the fleshly affections and lusts. The problem is that we love our sin, but sin brings chaos into our lives. What is the sin that you love?

All sin is destructive whether it involves lying, cheating, hatred, stealing, strife, or rebellion. However, in this article, we will focus on a few of the more destructive sins that produce chaos in lives and relationships.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings,** and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.** Galatians 5:19-21

Chaos

*Ethics is **autonomous and situational,** needing no theological or ideological sanction.... We strive for the good life, here and now.* Humanist Manifesto II⁵



The above quote is saying simply that we all have the right to do as we please, that there is no absolute right or wrong, and we can have and do what we want now. Secular Humanism conveys the idea that there are no real consequences to our actions – in effect, there is no punishment for sin. If this is your belief, then you paid close attention to your “change agent” while attending public school.

What on earth are you hiding? Is there sin in your life? Do you even care? If you reach the stage where you are sinning and don’t give it a second thought, then your conscience may be seared. Paul wrote to the Romans near the end of his life as follows:

Because that, **when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore **God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 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: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 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; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 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. Romans 1:21-32

Maybe you sin and are boastful about it. You say you don’t care – your mind may be reprobate, without a conscience. People sin today and justify it by saying to themselves, “Everybody is doing it,” or “I have never had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky. I’ve never had an affair with her.”⁶ “People involved in cyber sex universally minimize the importance and impact of their behavior. They say “It’s was just on-line” or ‘It’s not real sex.’”⁷

Parents, is there sin in your life? Has your sin affected your children by making them believe that it is normal and acceptable?

Young people, are you “shacking-up” or otherwise engaging in sexual promiscuity? Sadly, many young girls get into this situation to gratify their own emotional desires, thinking that it will eventually lead to marriage, only to discover a few years later that the unemotional boy never considered marriage an option. The boy’s thinking is, “Why commit if I don’t have to.” Boys and girls are wired differently in this respect.

The world presents sexual sin as normal, but it is against the laws of God and nature. Not only are you sinning, but you may be causing someone else to sin by your actions. You are accountable for your actions that not only have eternal consequences for you, but are leading someone you perhaps love to eternal damnation. There will ultimately be chaos in your life and in the lives of those you love unless you repent of your actions and return to Christ’s saving grace. Sexual sin is a particularly insidious sin. It will sap the life from a person as he or she struggles with extreme guilt. Guilt brings shame as the sinner withdraws into their selves. A feeling of worthlessness and oppression is so overwhelming that eventually the sinner tries to hide from God. Eventually the sinner withdraws from fellowship with other believers.

Recently we have noticed a number of families that exhibit some degree of chaos within their relationships. We have been given some personal insight into the workings within these family units. Several scenarios were evident. Each instance was unique, except for one thing, either the husband, wife, or both did not consider God or church as their highest priority. Usually the relationship was prioritized as job (housework may be a person’s primary “job”), other activities of interest, family, and then God last. Other combinations of the list were exhibited with other family units, depending on the circumstance, but God was given the position of least importance in all circumstances with one or both of the spouses. In each of the instances, a certain degree of chaos was exhibited ranging from mild to extreme. We will not identify any particular family, but will comment on factors that contribute to chaos in families



today. In each case that we have been privy to, sin was the culprit at the root of the problem.

The Bible says that about 6,000 years ago the earth was an idyllic place to live. Not much traffic to contend with. The only job around was tending a garden. Many people tend gardens today and consider it a hobby. Food was available in abundance. The first man, Adam, was given a wife by God, and they both communed daily with their Creator. There was only one rule amongst all that abundance.

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: **But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.** Genesis 2:15-17

Why would a loving God impose such a restriction? He gave man the free will to choose to serve God or to choose to serve his flesh. Man chose to serve his flesh, and he has done so ever since. Chaos entered into the relationship between Adam and his wife, and between both of them and God. They chose to put God last in their relationship. The root of the problem for Adam was sin (disobedience; rebellion).

Adam and his wife Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain brought an offering with wrong motives. God pleaded with Cain to repent, but he would not. Notice what God had to say to Cain:

And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? **If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.** And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. Genesis 4:6-7

Cain, in a fit of jealousy, then killed his brother Abel and was judged by God. Chaos ruled in Cain's life resulting in murder. Sin was at the heart of the matter (pride; jealousy).

God has given man many other examples of sin bringing chaos into men's lives and their relationships. Today we live in a more chaotic world than even Adam or Cain could have imagined. We live in a world where man is being taught that there is no god other than himself. This materialistic society that we live in today is being fed a multitude of lies streaming from television, radio, and the internet that tell man what to wear, what to think, what is considered good, and what is considered bad. Man daily sees a new toy presented by the hissing sound of the serpent,

just as Eve succumbed to the hissing of the serpent and coveted the fruit of the forbidden tree.

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. Genesis 3:6

She gave a bite to Adam – there is safety in numbers, “everyone is doing it.” Some even say, “All my friends will be with me in Hell when I die.” Consider the following verses:

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings**, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.** Galatians 5:19-21

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For **men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:** from such turn away. For of this sort are they which **creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** 2 Timothy 3:1-7

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But **the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone:** which is the second death. Revelation 21:7-8

Is there chaos in your life? Is there chaos in your family? Ask yourself, “What sin lies hidden in my life?” Sin results in chaos. Whenever sin is present God will be



relegated to last place, and will result in chaos reigning, moderately at first, severely in the last stage. Marriages and families are destroyed by chaos that resulted from sin that relegated God to last place. Do you want to avoid chaos? Then, get control of your sin and reorder your priorities. Your priorities should look like this: God, family, job, and lastly, other interests. If your priorities are out of order, then most likely your marriage relationship will reap the agony of unhappiness and possibly divorce.

You will never prioritize your life properly until you deal with the sin that is keeping you from God. You choose to put God last because of your sin. You will never be able to deal with that sin until you make a commitment to live for Christ. This is why Jesus' statement to Nicodemus in John chapter 3 is not an option – "Ye must be born again." Whatever it takes, you must do that – you must be born again of the Spirit. Otherwise, you will never be full of joy. This is **not optional**. Whatever you are doing, stop now, seek God, acknowledge and put away your sin. There is absolutely nothing more important than this.

Young person, regardless what you may have been taught, you will never achieve the happy life you seek unless you and your spouse are born again and walking with God. Your secular friends do not have the answer. This is why it is most important to choose your friends wisely. We live in an insane world that has rejected God and His goodness. Regardless what you see the worldly doing, don't follow them for they are lost. Choose to follow the narrow path that leads to God. Chaos will soon reign in your life otherwise. Sin will eventually find you out. What is your sin? What sin do you love? Sexual sin is considered normal in this generation. It eventually causes destruction and chaos in marriage and family.

In the area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion, and divorce should be recognized....The many varieties of sexual exploration should not in themselves be considered "evil".... Short of harming others or compelling them to do likewise, individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their life-styles as they desire. Humanist Manifesto II⁸

Adultery

The first of the sins mentioned by Paul in Galatians is Adultery. Of all the sins named, this one may be the worst. It's like murder. It kills the soul. It kills the marriage. It devastates the spouse. And, it destroys children. It is the only justification for divorce mentioned by Jesus.

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

We live in a feel-good society that mistakes love for feelings. "If it makes me happy and it feels good it must be love." Emotions or feelings can be turned on or off. If we base our relationships on feelings we can be deceived. Love is more than feelings. It is a long term commitment. Love matures. Love is not self gratification; it is a commitment to **making someone else happy**. Feelings are why divorce is so prevalent in our society. If we are not happy, then divorce must be the cure. We need a new partner that makes us happy again.

Hollywood leads the way in self gratification. They are the role models for generations of Americans. It is glamorous to change partners as you would a new set of clothes. In the quest for self gratification, many realizing the elusiveness of the idyllic life they seek as it turns into despair seek solace in alcohol, drugs, and suicide.

Adultery brings chaos, and the root of the problem is sin.

Fornication

The potential problems for new Internet use are significant and may be growing. Nearly 20% of the people going on-line will encounter one or more of the following problems.

- Personal neglect
- Compulsive checking and "clicking"
- Isolation and avoidance from people
- Lost productivity
- Depression
- Marital problems
- Sexual addiction
- Gambling away savings.
- Internet abuse in the workplace
- Academic failure ⁹

The Greek word *porneia* is rendered in English as "fornication." The Greek speaks of harlotry (including adultery and incest); figuratively, idolatry.¹⁰ *Porneia* is the word from which we get pornography. Notice that pornography is likened to idolatry. Pornography is a most destructive addiction. It may eventually destroy the marriage relationship, since it is a downward spiral of more and more extreme perversion and self loathing. Those who are involved in this addiction have lost self respect, and cannot face God. They slowly drift away from God and eventually



do not want to go to church or fellowship with other Christians. Most of the time, their self loathing puts them in mental agony. Extreme chaos results from this addiction. If this cycle of sin is not broken, those involved in this habit eventually end up with a seared conscience in order to be able to cope with the guilt and self loathing. Many marital problems stem from this particular sin, and the spouse may be the last to know. This sin affects mostly men, but more and more women today are participants. This sin involves people from all stations in life, and those in the church, including the clergy are not immune to its hissing attraction. It is more addictive than the most potent drug, and even more degrading and devastating.

The ease by which pornographic material can be obtained on the internet hugely contributes to the addiction. In many ways this addiction is more compelling and destructive than drugs.

The Internet is now a contributing factor to nearly one half of all marital or family problems. In some cases, relationships are breaking down when a man or woman develops a relationship in cyber society. High levels of Internet use can produce social isolation, loss of real intimacy and depression.

Men, women and families are going into counseling for relationship problems that are partly or entirely caused [by] compulsive internet use or virtual addictions. Women are filing for divorce claiming that their husbands are having sex on-line or looking at "pornography" for hours every day. Kids stay up all night. Parents stop relating and spend less time raising their children.¹¹

The English word fornication refers to sexual intercourse between two unmarried people. Since *porneia* refers also to harlotry, this word is also used for adultery. Therefore, what has been said about adultery applies here. Fornication is self gratification pure and simple. There is no commitment involved. The relationship may end by mutual agreement, or it may end when one partner tires of the relationship. It produces chaos, and feelings of guilt, since both parties know that it involves partaking of forbidden fruit. It is a sin against God's order since the natural order is purity until marriage. Man challenges God's order and produces chaos in his rebellion.

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

How can you become one flesh with a partner that is not committed to you? In fact, if you become one flesh

with one partner, then if you have multiple partners, wouldn't each partner be included in that "one flesh."

In the English language we have only one word that we use when we speak of love. The words "I love you" expresses how we feel about someone we care about. But, what do we really mean when we say those three little words. This may well be where the confusion begins in the culture we live. When someone tells you that they love you, you may never truly know what they really mean. In the Bible we find three very different Greek words that are translated with the single word love. Unless we look at the Greek we may never know what is meant by the single word love. There is an exchange of words between Jesus and Peter that illustrates this point perfectly.

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest [agape]** thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that **I love [phileo]** thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest [agape]** thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that **I love [phileo]** thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, **lovest [phileo]** thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, **Lovest [phileo]** thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that **I love [phileo]** thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. John 21:15-17

Peter responded to the Lord's question with the Greek word *phileo*. *Phileo* is a word that expresses brotherly love or affection. Jesus was asking Peter for deep commitment (*agape*), Peter responded with affection (*phileo*). Finally, Jesus met Peter where he was at with affection (*phileo*). The word "agape" used by Jesus expresses a very deep committed kind of love. This is the God kind of love. This is the kind of love that many young girls think they hear from their boyfriends. Most of the time, the meaning that the boy is expressing lacks commitment; it is an entirely different word with a different meaning. The meaning that is expressed has an erotic implication; it is one of desire and lust. The word is "eros."

In today's materialistic, self gratifying world in which we live, the word *eros* has replaced the deeper meaning expressed by *agape*. *Eros* is a taking kind of love. It is for this reason that, today, love soon cools and people seek to regenerate the feelings that have been lost. They have been deceived, believing that erotic love is true love, while never experiencing the deeper, lasting, more satisfying *agape*, committed love. If you are in an erotic relationship, be advised that the sheen soon wears off and you or your



partner will most likely seek restoration of erotic gratification elsewhere. Flee from such relationships and make yourself right with God:

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And **walk in love**, as **Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God** for a sweetsmelling savour. But **fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you**, as becometh saints; **Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks**. 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**. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because **of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience**. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. Ephesians 5:1-7

Now, notice the beauty of God's natural order:

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. **Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord**. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. **Husbands, love [agape] your wives, even as Christ also loved [agape] the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love [agape] their wives as their own bodies**. He that loveth [agape] his wife loveth [agape] himself. Ephesians 5:21-28

Some women might flinch at the thought of submission. Keep in mind that the word "tesla" translated "rib", in Genesis 2:22, stresses the idea of equality for the woman. We are first admonished to submit to one another. Submission in God's order does not mean slavery to the husband. Instead, look in the verses above at how the man is supposed to love his wife. What woman would not willingly submit headship to a man that

loved her with a committed love like that. For her part, the woman is supposed to "respect" her husband.

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and **let the wife see that she respects her husband**. Ephesians 5:33 NKJV

What man does not want his wife to respect him? What wife does not want her husband to love her in a deeply committed way? It works both ways. Husbands, if you want your wife to respect you then love (agape) her. Wives, you can bring your husband to love (agape) you by showing him respect. Remember though, you are looking for a pattern change that may take some time. Remember also, that it only takes one of you to apply love or respect as the case may be to bring about the pattern change.¹²

One thing to remember is that in uncommitted relationships it becomes easy for one partner to walk away. This establishes a pattern where divorce becomes the accepted answer to a cooled marriage. This is now the easy out when the fires of "feelings" wane.

Uncleanness

When Paul wrote about uncleanness he used the Greek word *akatharsia* which spoke about physical and moral impurity.¹³ The Christian should keep himself physically clean, but, in particular, the Christian should refrain from any unnatural practices. Paul mentions some unnatural practices that we should avoid at all cost.

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Romans 1:24

And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the **uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness** which they have committed. 2 Corinthians 12:21

Adam Clarke mentions that unnatural practices include sodomy and bestiality.¹⁴ This would involve unnatural sexual acts, including such with animals. We must guard our minds as well. What we put into our minds is permanently recorded and difficult to remove. We therefore must have mastery over our thoughts and avoid looking at images that would corrupt our thinking. Uncleanness brings chaos into our lives and thought processes, and adversely affects our relationships.



Lasciviousness (Lewdness)

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 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. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.
Ephesians 5:1-7

Lewdness is a translation of the Greek word *aselgeia* meaning filthy or wantonness.¹⁵ It implies someone who is preoccupied with sex and sexual desire (lustful). A lewd person's thinking is focused on things that are obscene or indecent.¹⁶ This person cannot think clearly in his relationships, and therefore lives in a perpetual state of chaos.

Often today a person is thought cool when he or she engages in foul and blasphemous language. I've noticed that many young people today cannot engage in conversation without using objectionable language. They think it's cool, but instead they degrade themselves. Unless this person gains control over his desires and tongue, he will bring destructive influences into his family or relationships. This person needs to renew his mind.

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.** Philippians 4:8

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. 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. Romans 12:1, 2

Idolatry

Idolatry is from the Greek *eidololatreia*. It is image-worship literally or figuratively.¹⁷ One of the earliest incidents of idol worship by Israel occurred at the foot of Mt. Sinai during the Exodus from Egypt.

And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, **make us gods, which shall go before us**; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And Aaron said unto them, Break off **the golden earrings**, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and **fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf**: and they said, **These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.** And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord. And they rose up early on the morrow, and **offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings**; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. Exodus 32:1-6

Idol worship is expressly forbidden by God, and is clearly described in Old Testament statements such as:

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 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: **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**; Exodus 20:3-5

This statement is repeated in Deuteronomy 5:7-9. It should be mentioned here that old habits are hard to break. Oprah Winfrey had a problem with God being characterized as a "Jealous God." It may have been these very verses which offended her. Like old habits though, sin grabs hold and tenaciously holds on. The sin of the father can thus be passed by example and habit down through the family line, even to the third and fourth generation until someone breaks the trend by obedience to



God. It is clear that God is saying that His people should have no rival gods, and if they choose to do so, it is considered rebellion. This is why idolatry is likened to the sin of rebellion. Idolatry is considered “wanton disloyalty” and “whoredom.”¹⁸

Now **let them put away their whoredom**, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them for ever. Ezekiel 43:9

Notice also that “Samuel places disobedience to God and idolatry in the same category. In the final analysis idolatry was rebellion, for it constituted a violation of God’s commands.”¹⁹

For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...** 1 Samuel 15:23

In our society today, few have erected golden calves or other forms that we might call idols. Some churches have forms of worship that might be considered idolatry by a strict interpretation of Scripture. For example, the Catholic Church erects statues of saints in their churches today. While they would deny that they directly worship those statues, or even the personages that the statues represent, in practice they often do. In actual fact, the numbers of prayers to Mary often exceed those to God. Mary, in fact, receives worship under this system, whether or not it is intended by the church.

You may say that you are not a Catholic, so you do not worship idols. However, ask yourself what thing in your life commands greater attention than God? Perhaps it is that new television that you purchased awhile back. Perhaps it is your fondness for alcoholic beverages. Maybe it is online pornography. Maybe it is a television program or some sport or activity that causes you to rearrange your schedule and miss church service or Bible study. If so, those are your idols. Whatever grabs the greater attention in your life is your idol.

This sin can cause chaos in your life as it grabs your attention and isolates you from God, your family and your friends.

Witchcraft

Witchcraft is a translation of the Greek word *pharmakeia* referring to medication (“pharmacy”). It refers to the practice of the magical arts (sorcery). It may also refer to drug use. Sorcerers often used drugs as magic potions. Sorcery or other related black arts such as astrology and other forms of fortune telling are forbidden by God. Ouija boards are particularly dangerous as young

minds are open to the occult and communication with demon spirits.

Modern video games are filled with occult themes and extreme violence that occupy the almost mindless attention of rapt young people. It is like an addiction that requires more and more to gain satisfaction. Children and adults caught up in this addiction can sit for hours filling their minds with godless fantasy. God is nowhere to be found in their video fantasy world. The isolation of their fantasy is self gratification of the mind.

Drugs is a natural part of this fantasy world as young and old seek to gratify and shut out the surrounding reality of life until their addiction is all consuming.

There are Consequences

Sin’s consequences are serious. Jesus warns us just how serious sin is. It’s the difference of temporary loss of a hand or eye compared with an eternity of suffering. Is internet pornography worth an eternity in hell?

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to **go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:** Where **their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.** **And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off:** it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet **to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:** Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. **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: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.** Mark 9:43-48

Do you believe that you are a good person? You don’t purposely hurt anyone. You’re not a thief – at least not a big one. You don’t lie – except maybe small ones that don’t hurt anybody. You’ve never murdered anyone – except maybe wishful thinking. You believe in God, but God knows that you’re busy right now, and you will eventually get around to serving Him later. When you finally see Jesus, what will He say to you? Will He say “Well done good and faithful servant,” or will you hear the following instead:

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and **cast into the fire.** Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;** but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord,**



have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and **in thy name done many wonderful works?** And then will **I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.** Matthew 7:19-23

And where do you suppose they departed to?

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Revelation 21:7, 8

Nothing is certain. People believe that they will always wake up tomorrow, so there is plenty of time “after I’ve had my fun.” The truth is that young people die every day, and old people will die soon. Where will your final destination be if you die today?

Conclusion

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:31

In Galatians 5:19-21, Paul mentioned many more sins that deeply affect our lives and relationships. We have only focused on a few that seem to be particularly addictive to this generation. Because of our self-centered lifestyle, our nation and much of the world has become ignorant of God’s Word and is prone to the destructive habits of this modern society.

We have abandoned our Biblical roots where truth was found in Scripture. In our present day we are taught that truth cannot be known absolutely. The post-modern world views history as something that can be reinterpreted in each generation to match an evolving “truth.” By today’s standard your truth is your truth and my truth is my truth. In our society today, what used to be good is evil, and what used to be evil is considered good. This post-modern view of truth perpetuates the chaos of our modern society.

Confusion and chaos reign in secular society, but for the Christian, chaos is dispelled by the truth of God’s Word. It is the only truth you can rely on. Even then, modern Bible versions tend to distort this unchanging truth.

If God is true and the Scriptures are truth, then we need to carefully reexamine our lives and root out the sin that we love. If you are struggling with sin, know that we are all sinners saved by the Blood of Jesus Christ that was poured out for us on a wooden cross at Calvary almost two-thousand years ago. **You have been forgiven already. Give your life to Christ and put aside the sin that you love and serve Him. Ω**

(Endnotes)

¹ Robert R. Congdon, *THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE SUPRA-RELIGION*, Setting the Stage for the Final Act? A Biblical Perspective, Longwood, FL: Xulon Press, 2007, p. 32.

² Congdon, *THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE SUPRA-RELIGION*, Setting the Stage for the Final Act? A Biblical Perspective, p. 33.

³ Paul Kurtz, editor, *HUMANIST MANIFESTOS I AND II*, Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1973, p. 16.

⁴ Aldous Huxley, *BRAVE NEW WORLD & BRAVE NEW WORLD REVISITED*, New York, NY: Perennial Library, 1932, 1946, 1958, 1960, 1965, *Brave New World Revisited*, p. 87.

⁵ Kurtz, *HUMANIST MANIFESTOS I AND II*, p. 17. Emphasis in original.

⁶ Excerpt from statements and remarks by President Clinton on allegations that he had a sexual relationship with former White House intern and aide Monica Lewinsky, *The Washington Post*, 17 January 1998, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/clinton/stories/whatclintonsaid.htm>.

⁷ Michael G. Conner, Psy.D., *INTERNET ADDICTION AND INTERNET SEX*, 2004-2008, <http://www.crisiscounseling.com/Articles/InternetAddiction.htm>.

⁸ Paul Kurtz, editor, *HUMANIST MANIFESTOS I AND II*, Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1973, p. 18.

⁹ Conner, *INTERNET ADDICTION AND INTERNET SEX*, <http://www.crisiscounseling.com/Articles/InternetAddiction.htm>.

¹⁰ *Porneia*, (Biblesoft’s New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

¹¹ Michael G. Conner, Psy.D., *INTERNET ADDICTION AND INTERNET SEX*, 2004-2008, <http://www.crisiscounseling.com/Articles/InternetAddiction.htm>.

¹² This method was applied beautifully by Pat Williams as revealed in his book: Pat Williams, Jill Williams, Jerry B. Jenkins, *REKINDLED: How to Keep the Warmth in Marriage*, Baker Publishing Group, 1985.

¹³ *Uncleanness*, (Biblesoft’s New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

¹⁴ *Galatians 5:19*, Adam Clarke’s Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1996, 2003, 2005, 2006 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

¹⁵ *Galatians 5:19*, (Biblesoft’s New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

¹⁶ *Lewdness*, www.thefreedictionary.com/lewdness.

¹⁷ *Idolatry*, Biblesoft’s New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc..

¹⁸ *Idolatry*, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, revised edition, Copyright © 1979 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

¹⁹ *Idolatry*, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

WWW.creationrevelation.org

creation revelation is a quarterly publication distributed free of charge via mail to those who request it.

Topics will have a primary focus on the Defense of Scripture, including Creation (Genesis), Humanism, and Prophecy (Revelation). Other topics of interest may be presented. Questions, comments, and suggestions are encouraged.

Copyright © 2010 Robert W. Tozier. All rights reserved. Permission is given to photocopy and freely distribute this material for the glory of God as long as it is not done for commercial purposes. Edited by Samuel Williams and Kristin Oien.

Email: rtozier@creationrevelation.org <http://www.creationrevelation.org> Webmaster: Dave Ashcraft.

Mail: Robert & Mary Tozier, 92-222 Hoalii Place, Kapolei, HI 96707. Tel: 808-672-7229 - ALOHA! Ω