

Marriage and Families

Lesson 12 – How to Kill Your Children Spiritually

The culture in which our children are being reared is deluded, misleading, and deceptive. Today's culture boasts enormous promises, but in actuality it delivers death. The messages of today's culture are not subtle but direct and open for all to see and hear. The culture's messages of fornication, dishonesty, lying, cheating, humanism, atheism, evolutionism, and the like are ringing forth from college campuses, television, radio, movie screens, sports heroes, and Hollywood film stars.

As parents, we must realize we are fighting a war. This is not a conventional war with artillery, tanks, missiles, and bombs, but this is a spiritual war. Paul declared, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (**Eph. 6:12**).

If Christian parents are not sufficiently prepared, our children will become prisoners of war and even casualties of war. The enemy, Satan, is set out for the total destruction of the souls of men, especially the souls of Christian young people. He is the god of this world, and has negatively influenced the culture of the current time, and all times, to cause Christians to misjudge and be deceived concerning the seriousness of this matter. Christian parents, it is time to equip ourselves with the armor of God, so the children in our care can be armed with God's protective and soul saving armor.

And where are the parents who are supposed to guide young people away from the evils of our world? These are principles Christian parents must teach their children if we want God's word to rule their hearts instead of the culture of the day.

Wickedness is distress, evil, naughtiness, and mischief. The wickedness of our culture is blatantly seen and heard on television and through our radio airwaves. Some of the words and phrases which proceed out of the mouths of people in our culture is enough to make one think if our time is worse than Noah's. Christian parents must guard their children from such wickedness at all costs.

We need to teach our children not to be afraid to stand out from the rest of society. One of the greatest ways parents can help their children overcome a wicked culture is to live the Christian life in front of their children. Our children need to understand that it is acceptable in the sight of God to be different.

1. If you want to kill your children spiritually, allow them to dress immodestly.

1.1. Too many women and men who claim to be Christians show no concern for the way they dress, and it is time that we speak out against this tragedy, especially concerning our young people and the parental responsibility along this line.

1.1.1. Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, men and women have needed to be adequately and decently clothed. You remember how that Adam and Eve sinned, and when they sinned they became conscious of their nakedness and were ashamed -- a consciousness and sense of shame that we need in our world today. They tried to clothe themselves with aprons of fig leaves, but God clothed them more adequately and decently (**Genesis 2:25 - 3:31**). I read one particularly writer who said he wished he could find some of the fruit that Adam and Eve ate so he could pass it on to Christians by the bushel -- so

- that they would open their eyes and know that they were naked (**Genesis 3:7**).
- 1.1.2. Since sin awakened man's sense of shame, God has always demanded a certain code of dress (even though no one else was even around at the time of sin entering the world except Adam and Eve).
 - 1.1.3. God insisted that the Old Testament priests wear sufficient clothing to prevent exposure as they ascended the altar steps (**Exodus 20:26; 28:42-43**).
 - 1.1.4. Queen Vashti refused to allow herself to be placed on public display for the purpose of gawking at her physical beauty (**Esther 19-12**).
 - 1.1.5. And of course we remember David and Bathsheba, who because of public immodesty and a lack of self-control fell into adultery.
- 1.2. It would be good if we had a proper understanding of immodesty.
- 1.2.1. Immodesty is wearing clothing that reveals or emphasizes parts of the body that, when seen by the opposite sex, draw attention to you and encourage or create evil desires. And by dressing to entice lust, a Christian not only sins, but they also cause others to sin.
 - 1.2.2. No piece of clothing is wrong in and of itself, but it becomes wrong when worn before those of the opposite sex in such a manner that would cause a person to have lustful thoughts that cannot be scripturally satisfied.
 - 1.2.3. Some clothing would be immodest on certain occasions, but not on others, for example, it is not immodest to take a shower naked, but it would most certainly be immodest to be in public in the same condition.
 - 1.2.4. At this point someone will invariably argue that if a person has an evil thought that this is his or her problem. I would agree with this in a limited sense. But if I contribute to that thought, then I have participated in their sin.
 - 1.2.5. The most important thing for us to remember when it comes to immodesty is that we are to be a people who are trying to please God. This should be our whole attitude toward everything that we do, including fashion. Our question should be "is my clothing pleasing in God's eyes?"
 - 1.2.6. Paul wrote: "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**).
 - 1.2.7. If you wear fashions that do just about as much good off as on, then you are guilty of wearing immodest apparel and you are an abomination in the eyes of the Lord, rather than being a living sacrifice. As Christians we should be concerned with our adornment beginning on the inside and then moving to the outside.
 - 1.2.8. Misinterpretations of Peter's teaching about outward adorning (**1 Peter 3:1-4**), have led to several extremes on the subject. Some conclude that all outward adorning such as wearing gold, braiding the hair, and the like is forbidden, but if this is what Peter meant then no-one could wear any clothes because he includes the "putting on of apparel." The proper understanding of this passage is to see that we are to be a people who are placing our emphasis on the inward. If the inward is right, the outward will follow.
 - 1.2.9. The Bible stresses that our clothing ought to avoid two things: sexual allurements and materialism (**Proverbs 31:30; 1 Peter 3:3-5; 1 Timothy 2:9-10**). What we're seeing today is that more and more Christians are dressing

in ways that barely stops short of complete nudity. If all of this is decent or modest apparel -- what could be considered immodest or indecent and still be called apparel?

1.2.9.1. I read an article in which a man talked about a visit to a detention center where he saw a sign that read: "Visitors must be appropriately dressed. Underwear and bras must be worn, no halter tops; no short shorts; no revealing clothing." The author of the article commented to the guard about the notice and was told that "inappropriate clothing causes problems." He said it reminded him of Jesus' statement in **Matthew 5:27-28: But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

1.2.9.2. I couldn't help but wonder as I read of this account, if the world can see what problems are created by immodest dress, why can't Christians.

1.3. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1.4. Additional Information

1.4.1. Women and men should not wear clothes that reveal or emphasize too much because they violate the foremost Biblical principle of modesty; they can cause those of the opposite sex to sin and they themselves become guilty of sin. Paul again tells us, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness" (Gal. 5:19). The word "lascivious" means to cause or produce lust. Wearing immodest clothing will cause one to be guilty of the sin of lasciviousness which will no doubt lead to other sins. Jesus draws a picture of some terrible consequences for the individual who causes others to sin (Luke 17: 1, 2).

1.4.2. The Greek word behind the English term "lascivious" is *aselgeia*. It occurs nine times in the New Testament. Twice it is rendered as "wantonness" (Romans 13:13; 2 Peter 2:18), and once it appears as "filthy" (2 Peter 2:7). The other six times it is translated as "lascivious" (cf. Mark 7:22; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 4:19; 1 Peter 4:3; Jude 4).

1.4.3. Lasciviousness is a gross form of wickedness that has **sexual** overtones in many cases. It starts in a sinful heart (Mark 7:21-22), and manifests itself in fleshly (carnal) actions (Galatians 5:19), and can lead to a state of being "past feeling" (Ephesians 4:19).

1.4.4. The Bible clearly shows that there are certain limitations in the exposing of one's body. Paul says, "In like manner, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefastness and sobriety; not with braided hair, and gold or pearls or costly raiment" (1 Tim. 2:9). "Shamefastness" is "a sense of shame, modesty, reverence, the ability to blush."

2. If you want to kill your children spiritually, allow them to participate in modern dancing.

2.1. God desires that we be morally pure. We should engage only in the activities that will promote Christian growth and character.

- 2.2. It is never popular to condemn sin and it is even less popular when it is a sin that people enjoy, unfortunately this is an area where a real lack of teaching has occurred.
- 2.3. The Bible mentions dancing with great frequency.
- 2.3.1. **Exodus 15:20** speaks of Miriam and the other women of Israel dancing after safely passing through the Red Sea. David danced before Jehovah after Israel's return of the Ark of the Covenant (**2 Sam. 6:14**).
- 2.3.2. Following David's defeat of the Philistines, "the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing . . ." (**1 Sam. 18:6**).
- 2.3.3. It should be noted, however, that the "dancing" referred to in the Bible (particularly the Old Testament) "was nothing more than jumping or whirling about in excitement and joy." The modern social dance is very different from the "dancing" referred to in the passages cited above.
- 2.4. Many teenage and adult Christians participate in dancing simply because they have never been taught its dangers. Some others have been taught the truth on this subject, but have refused to accept the truth. The second category we cannot help, but I do hope that if someone falls into that first category, this section of the lesson will be of help to him or her. We're going to identify three very serious areas of problems concerning the modern dance.
- 2.4.1. First, we need to understand and we need to teach our children that dancing is worldly. Everything associated with dancing is worldly, the songs, the places, the clothing, and the refreshments.
- 2.4.1.1. John wrote: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (**1 John 2:15-17**).
- 2.4.1.2. So many sinful things are associated with dancing today: drinking, drugs, going parking, petting, immodesty, and fornication. I can remember hearing stories of senior classes picking their faculty advisor based upon which one would be most likely to go along with all of these things at the dances and the senior trip.
- 2.4.1.3. Paul wrote, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (**1 Thes. 5:22**).
- 2.4.1.4. And James tells us that pure religion is being "unspotted from the world" (**James 1:27**) -- yet I cannot see how one can be unspotted from the world and still participate in the sinful act of the modern dance.
- 2.4.2. We also need to understand and we need to teach our children that dancing is a work of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21**). It is "lasciviousness". The appeal of dancing is, at least partially, sexual in nature. A study of the original word, which is, translated "lasciviousness" here in Galatians 5 quickly reveals that this is not something a Christian is to be involved with.
- 2.4.2.1. The Greek word *aselgeia* is translated "lasciviousness" in the KJV and "debauchery" in the NIV. It has reference to "absence of restraint, indecency, indecent bodily movements (that would be dancing), and unchaste handling of males and females (petting, and also in some dancing). . . indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females." The modern dance does involve "indecent bodily movements." It excites the sexual nature of the male and the female, leading to the "unchaste handling" of both.

- 2.4.2.2. Another Greek word that takes dancing into account is *komos*, translated “reveling” in the KJV and “orgies” in the NIV. Green defines *komos* as “merrymaking. . . a revel, lascivious feasting.” To revel is “to carouse, to indulge one’s inclinations or fancy . . . to take one’s fill of pleasure.” Liddell and Scott suggest that *komos* is closely associated with “music and dancing.”
- 2.4.3. We need to understand and we need to teach that dancing leads to further sin (**Proverbs 6:27**).
- 2.4.3.1. School statistics, police statistics, and medical statistics, all confirm that school dances (including and especially the prom) all raise the rates of teen sex, drunkenness, venereal diseases, and other problems.
- 2.4.3.2. In one Bible passage dancing resulted in murder. In **Matthew 14:1-12** we read of this and the style of dancing here would be the closest Bible description to the modern fast dance.
- 2.4.3.3. Dancing is just like the sexual relationship. If a husband and wife wants to dance with one another, they would have a right to do so because they would have a right to fulfill the sexual aspects of that relationship. But other than in a setting between a husband and wife, dancing is sinful (you could argue the setting should be private).
- 2.4.4. Dancing is an unnecessary risk to one’s spiritual life.
- 2.4.4.1. The tension between the flesh and spirit is great. Paul writes: “Walk by the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for they are contrary the one to the other” (**Gal. 5:16-17**).
- 2.4.4.2. Dancing requires a person to associate himself with an atmosphere that is destructive to his Christian character! Typically, dancing takes place where there is drinking and carousing. One cannot possibly maintain pure thoughts and motives in such an environment.
- 2.4.4.3. Dancing damages one’s influence; making it impossible to be the person God wants him to be. Jesus said that we are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (**Mt. 5:13-16**). One loses or gains another’s respect more by his conduct than by anything else.
- 2.4.4.3.1. I know there are those who say, “my child is only XX (age). What harm can there be?” **Proverbs 22:6** says, “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.” It states nothing about sending mixed signals regarding right and wrong dependent on their age.
- 2.4.4.4. In addition, there are those that state, “My child would never have those kinds of thoughts.” If you truly are fooled into thinking this, I pray you wake up to the reality that Satan will ensure your child is exposed, in some fashion, to that which will stir one to have impure thoughts, and act in impure ways.
- 2.4.5. The final point, regarding Galatians 5, deals with the phrase “and such like.” It is rendered from the Greek *kai ta homoia toutois*. Paul is making clear that he is not limiting the works of the flesh to specific acts characteristic of his day and time but to all such conduct. Surely we can see that the modern dance clearly places one in a situation to participate in the works of the flesh. From such things we must flee!
- 2.4.6. Consider these other passages:

- 2.4.6.1. **1 Peter 2:11** - “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul....”
- 2.4.6.1.1. Peter was writing to Christians who were being tempted to follow after the ways of the world to fit into society. He tells them that they need to abstain from fleshly lusts.
- 2.4.6.1.2. Fleshly lusts are evil desires that come from a love of the world and not a love of God. These fleshly lusts are said to war or fight against the soul. By this we understand him to say that by fulfilling these lusts, these desires, we will put ourselves into a situation where our Christianity will be challenged--where Satan will have opportunity to tempt us and where we will be discouraged from trying to do what is right. Now if the modern dance does not fall into this category, I do not know what does.
- 2.4.6.1.3. Those who participate in the modern dance will be challenged in their Christianity, they will give Satan an opportunity to tempt them and they will be discouraged from trying to do what is right. Why would a Christian want to place oneself into such a situation?
- 2.4.6.2. **1 Thessalonians 5:22** - “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”
- 2.4.6.2.1. If it even looks like it might be wrong, then we need to keep away from it. There can be no doubt that some of the movements in the modern dance have the appearance of evil and so we should abstain from it.
- 2.4.6.3. **1 John 2:15-17** - “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
- 2.4.6.3.1. The modern dance is a thing of the world and when we demonstrate that we love things of the world more than we love God, God's love no longer abides in us. Why would we want to remove ourselves from the love of God for an hour or two of worldly pleasure?
- 2.4.6.4. **1 Corinthians 15:33** - “Be not deceived, evil companionships corrupt good morals.”
- 2.4.6.4.1. Those in the world, who go to and participate in the modern dance, go there expecting to engage in something enticing and titillating. They go with evil purposes in mind. The Christian who chooses to go to the dance surrounds himself with these evil companionships.

2.5. Additional Information

- 2.5.1. The first point focuses in on the word **lasciviousness**. It is derived from the Greek word *Aselgeia* which means unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence. The Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament notes that it references filthy words, indecent bodily movement, unchaste handling of males and females. It is obvious that modern dancing has its basic appeal in fleshly passion. No one can deny that dancing is made up of indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females set to music. Consider

the following facts presented by another minister, Steve Higginbotham, concerning events surrounding the local prom where he lives:

- 2.5.2. * Guys and girls rent cabins at a state park where some spent the night drinking and engaging in sexual immorality.
- 2.5.3. * Public intoxication and arrests made by the local police force.
- 2.5.4. * “Dirty dancing” (and that’s the way I’ll describe it. To get specific would probably be offensive) performed on the “chaperoned” dance floor which is broadcast over our local television cable system.
- 2.5.5. * Immodest, revealing clothing worn, intended to solicit the attention of the opposite sex. I remember overhearing two girls trying to “outdo” each other as to which one was showing more cleavage.
- 2.5.6. * Young people lying to their parents about their whereabouts while they stay out all evening and return home in the morning.
- 2.5.7. And here’s the kicker...Every one of the actions mentioned above were done, not by the non-Christians living in Glasgow, but by young people and parents who are members of the Lord’s church; Christians! If this is the way that disciples of Jesus conduct themselves, then how are we different from how the world acts?
- 2.5.8. The second point deals with the word revellings. It comes from the Greek word Komo which means boisterous merrymaking or festivity, an occasion of merrymaking or noisy festivity with dancing, drinking, carousing. Again, these activities fall into the realm of "works of the flesh."

3. If You Want To Kill Your Children spiritually, don’t teach them about the Sexual Relationship and Marriage.

- 3.1. The current culture advocates premarital sexual relationships, homosexual relationships, and adulterous relationships.
 - 3.1.1. How can parents help their children combat these cultural falsehoods? Parents must begin teaching children what God has ordained for biblical marriage.
 - 3.1.2. Matthew 19:4-6 should serve our children well in describing the expectations for a biblical, God favored marriage. Children need to understand that marriage is divine, God is the designer of it, God sets the duration, and God explains the proper subjects for marriage—a man and woman.
 - 3.1.3. These are principles Christian parents must teach their children if we want God’s word to rule their hearts instead of the culture of the day.
- 3.2. The Bible clearly says that those who practice fornication, uncleanness, and lewdness will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (**Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-5**). These works of the flesh spring out of an evil heart (**Mark 7:21-23**). Christians are to abstain from fornication and keep themselves pure and holy for the Lord’s sake (**I Thess. 4:3-5; I Cor. 6:13**). Flee fornication is the charge of the scriptures (**I Cor. 6:13**) for God will judge whoremongers and adulterers (**Heb. 13:4**) and cast them into eternal damnation (**Rev 21:8; 22:15**).
 - 3.2.1. Fornication means prostitution, unchastity, and every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse outside of marriage.
 - 3.2.2. Lasciviousness is defined as indecent conduct, unbridled lust, filthy words, indecent bodily movements, and unchaste handling of males and females.
- 3.3. Saving the sexual relationship solely for the marriage relationship is for our own good, but more importantly God commands it.

- 3.3.1. Pregnancy: 1 out of 3 teens that has sex out of marriage gets pregnant. 1 out of 5 of these teens that gets pregnant do so in the first month of sexual activity.
- 3.3.2. Sexual diseases: AIDS, etc.
- 3.4. Relationship with each other:
 - 3.4.1. As God designed it, the sexual relationship between a husband and wife is the deepest, most intimate form of communication and giving.
 - 3.4.2. When properly expressed, it draws them closer and forms the lifelong bond of “becoming one” (**Matthew 19:5**).
 - 3.4.3. Sex was intended for a complete commitment.
- 3.5. Relationship with God
 - 3.5.1. Sin always eats at our relationship with God. We can pray, but it won't do any good until we repent.
 - 3.5.2. Why keep the sexual relationship only in marriage? Because God said so. God made the sexual relationship for husband and wife, and He set the boundaries so we won't abuse it. He knows us. He knows what will happen if we abuse our sexuality.
- 3.6. What about petting?
 - 3.6.1. Petting refers to all sorts of passionate kissing, roaming hands, inappropriate touching of the male and female body. Many couples feel that they participate in these activities as long as they abstain from sexual intercourse. They consider themselves technically “virgins”.
 - 3.6.2. Petting outside of marriage falls under lasciviousness. There is no such thing as a “technical virgin”.
 - 3.6.3. The Christian's character determines his or her sexual behavior and his character is determined by the holiness of God (**1 Peter 1:15-16**).
 - 3.6.4. Parents have a responsibility to train their children about sex and dating.
 - 3.6.4.1. Survey of 2,400 teens found that the younger a person begins dating, the more likely they are to have sex before graduating high school.
 - 3.6.4.2. 12 years - 91%; 13 years - 56%; 14 years - 53%; 15 years - 40%; 16 years - 20%.
- 3.7. Homosexuality
 - 3.7.1. Homosexuality is a sin according to the Bible (**1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 1:24-29**). It is a choice that people make. The only sexual relationship that is sanctioned by God is between one man and one woman who are married to each other (**Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:1-9**).
 - 3.7.1.1. That means that any person who chooses to live in sexual sin, whether it is homosexuality, adultery, fornication, or bestiality, will be lost forever in hell. God does not want homosexuals, pedophiles, or adulterers to go to hell. In fact, the Bible explains that God does not want any person to go to hell, but
 - 3.7.1.2. He wants all people to repent (**2 Peter 3:9**). God gives to all an equal chance at repentance, without any type of discrimination. But it does not mean that He will save people who refuse to repent of their sins. In fact, Revelation 21:8 explains that sexually immoral people, along with liars and murderers, who refuse to repent, will be lost.
 - 3.7.2. Lifestyle
 - 3.7.2.1. The homosexual community has tried almost everything in its power to make their sinful lifestyle appear legitimate (**Romans 1:18-32**).

Homosexuals have suggested that since some animals exhibit homosexual tendencies, it must be a “natural” way of life. Same-sex defenders have suggested that homosexuality is genetic, and those who are engaged in it cannot help themselves due to their genetic composition. Others have proposed that it is not genetic, but it is helpful and constructive to a society, and that all “loving” homosexual relationships should be affirmed. In truth, all of the attempts to justify homosexuality have failed miserably. Homosexuality is a chosen, sinful lifestyle that is destructive both to individuals and societies that allow the practice to thrive.

3.7.2.2. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due (**Romans 1:26-27**).

3.7.2.3. Against the backdrop of a thoroughly pagan Roman society, Paul presented one of the most outstanding summations ever written of God’s plan for the salvation of man—the epistle to the Romans. In order to set the stage for the Gospel (**Romans 1:16-17**), Paul used the major portion of the first three chapters to convince his readers that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (**Romans 3:23**). As evidence of the ubiquitous nature of sin, Paul listed specific sins of the pagan Gentile world (**Romans 1:18-32**), and of the hypocritical Jewish world (**Romans 2:1-29**).

3.7.2.4. Homosexuality has been against the will of God since the beginning of Creation when He made humans male and female. Romans 1:26-27 deals specifically with homosexuality, and condemns it as a practice that is wrong in every culture, during every time period. There never will be a day when the text of **Romans 1:26-27** can accurately be twisted to permit any type of same-sex intercourse. Nor will there be a day when a practicing homosexual who refuses to repent will be saved from his or her sins. God wants all men and women everywhere to be saved (2 Peter 3:9), but He demands that they repent of and turn away from their sins, “because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness” (**Acts 17:30-31**).

3.7.3. Homosexual marriage/parenting

3.7.3.1. God created humans in His likeness. When He did, He made them “male and female” and designed the first home (**Genesis 2:22-24**). This divinely ordained, man-woman relationship has been the pillar of every productive society in the history of mankind. Furthermore, since God created humans, and knows precisely what is best for their well-being, only He would be in a position to know which type of parenting situation, same-sex or heterosexual, would be best for rearing children. Not only did He establish the family to be headed by heterosexual parents, but He consistently condemned the homosexual lifestyle as sinful, admonishing homosexuals to repent

3.7.3.2. Same-sex parents are openly rebelling against God, and providing this rebellious attitude as an example to their adopted children, their child-rearing environment can never be healthy or wholesome.

Homosexual parents, due to their sinful rebellion against God, can never teach their children by their example to love the truth and obey their Creator.

3.7.3.3. God loves homosexuals just as much as he loves murderers (and all people, for that matter). He wants, pleads, and demands that they repent of their sins in order to be saved. He does not discriminate against any sinners, since He is not willing that any of them should perish. But His justice demands that all impenitent sinners, including impenitent liars, murderers, thieves, and homosexuals, will be eternally lost. Ironically, it is God's justice, which is being misused and misunderstood, that will condemn homosexuals if they refuse to walk humbly before their God and change their sinful lifestyle.

4. If you want to kill your children spiritually, ignore their education.

4.1. What are they being taught in school?

4.1.1. Evolution, atheism, sexual promiscuity, humanistic philosophy, etc

4.2. What are they being taught in the movies, and TV shows they watch? What are they being taught by the kind of music they listen to?

4.2.1. Movies and television are by far the chief disseminators of the immoral sexual revolution that has rocked our nation over the last forty years.

4.2.1.1. They promote situation ethics, fornication, alcoholic lifestyles, violence, humanistic, and materialistic values.

4.2.2. What about the lyrics to the music they listened to?

4.2.2.1. They promote murder, suicide, drugs, fornication, etc.

4.3. What are they being taught as they surf the web?

4.3.1. Statistics show that there are more than 72,000 sexually explicit sites on the web and an estimated 266 new porn sites being added each day. These sites alone generate a revenue of over \$1 billion dollars each year. The Playboy site averages 5 million hits a day.

4.3.1.1. As of 1997, research showed that 11% of children under 11 and 25% of all teens had reported visiting web sites with pornographic materials.

4.3.1.2. What is scary, is that you can stumble up on these sites very easily.

4.3.2. We all know of the Internet cults such as the Trench Coat Mafia and the Columbine tragedy.

4.3.3. Online affairs and unmonitored chat rooms are becoming a serious problem.

4.3.3.1. Children are being stalked, contacted, and even abducted by pedophiles and child molesters online. The web has become an easy way for people to manipulate and coerce our children.

5. If you want to kill your children spiritually, neglect teaching them about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

5.1. Alcohol is the third leading cause of death in America. There are at least 11 million alcoholics, plus another 20 million who run a high risk of becoming alcoholics in the U.S.

5.1.1. There are over 3.3 million problem drinkers among youth in the 14-17 age range. Among high school seniors, 93% of males and 87% of females have experimented with alcohol.

5.1.2. Drunkenness is sinful. The New Testament clearly states that the drunkard cannot enter the kingdom of God (**1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21**).

5.1.3. Rulers were warned against strong drink because it distorted their ability to think and judge clearly (**Prov. 31:4-5**).

- 5.1.4. The evidence indicates that there is no safe level of drinking alcoholic beverages. Only a small amount of alcohol will impair the higher functions of the brain, reducing the sense of caution, and judgment of a person.
- 5.1.5. Drugs (cocaine, heroin, marijuana, etc.) have been proven to have at least the same, if not a more dangerous, effect on people.
- 5.2. The first time drinking is mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis, chapter 9. Noah, a righteous man, became drunk and lay naked in his tent. This good man had his sense of right and wrong dulled by the evil effects of drinking. In Genesis 19, we read of another righteous man, Lot, who was overcome by the evil effects of alcohol. While drunk, he had sexual relations with his own daughters! Again, a good man lost his sense of right and wrong when under the influence of alcohol. The writer of Proverbs warned: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (**Proverbs 20:1**).
- 5.2.1. Some people try to support their sinful habit of drinking by going to the Bible. They point out that some passages in the Bible speak of drinking wine as a good thing (**Genesis 14:18; Amos 9:14; Zechariah 10:7, etc**). But there are also many other passages, which condemn the drinking of wine (**Genesis 9:20,21; 19:30-35; Leviticus 10:8-10; Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35; 31:4,5; Daniel 1:8; Isaiah 5:22; 28:7; Habakkuk 2:15**). How can the drinking of wine be both commended and condemned? Does the Bible contradict itself? If it does, then it cannot be the Word of God!
- 5.2.2. The Bible does not contradict itself. The Bible is the Word of God. A correct understanding of the word "wine" in the Bible depends upon the meaning of the words that are translated "wine" in our English Bible. The Old Testament was first written in the Hebrew language. There are eleven different Hebrew words that are all translated "wine." The New Testament was first written in Greek. There are two different Greek words that are translated "wine" in our English New Testament.
- 5.2.3. "Jesus drank wine," people tell us. "He even turned water into wine. How can you claim that drinking alcoholic beverages is wrong?" Whole books have been written to answer this question, but here is a brief reply.
- 5.2.4. To equate modern alcoholic beverages with first-century wine is a serious error. Modern beverages are fortified with alcohol, enabling the manufacturer to increase the alcoholic content to as much as 90% (such as in 180-proof vodka).
- 5.2.4.1. First-century wine, dependent as it was on natural fermentation, never had an alcoholic content greater than 10%. When the Lord was in attendance at the wedding feast of Cana, the host's supply of "wine" failed (John 2:1ff). Christ commanded that six stone waterpots, each with a twenty to thirty gallon capacity, be filled. The servants filled them "to the brim."
- 5.2.4.2. Underline this last phrase, for it shows that there was no possibility of anyone adding some foreign substance so as to feign the appearance of wine. Moreover, the "taste" test clearly identified the newly manufactured liquid as wine indeed (9-10).
- 5.2.5. Many folks, upon reading this context, automatically assume that the wine mentioned here was an intoxicating spirit. Doubtless this assumption is made due to the fact that when we hear the term "wine" in our modern culture that is what we ordinarily think of. In the Bible, however, "wine" is a generic term and it can denote either fresh juice or a fermented beverage; the context must

determine which. Underline the word “wine” in **John 2:9** and in your margin write: See **Isaiah 16:10**; **Joel 2:24**. Isaiah speaks of the “wine in the presses” and Joel writes about the presses that overflow with wine. Obviously, the wine is what we would call grape juice. In biblical language, therefore, wine need not be an intoxicant.

- 5.2.6. The claim is sometimes made, though, that in Bible times there was no method for preserving grape juice in an unfermented state. Therefore, “wine” must have had some alcoholic content. That is not true. The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary cites ancient skills for the preservation of grape juice all year long. In your margin you may wish to write this note: (**See ZPBD, p. 895**).
- 5.2.6.1. It is known, from ancient sources, that there were ways of preserving juice, thus preventing fermentation. The ancient Roman statesman, Cato, said: “If you wish to have must [grape-juice] all year, put grape-juice in an amphora and seal the cork with pitch; sink it in a fishpond. After 30 days take it out. It will be grape-juice for a whole year”
- 5.2.7. Concentrated alcohol was only known in the Middle Ages when the Arabs invented distillation ('alcohol' is an Arabic word) so what is now called liquor or strong drink (i.e., whiskey, gin, etc.) and the twenty per cent fortified wines were unknown in Bible times. Beer was brewed by various methods, but its alcoholic content was light.
- 5.2.7.1. The strength of natural wines is limited by two factors. The percentage of alcohol will be half of the percentage of the sugar in the juice.
- 5.2.7.2. And if the alcoholic content is much above 10 or 11 percent, the yeast cells are killed and fermentation ceases. Probably ancient wines were 7-10 percent.
- 5.2.7.3. To avoid the sin of drunkenness, mingling of wine with water was practiced. This dilution was specified by the Rabbis in NT times for the wine customary at Passover”
- 5.2.8. First-century wine was always diluted with water. The proportion varied from 1 part wine to 1 part water (1:1) to as thin as 1:20, with a common dilution being 1:6.
- 5.2.8.1. This means that first-century wine was never stronger than 6% alcohol, and often was only 2% or less. One would have to drink large amounts to get drunk on a 2% mix.
- 5.2.8.2. This question is quite appropriate: “Would Jesus Christ have provided some 120 to 180 gallons of alcoholic beverage for a wedding feast?” No one with any degree of respect for New Testament morality would suggest such (**1 Corinthians 5:11**; **Galatians 5:21**).
- 5.2.8.3. Try this experiment – take an eyedropper and put 1,000 drops of water in a glass. Add 4-5 drops of ink. When alcohol reaches that same concentration you are about to lose control and fall into a coma.
- 5.2.8.4. Another drop or two your heart is affected. The center in your brain that regulates breathing becomes sedated.
- 5.2.9. The consumption of alcohol violates every biblical passage which views the body as the “temple of the Holy Spirit” (**1 Cor. 6:19**), as an instrument of righteousness (**Rom. 6:12-13**), and as a living sacrifice unto God (**Rom. 12:1**). No devout Christian can bow his head and offer thanks to his Creator before drinking alcohol.

- 5.2.9.1. It is the clear teaching of Scripture that Christians are not to just acknowledge a higher standard, but to live to the higher standard. It is a standard of purity and holiness. The standard is convincingly set forth throughout the Word of God.
- 5.2.9.2. **1 Peter 1:13-16** - Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."
- 5.2.9.3. **Eph. 5:1** - Therefore be imitators of God as dear children
 - 5.2.9.3.1. These are sobering words: they link us uniquely to God obviously bare serious, Biblical significance. Simply explained, God's call is that Christians are to be different. Distinguishable from the popular culture in how they think and conduct themselves
- 5.2.9.4. **Matt. 5:16** - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

5.3. Additional Information

5.3.1. 1 Timothy 3:2

- 5.3.1.1. **Not given to wine** - The ASV and the RSV, instead of "not given to wine," have "no brawler." The margin in the KJV says "not ready to quarrel, and offer wrong, as one in wine." A footnote in the ASV has "not quarrelsome over wine." No more dangerous and hurtful practice is known to man than the use of strong drink. This word not only signifies one who is inordinately attached to wine, a winebibber or tippler, but also one who is overbearing, abusive, insolent, whether through wine or otherwise." Using alcohol as a beverage is sinful (Pro. 23:21-35). The example of an elder is very important.
- 5.3.1.2. The phrase in verse three consists of two Greek words (***me paroinos***) and, literally translated, means "not beside, by, or at wine" (Vine, 1966, p. 146; Robertson, 1934, p. 613). The phrase is enjoining abstinence, and even the act of situating oneself in the presence of people and places where the consumption of alcoholic beverages is occurring. The ASV translated the expression "brawler" to emphasize the violent behavior that proceeds from the use of alcohol. Calling for elders to be abstinent is consistent with other terms used in the same listing: ***nephalion*** (1 Timothy 3:2)—"free from intoxicants" and "abstinent in respect to wine"

6. If you want to kill your children spiritually, neglect their spiritual training.

- 6.1. Parents must learn to hold the word of God sacred before their children. Teach them to respect and love the word of God.
- 6.2. Practice and live what you preach.
- 6.3. It is a serious but common mistake to conceive of the church as having the young people. It is parents who have young people, and parents who will answer to God for the way they have invested these precious resources (**Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20-21; Deut. 6:4-9**).
- 6.4. No rightful thinking parent will contend that two or even three hours a week at the church building is enough for children or adults.

- 6.5. The focal point of our Bible classes should be the bible. If our children associate their time spent in class with candy, crackers, or crafts rather than learning God's Word, then something is seriously wrong.
- 6.6. We need to teach, encourage, and expect our children to participate in worship to the maximum that their maturity level allows.
 - 6.6.1. Those who promote "Children's Worship" argue that children can learn about and experience "worship on their level" without becoming bored or causing disruptions in the adult assembly.
 - 6.6.1.1. The answer is not to herd them off into another room to play games and watch puppet shows.
 - 6.6.1.2. We send the wrong message to our children when they grow up thinking that worshipping God is about entertainment.
 - 6.6.2. Before children can even talk, they can begin to learn that worship is a very special occasion, which demands special behavior. They can learn that being taken out in the middle of the service is something to be avoided, rather than desired.
 - 6.6.2.1. If children can talk, they can learn to sing. If they can read, they can read scriptures.
- 6.7. Children must see how important worshipping God is to their parents.

Our responsibilities as Christians and our responsibilities as parents are very serious. God will hold us accountable for what we do as parents. As parents we need to avoid sin in our own lives, and we need to teach our children about the dangers of sin, and use our parental authority to ensure that they don't participate. Understand first though that ungodly parents rarely produce godly children, even though occasionally children will overcome their parents' influence. What kind of influence do you have as a parent?