

THE CHRISTIAN AND . . .

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THE CHRISTIAN AND ABORTION

Psalms 139:13-16

INTRODUCTION:

1. "Diary of A Fetus:

A. October 5: Today my life began. My parents do not know it yet. I am as small as the pollen of a flower, but it is I already. I will be a girl. I will have blonde hair and blue eyes. Nearly everything is settled already, even that I shall love flowers.

October 19: I have grown a little, but I am still too small to do anything by myself. My mother does almost everything for me, though she still does not know that she is carrying me under her heart. But, is it true that I am not yet a real person? That only my mother exists? I am a real person, just as a small crumb of bread is still real bread. My mother is, and I am.

October 23: My mouth is just now beginning to open. Just think - in a year or so I'll be laughing; and later I'll start to talk. My first word will be "mama."

October 25: Today my heart began to beat. It will beat softly for the rest of my life, never stopping; after many years it will tire, it will stop, and then I shall die.

November 2: I am growing continually. My arms and legs are taking shape, but I must wait a long time before these tiny legs will raise me to my mother's arms; before these little arms will be able to conquer the earth and befriend people.

November 12: Tiny fingers are beginning to form on my hands. How small they are; one day I'll stroke my mother's hair to my mouth and she'll say, "Oh, dirty."

November 20: Only today the doctor told my mother that I am living here under her heart. How happy she must be. Are you happy, Mother?

November 25: My mother and father are probably thinking about a name for me; and they don't even know that I am a little girl, so they are probably calling me "Andy." But I want to be called Barbara. I am growing so big.

December 10: My hair is growing. It is as bright and shiny as the sun. I wonder what kind of hair my mother has?

December 13: I am almost able to see, though it is night around me. When mother brings me into the world, it will be full of sunshine and overflowing with flowers. I have never seen a flower you know, but more than anything, I want to see my mother. How do you look, Mother?

December 24: I wonder if my mother hears the delicate beat of my heart? Some children are born with sickly hearts, and then the gentle fingers of the doctor perform miracles to make them healthy. But my heart is healthy. It beats so evenly: Tup-tup, tup-tup. You shall have a healthy daughter, Mother.

December 28: Today, my mother killed me." (Rice, 1971, p. 6).

BODY:

1. DEFINITION OF ABORTION

A. "Abortion is the extraction or expulsion of the human fetus from the mother's womb prior to natural birth...(One in four children conceived in this country are destroyed by abortion)" (Christian, n.d., p. 2).

B. "Act of giving premature birth; specif., the expulsion of the human fetus prematurely, particularly at any time before it is viable or capable of sustaining life." Webster New

International Dictionary.

- C. "Abortion violates every decent human instinct so much so that it's indecency must be clothed in euphemism." (Sobran, 1983, p.3).
 - 1. Let me explain what I mean by this.
 - A. We have all heard of homicide, which is the killing of another human.
 - B. Perhaps fewer have heard of "infanticide," which is the killing of an Infant.
 - C. No doubt even fewer have heard of "feticide," which is, "The destruction of the life of a fetus." The American College Dictionary, p. 1447.
 - 2. Therefore, when we speak of early term abortion, we actually speak of "feticide," which is the killing of a fetus.
 - A. The fetus is the child while still in the womb of which we will discuss in more detail later.
- D. Abortion is not birth control, which prevents life from beginning - abortion destroys life after it has begun.

2. LAWS PERTAINING TO LIFE

- A. There are numerous laws in respect to other areas that are hard to understand how rational, intelligent, human beings could overlook their significance relative to abortion.
 - 1. "The Supreme Court will fine and jail those guilty of killing unborn eagles, but will grant no protection to unborn children the first six months of their lives." Hugo McCord, The World Evangelist.
 - A. Some time back I read where \$5,000.00 was offered for the arrest of the killer of an American eagle in Maryland.
 - B. A few years ago there was a great to do about someone having killed a couple eagles in southern Indiana.
 - 2. It is illegal to ship pregnant lobsters, so as to prevent the unborn from being destroyed.
 - A. I am told there is a \$1,000.00 fine and jail term for the breaking of this law.
 - 3. In Massachusetts, there is an anti-cruelty law which makes it illegal to award a goldfish as a prize.
 - A. The law states, "...to protect the tendency to dull humanitarian feelings, and corrupt morals of those who abuse them."
 - 4. In 1974, 47 senators voted to protect dogs from experimentation with poisonous gas, but voted down an amendment to prevent federal funds being used for abortion.

2. STATISTICS

- A. In order to help us understand the magnitude to this crisis of which we speak I would like to take notice of the following statistics.
 - A. Since the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision of January 22, 1973 legalizing abortion on demand, there have been over 50,000,000 legal abortions by clinics, etc.
 - 1. Based on numbers reported by the Alan Guttmacher Institute 1973-2005, with estimates of 1,206,200 for 2006-2007.
(<http://www.nrlc.org/ABORTION/facts/abortionstats.html>)
 - 2. This far surpasses the number of deaths during the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WW I & II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War (1,160,581 to 50,000,000).
 - A. Deaths to Americans numbered 667,286 for these wars.
- B. US Statistical breakdown:
 - 1. One baby is aborted every 24 seconds.

2. 147 babies are aborted every hour.
 3. 3,542 babies are aborted every day.
 4. 24,865 babies are aborted every week.
 5. 107,750 babies are aborted every month.
- C. Who has abortions?
1. Fifty percent of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25: Women aged 20–24 obtain 33% of all abortions, and teenagers obtain 17%.
 2. Thirty-seven percent of abortions occur to black women, 34% to non-Hispanic white women, 22% to Hispanic women and 8% to women of other races.
 3. Forty-three percent of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 27% as Catholic.
 4. Women who have never married obtain two-thirds of all abortions.
 5. About 60% of abortions are obtained by women who have one or more children.
 6. The abortion rate among women living below the federal poverty level is more than four times that of women above 300% of the poverty level (44 vs. 10 abortions per 1,000 women). This is partly because the rate of unintended pregnancies among poor women (below 100% of poverty) is nearly four times that of women above 200% of poverty (112 vs. 29 per 1,000 women.)
(http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html)

3. REASONS FOR ABORTION

- A. With this in mind, let us pay close attention to the so-called “reasons” often given for abortion.
1. Rape
 - A. No doubt we all feel grief for the woman in this situation.
 1. It is a very emotional objection, but is it a valid one?
 - B. The following information will bear out that the actual cases of pregnancy occurring from rape are extremely rare, and, as such, is not as viable reason as people would have us to believe.
 1. “In one study of 1,000 rape victims who were treated medically right after the rape found that none of the women became pregnant.” The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 14.
 2. “A scientific study of 3,500 cases of rape treated in hospitals in the Minneapolis, St. Paul area, revealed zero cases of pregnancy. This study took place over a ten year period.” Handbook on Abortion, p. 32.
 3. “A Czechoslovakian study showed that out of 86,000 consecutive abortions only 22 were for reasons of rape.” The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 14.
 4. The Louisiana Department of Health compiled statistics over a 14-year period and found that the justification for 99.12% of abortions in that state were ‘mother’s mental health.’ Mother’s physical health made up .75% of all abortions, fetal deformity another .09%, and rape/incest at .04%. Most experts place the number of rapes resulting in a pregnancy at about 1%.
(http://www.dakotavoices.com/200608/20060802_3.html)
 5. “At an obstetric meeting at a major Midwest hospital, a poll was taken of those physicians present (who had delivered over 19,000 babies) revealed that not one had delivered a bona fide rape pregnancy.” Handbook on Abortion, p. 33.

6. According to a study conducted by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical University of South Carolina, "Among 34 cases of rape-related pregnancy, the majority occurred among adolescents and resulted from assault by a known, often related perpetrator."
(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8765248>)
- C. In view of this information, we see that it is possible for a rape victim to be impregnated by their assailant.
 1. However, the infrequency of this actually happening removes it as a valid argument for abortion on demand.
- D. Let me conclude this point with this quote, "Isn't it a twisted logic that would kill an innocent unborn baby for the crime of his father." Handbook On Abortion, p 35.
 1. This is especially true in light of the 1976 Supreme Court ruling that capital punishment "was cruel and inhuman punishment" for the man guilty of rape.
 2. The simple fact is one wrong does not justify another.
2. Deformed or "defective baby" (retardation and birth defects).
 - A. As we give thought to this point let me begin with this question; "Who determines who is perfect or absent of deformity?"
 - B. Let me suggest to you that human life is human life.
 1. Perfection is not really the question.
 - C. Who, in the confines of this auditorium, is the standard of perfection?
 - D. "The assumption that handicapped people enjoy life less than 'normal' ones has recently been shown to be false. A well documented investigation has shown that there is no difference between malformed and normal persons in their degree of life satisfaction, outlook of what lie immediately ahead and vulnerability to frustration. Though it may be both common and fashionable to believe that the malformed enjoys life less than normal, this appears to lack both empirical and theoretical support." Paul Cameron and Van Houck, Am., Psychologic Assn. Meeting, 1971.
 - E. In testimony to the Ohio Legislature, 1971, Mrs. Rosalie Craig stated; "There has not been a single organization of parents of mentally retarded children that has ever endorsed abortion. We, who are parents of these children and have borne the burden, ask that before you, the legislators, propose to speak for us, by possibly authorizing abortion for fetal abnormality, please ask our opinion first."
(<http://www.ewtn.com/library/PROLIFE/FCTSOFPPL.TXT>)
 - F. "Author Ken Kesey (One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest) has observed while discussing his opposition to abortion and euthanasia, 'No one can judge the value of another's trip.'" The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 22
 - G. Read: The Waiting Room 2050 A.D., Handbook on Abortion, p. 87.
 1. Granted, this is but a figment of an imagination, but do not shrug it off without further consideration as it may just be later than you think.
 - A. "On April 14, 1982, the Indiana Supreme Court upheld the right of the parents of one 'infant Doe' to deny ordinary surgery needed to correct a malformed esophagus that prevented the child from being fed. In addition, the child was given neither food nor water intravenously and essentially starved to death six days in the hospital where he was born." The

- Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 21.
- B. Dr. James Watson, a Nobel Laureate, proposed "...that children not be declared 'alive' until three days after birth." The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 21.
 - C. "Joseph Fletcher, leader of the Euthanasia Movement in America, proposed the 'defective' child be destroyed even if against the parents' wishes." The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 21.
 - D. "Within ten months of the Supreme Court's Roe Wade decision making abortion public policy in the United States, it was reported that 43 babies had been 'allowed to die' at Yale-New Haven Hospital. These babies were judged...to have a poor or hopeless prospect for 'meaningful human hood.'" And Now Infanticide, p. 1.
 - E. "The American Civil Liberties Union stated: 'The right of a woman . . . is . . . the right to a dead fetus.'" And Now Infanticide, p. 5.
 - F. The Sonoma Conference, sponsored by the Health Policy Program Pediatrics of the University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, brought together physicians, bioethicists, lawyers and Ph.D. representatives to vote on this question, "Would it ever be right to intervene directly to kill an infant?"
 - 1. Of the 20 participants, 17 voted "yes." And Now Infanticide, p. 13.
 - G. Dr. F. Everett Koop, Surgeon General under Reagan, stated: "Abortion has so cheapened life that infanticide is already being practiced in this country, as tragically, by those who have had the role as advocate for the lives of children - pediatricians and pediatric surgeons." The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 21.
 - H. Dr. Francis Crick, Nobel Prize Winner, author (Death Without Dignity) advocated compulsory death for all at age 80. (Spiritual Sword, July 1980 issue).
 - 1. He died at the age of 88.
 - 2. He, also, ". . . suggested the idea of adding a chemical to public water supplies, that would make men and women sterile; only those who qualified for a 'license' to produce children, would be given an antidote drug!" (<http://www.robertmihaly.com/useful.htm>)
 - I. "How long shall life be preserved when there is no redeeming social value? Life has no apparent purpose, perhaps it is to the benefit of others that lives not be salvaged." Who Should Live, Geriatrics, 28, March, 1973, p. 183.
 - 1. Need I go on?
 - 2. As we can easily see, this situation has moved from the unborn fetus to the disabled, unwanted infant, to . . .
 - A. "If there was a valid rationale for killing the unborn child because it was believed defective, then logically the same principles should be extended after birth." Manipulating Life, p. 196.
 - B. "Statistics point out: More children are born retarded or handicapped because of their mother's previous abortion than those destroyed by it for reasons of potential retardation or disabilities." The Challenge To Be Pro

Life, p. 15.

- C. "Dr. J. C. Willke states that it is a solidly documented fact that the chance for having a premature baby is tripled after having one so-called 'safe, legal abortion.'" Handbook on Abortion, p. 47, quote from The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 15.

H. What needs to be understood is that medical technology has so improved that there are fewer untreatable cases today.

1. "Thanks to a variety of surgical techniques, instruments and drug treatments, doctors are able to treat the unborn child for a number of health conditions." The Unborn Patient, Radical New Methods of Healing a Fetus, Life, April 1983, p. 39, as quoted in Abortion: Death Before Life?, p. 2.
2. "For me it (fetal surgery) also raises this question: If the unborn child is a patient, is it also then a person?" Nick Thimmesch, Science Emerging Ally of the Pro-Life Movement, Detroit News, April 7, 1983, as quoted in Page 10 Abortion: Death Before Life, p. 2.
3. "I consider it a bitter irony that just when...the fetus arrives on the clinical scene as one who can be cared for medically, there could be such sustained and strenuous effort to make him a social non-entity." A.W. Liley, The Human Life Bill, Vol. 2, p. 32, submitted to the U.S. Senate., Abortion: Death Before Life?, p. 2.
4. "Prenatal medicine should raise troubling thought in a nation in which abortion is the most frequently performed operation, a nation in which last year 1.5 million abortions ended about one-third of all pregnancies. Science and society are out of sync. Mothers can kill any fetus that medicine can treat." George F. Will, The Human Life Bill, Vol. 2, p. 32. Abortion: Death Before Life?, p. 2.

B. To conclude this point, it should be fully understood that no one has the right to determine who is "fit" to live and who is not.

1. Not even based upon so-called medical reasons.

C. "The quality of life for a Down's child isn't what I'd want for myself. But maybe the child is happy. I wouldn't want to be born in the Ghetto, either." Dr. John Freeman, a pediatric neurologist, John Hopkins University School of Medicine, Newsweek, 8-30-1981.

4. HEALTH REASONS FOR THE MOTHER

A. This, like rape, is an emotional appeal actually side-stepping the real issue.

1. No one wants to see a mother die in child birth.

A. But does this merit the Supreme Court's decision of Roe v. Wade?

B. We have been repeatedly been told that it is much safer for a woman to have an abortion than to deliver by natural birth.

1. Dr. Alan Guttmacher, one time president of Planned Parenthood, stated that abortions are "magnificently safe.", Handbook on Abortion, p. 62.

C. Let's see the real truth on this matter.

1. "Such cases are actually and increasingly quite rare." referring to medical reasons for the grounds of an abortion. Abortion, The Bible, And the Christian, p. 29.
2. "Anyone who performs a therapeutic abortion (for physical disease) is either ignorant of modern methods of treating the complications of pregnancy or is unwilling to take

- time to use them.” Dr. R. J. Hefferman to the Congress of The American College of Surgeons., as quoted in *The Murder of the Helpless Unborn . . . Abortion*, pp. 29, 30.
3. “Abortion is never necessary to save the life of the mother.” Dr. Joseph P. Donnelly, former Medical Director of Margaret Hague Hospital, New Jersey., *The Murder of the Helpless Unborn . . . Abortion*, p. 29.
 4. “An extensive study of abortion-related maternal mortality conducted by Thomas W. Hilgers, M.D. and Dennis O’Hare concludes that maternal mortality statistics showing that induced abortion is safer than childbirth have been distorted. Hilgers and O’Hare demonstrate that when corrected, these statistics show that abortion poses a greater threat to the life of the mother at any point in the pregnancy than does natural childbirth.” *Abortion Related Maternal Mortality Analysis, New Perspectives on Abortion*, p. 90. *Abortion: Some Medical Facts*, p. 2.
- D. Let’s move on as we will discuss this point in more detail a little later as our next two points deal with health and psychological problems associated with abortion.

5. ILLEGAL ABORTION DEATHS

- A. Many have said that if abortions were legalized, and made available to all, then it would curb the vast number of illegal abortion deaths and the numerous medical problems associated with such.
 1. We have been led to believe that literally thousands upon thousands of women died annually from illegal abortion.
- B. But was all this information true?
 1. “Dr. Bernard Nathanson, co-founder of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), used this argument to bring about the legalization of abortion on demand, admits these claims were ‘totally false.’” *Aborting America*, p. 197, as quoted in *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p. 15.
 2. “80-90% of all illegal abortions were done by doctors; many of the same who now do them legally.” *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p. 14.
 3. “Criminal” and “back-alley” abortions aren’t appreciably reduced by legalizing abortion demand.
 - A. “A U.S. study (1981) found a 130-fold increase in the number of legal abortions since 1973 but only a 4-fold reduction in the number of illegal abortions. In other words, for each illegal abortion eliminated, over 18 legal abortions have taken its place. Studies in other major countries (some with a 20 year experience) show the criminal abortion rate relatively unchanged, and in some cases it has increased.” as quoted in *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p. 14.
 4. U.S. Public Health figures show that during the 1950’s there were 300 maternal deaths from all abortions.
 - A. By 1967, 160 deaths.
 - B. By 1972, 70 deaths.
 - C. By 1973 (When the Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand) the number had dropped to 36. *New Perspectives On Human Abortion*, p. 82. *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p. 9.
 1. What is seldom, if ever discussed in respect to this point is, the higher number of death was during the pre-penicillin years, and has really nothing to do with the legalization of abortion.
 5. “In the United States, the maternal death rate was 11 maternal deaths per 100,000 live

births in 2005.” (http://www.who.int/whosis/mme_2005.pdf)

- A. “Childbirth in any one year is safer than taking the contraceptive pill which has upwards of 20 deaths/100,000 women per year.” Mortality Among Oral Contraceptive Users., as quoted in *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p. 9.
- C. It should be understood that there are a multitude of immediate and later complications associated with abortion.
 - 1. “Studies report that 3-11% of suction and D&C abortions done in hospitals will result in immediate complications and 20-30% in long-term, negative side-effects usually pertaining to later pregnancies.” Induced Abortion, A Documented Report, Thos. Hilgers M.D., 1976, as quoted in *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p. 10.
 - 2. Immediate complications:
 - A. The following is a list of complications associated with a first trimester (3 months) suction or D&C or D&E abortion.
 - 1. Hemorrhage, needing blood transfusion...usually 2-5% of all women, though ranging from 1-17%.
 - 2. Laceration of the cervix...usually 2-5% of all women.
 - A. The British Medical Journal reported that nearly half of these women will lose their next wanted baby through miscarriage unless certain precautions are taken.
 - 3. Perforation of the uterus...usually 1/2-1%.
 - A. Ranging from .24-2.7%.
 - 4. Infection, from mild to fatal...2% to 28%.
 - 5. Hepatitis from blood transfusion, blood clots, and anesthetic deaths are other immediate complications.
 - 6. The British Medical Journal Lancet reported the following; “Out of 1,182 suction abortions done, they reported 9.5% of their patients required blood transfusions; 4.2% suffered cervical lacerations; 1.2% had uterine perforations and 27% developed infections.”
 - A. There are two amazing facts connected to this report:
 - 1. This report was by the same doctors who performed the abortions.
 - 2. “The doctors expressed dismay that these complications ‘. . . are seldom mentioned by those who claim abortion is safe.’”, as quoted in *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p.10.
 - 3. Later complications:
 - A. Most later complications relate to damage done to the fallopian tubes, the lining of the womb, and weakening of the cervix.
 - B. Sterility...usually 2-5% (Reported from 1%-25% Czechoslovakia; 15% Finland; 10% Japan; 7% Poland).
 - 1. While all the time Planned Parenthood reports that sterility is rare.
 - C. Ectopic (tubal) pregnancies...0.5% usually.
 - A. Ranging to eight-fold (Japan), to 20-fold.
 - D. Congenital Birth Defects increase significantly.
 - 1. While newborn deaths increase by 50-400%.
 - E. The risks associated with miscarriage and premature births are increased:
 - 1. First trimester (conception to three months) is double to triple the normal.
 - 2. Second trimester (Beginning of fourth month to end of sixth) miscarriages

range from two-fold to six-fold to ten times those pregnancies without prior abortion.

- F. Premature birth is the primary cause of infant deaths during the first month and one of the leading causes of retardation.
 - 1. It is reported that there is a 40% increase in prematurity after one abortion.
 - 2. 70% after two.
 - 3. "A four year study sponsored by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare showed that prematurity was 67% higher among 20,000 women whose first pregnancy was aborted than that of an equal number, carefully matched control group that had not." as quoted in The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 11.
- G. "Studies show that 20-30% of all suction and D&C abortions performed in hospitals will result in long term, negative side effects relating primarily to fertility and reproduction." Thomas W. Hilgers, M.D., The Hatch Hearings, Vol. I, p. 192. as quoted in Abortion-Some Medical Facts, p. 2.
- H. "A study by C. Madore, et. al, printed in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology states that pregnancy failure is increased 45% with one previous abortion." as quoted in Abortion: Some Medical Facts, p. 2.

6. PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS:

- A. We have heard for years how that an abortion for an unwanted child can resolve all the psychological (mental) problems associated with the unwanted pregnancy.
 - 1. "There is no question an unwanted pregnancy can cause intense mental strain . . ." The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 13.
 - A. I am not attempting to deny that an unwanted pregnancy has mental strain.
 - B. This is easily proven.
 - C. But let's finish the quote.
 - 2. "... but the mental and physical consequences of abortion can be far worse." The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 13.
 - A. "Research indicates that abortion increases problems related to stress and psychosis and creates problems that did not exist previously." Human Life Federalism Amendment, Senate Joint Resolution 3, 98th Congress, 1st Session, legislative day June 6, 1983, p. 36. , as quoted in Abortion: Some Medical Facts, p. 2.
 - B. "The impact of abortion on the body of a woman who chooses abortion is great and always negative. I can think of no beneficial effect of a social abortion on a body." Daniel J. Martin, M.D., Ltd. clinical instructor at St. Louis University Medical School, St. Louis, Missouri, in a paper, entitled, The Impact of Legal Abortion on Women's Minds and Bodies, presented at the Human Life and Care Ethics national conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April, 1983, as quoted in Abortion: Some Medical Facts, p. 2.
 - C. One study found that most relationships (70%) fail within one month after the abortion. The Men Who Wait, Woman's Life, April, 1975, as quoted in The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 12.
 - D. Another showed that 11% of aborted women experience "serious self-reproach" and 1% suffer "gross psychiatric breakdowns." The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 13.

- E. Marvin Olasky, Professor Department of Journalism University of Texas stated that “the myth of guilt-free abortion . . .” has been “. . . exploded . . .” Article, AFA Journal, January, 1989, How the press short-circuited the abortion debate.
- F. “‘Jane Doe,’ thirty-eight, had an abortion in New York City in 1973. What Jane had not anticipated was the guilt and sadness that followed the abortion.” The Ambivalence of Abortion, p. 3 of Introduction.
 - 1. “We didn’t talk the whole way home, but just held hands very tightly. At home there were more yellow roses and a try in bed for me and the children’s curiosity to divert. It had certainly been a successful operation. I didn’t bleed at all for two days just as they had predicted, and then I bled only moderately for another four days. Within a week my breasts had subsided and the tenderness vanished, and my body felt mine again instead of the eggshell it becomes when it’s protecting someone else. My husband and I are back to planning our summer vacation and his career switch. And it certainly does make more sense not to be having a baby right now—we say that to each other all the time. But I have this ghost now. A very little ghost that only appears when I’m seeing something beautiful, like the full moon on the ocean last weekend. And the baby waves at me. And I wave at the baby. ‘Of course, we have room,’ I cry to the ghost. ‘Of course, we do.’” The Ambivalence of Abortion, p. 7 of Introduction.
- 3. “More recent research, however, is beginning to demonstrate that abortion can, in fact, be responsible for a profound array of long-term emotional disturbances in a woman’s life.”, Help For The Postabortal Woman, p. 7.
 - A. “Investigators are beginning to use the term ‘postabortion syndrome’ (PAS) to describe the set of symptoms some women experience after an abortion.” Help For The Postabortal Woman, p. 7.
 - B. In view of this, we can easily see that in reality just the opposite of what we have been told it the truth.
 - 1. Rather than resolve the psychological problems associated with an unwanted pregnancy, abortion causes even deeper emotional scares.

7. POPULATION EXPLOSION:

- A. “The world is overcrowded.”
- B. “There is not enough food to go around.”
 - 1. Such statements have been used extensively, at times, to support abortion on demand as a means of birth and population control.
- C. It should be understood, though, that abortion is not a method of birth control, i.e. the prevention of pregnancy, but rather, a method of killing the child that has already been conceived.
 - 1. Abortion is a method that could be used as a means of population control, but so could euthanasia of the elderly.
- D. This issue must confront the question of “Are we in a situation where the population of the United States or, for that matter, the world’s population, needs to be decreased?”
 - 1. The truth of the matter is, fertility in the U.S. has in the past dropped to the level of 1.8 children per woman, which is below the “replacement” level of 2.3 children per family needed to maintain zero population growth.
 - A. At the present time, the rate for the U.S. is 2.05 (below the needed number) per

woman, with the world at 2.55.

2. Granted, the population of the U.S. is increasing, but not due to actual births.
 - A. Rather, due to immigration and longer life span (77.5-80).
3. The current world average length of life is 65.
4. Vital Statistics:
 - A. In 1957 there were 4,308,000 babies born.
 - B. In 1971 there were 3,555,970 babies born.
 - C. In 1986 there were 3,731,000 babies born.
 - D. In 2005 there were 4,138,348 babies born.
 - E. In 2007 there were 4,316,233 babies born.
 - F. In 2009 there were 4,131,019 babies born.
 - G. The provisional count of births through June 2010 indicated continued declines. (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db60.htm>)
 1. Keep in mind that we now need 4,200,000 to maintain zero population growth.

E. We can easily see from all of this that the information given us that we are so overly populated that we hardly are able to keep our heads above the crowd is false.

8. CURB CHILD ABUSE:

- A. "Aren't the majority of battered children unwanted or unplanned?"
 1. Such questions have been dropped on naive ears in support of abortion on demand, and we have been gullible enough to accept them without further study.
- B. Actually, studies and statistics show just the opposite to be true.
 1. According to one study of 674 battered children over a 41 year period by Dr. Edward Lenoski, Professor of Pediatrics - University of Southern California, 91% of battered children was planned pregnancies.
 - A. 90% were legitimate, while 24% were named after their parents.
 2. "Statistics will show that child abuse rises drastically in countries adopting permissive abortion laws." The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p. 17.
 3. According to The National Study on Child Neglect And Abuse Reporting, 1981, in the U.S. child abuse has tripled since the 1973 Supreme Court decision. The Challenge To Be Pro Life, p.17.
 4. "In 1993, under the Harm Standard, an estimated 1,553,800 children were victims of maltreatment, a 67% increase from the NIS-2 estimate (931,000 children) and a 149% increase from the first NIS estimate (625,100 children). Significant increases occurred for all types of abuse and neglect, as compared with the two earlier NIS surveys. The more than 1.5 million child victims of maltreatment in 1993 reflected a yearly incidence rate of 23.1 per one thousand children under age eighteen, or about one in forty-three children." [http://www.libraryindex.com/pages/1386/How-Many-Children-Page 19 are- Maltreated-NATIONAL-INCIDENCE-STUDY-CHILD-ABUSE-NEGLECT.html](http://www.libraryindex.com/pages/1386/How-Many-Children-Page%2019-are-Maltreated-NATIONAL-INCIDENCE-STUDY-CHILD-ABUSE-NEGLECT.html)
 - A. NIS 1 - 1981; NIS 2 - 1988; NIS 3 - 1993.
 5. In New York City, after abortion had been legalized, child abuse increased from a reported 5,000 per year to 25,000 per year.
 6. Child abuse cases in the U.S. in 1973 were estimated at 167,000 cases.
 - A. By 1979 this figure rose to 711,142, which is a 325% increase.
 - B. By 1982 the figure has risen to 929,000, which is a 500% increase.

- C. What must be realized is that “unwanted pregnancies” or “unwanted children” are not the reason for child abuse.
 - 1. According to the Foundation for Child Development regarding a 1976 study of 880 unplanned pregnancies, “. . . 9 out of 10 parents said they would do it again if given the chance-the child added something to their lives.” *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p. 15.
 - 2. “Most women who were most regretful of pregnancy now claim they would have the child again if given the opportunity [whereas] one of every six mothers who were initially pleased with pregnancy would choose not to have the child again.” *How Much Do Mothers Love Their Children*, Rocky Mountain Psychological Association, May 12, 1972, as quoted in *Abortion Questions and Answers*, Revised Addition, p. 141.
- D. What has been found out is that children are abused today because the parents “. . . grew up in a hostile environment, and were abused themselves . . . the parents react with the same violence they experienced as children.” J. Walsh, IL Dept. of Child and Family Services, as quoted in *Newsweek*, July 24, 1972.
- E. Let me conclude with these two thoughts:
 - 1. A world without unwanted children, wives, oldsters, etc., would be a “perfect world.” The measure of our humanity is not that we won’t always have unwanted ones among us but what we do with them. Will we try to help them? Or kill them?
 - A. In reality, there are no unwanted children.
 - B. Planned Parenthood’s slogan was, “Every Child A Wanted Child,” is true.
 - 1. It is a shame that they do not understand what they preach.
 - 2. The Senate Hearings of April 17, 1986 pointed out that there was “An estimated two million couples . . . plus one million single persons waiting to adopt.”
 - A. You should also understand that there is also a waiting list to adopt physically malformed babies such as Down’s Syndrome and Spinal Bifida babies, regardless of the severity of the malformation., *Abortion Questions and Answers*, p. 21E.

9. MOTHER’S RIGHT TO HER BODY:

- A. The argument has been, “Well, I have a right to say what is done to my body, don’t I?”
 - 1. And to a point this is true.
 - A. However, you don’t have the right to put illegal drugs in “your body.”
 - B. You don’t have the right to sell your body.
- B. The discussion really doesn’t center on the mother’s body but, rather, the baby’s body, as we will see.
 - 1. It should be understood that the new living being has a complete genetic code of its own, which is completely different from the cells of its mother’s body.
 - A. “. . . Biologically, at no stage can we subscribe to the view the foetus [English spelling] is a mere appendage of the mother. Genetically, mother and baby are separate individuals from conception.” Dr. A.W. Lucy, research professor of Fetal Physiology at the National Women’s Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand.
 - 1. In 2001, the number of male birth to female births in the U.S. totaled “104.6 males per 100 females.” which is actually a decrease in number.
(<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07100/776561-114.stm>)
 - 2. The fact is, we aren’t talking about taking the mother out somewhere and drowning her in salt water, or cutting her up in little pieces and throwing the pieces away.

A. We're talking about killing that which has been conceived inside of her.

10. REASONS CONCLUSION:

A. Now that we have discussed all of the so-called "reasons" for abortion, let's ask ourselves a question.

1. "Why, then, are there well over a million abortions a year in the U.S.?"

A. I believe the answer is quite clear.

B. Abortion is being used to accommodate an immoral, money hungry world that has developed a new set of ethics to match its immorality.

1. "Most women do not want abortions because of their health or because of rape, incest, or fetal deformity. Statistical evidence obtained in the 1950s indicated that most women seeking abortion were married women who did not want a third, fourth, or fifth child. More recent statistics indicate that an increasing number of abortees are single white women between the ages of twenty and thirty. In New York, where there are no restrictions, the incidence of abortion among the unmarried is now over 50 percent.", "New York's liberal 'abortion on demand' law has been in operation since 1 July 1970. Reports of its first year reveal that 57 percent of the abortions were performed on women with a first pregnancy and 26 percent on women already having one or two children. It was therefore concluded that abortion is being used 'to prevent unwanted first pregnancies—which would accord with legitimacy data—or to limit family size, in line with a national trend toward smaller families.'" Human Sexuality: Contemporary Perspectives, p. 257.

2. "What was once a medical procedure to save life has become a tool in the hands of a \$700 million a year abortion-on-demand industry for financial profit." Associated Press News Release, June 15, 1983, as quoted in Abortion: Death Before Life, p. 2.

3. "There's triple profit to be had. The first is from the abortion . . . The second profit comes from the sale of aborted babies' bodies. The third profit is from unsuspecting customers buying cosmetics." 101 Uses For A Dead (Or Alive) Baby (<http://www.skepticfiles.org/mys2/deadbaby.htm>)

4. "Over 99% of all U.S. abortions have nothing to do with the life or health of the woman - they are done simply because of her desire for convenience, absence of distress, and her so-called happiness." Irvin P1. Cushner, M.D., M.P.H., testimony, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary (The Hatch Hearings), 97th Congress, First Session, 1983, p. 158., as quoted in Children, Things We Throw Away?

5. From this information, we can easily see that abortions are performed for socio-economic reasons.

A. Hanna Biologics - Alameda California - stated that the moment that the ability to deal in fetal tissue gets rolling they have a potential market in the U.S. of 3 billion dollars. Seven billion world-wide. Dr. Bernard Nathanson - 3-28-89 - Straight Talk, C.B.N. T.V.

11. ABORTION TECHNIQUES

A. With all of the previous information in mind, let's proceed to discuss the various ways of performing an induced abortion.

1. By using the term induced abortion I want to convey two ideas.

A. First, we are not speaking of the woman who has what is medically referred to as a miscarriage, which is the unavoidable aborting of the baby.

B. Secondly, I want to draw attention to the fact that we are speaking of abortions

- that are brought on by outside interference.
2. We will discuss each method used so that all will understand what is involved in the performing of an induced abortion.
- B. "What kind of induced abortions are there?
1. In the first week there are micro-abortions caused by 'contraceptive' drugs and devices. After implantation there are those induced by drugs such as RU 486, Methotrexate and prostaglandins.
 - A. In the first trimester there are surgical abortions like suction and D&C.
 - B. In the second and third trimesters there are instillation types, D&E, intracardiac injections and partial birth abortions.
- C. What are the first trimester surgical ones?
1. There are several types:
 - A. Menstrual extraction: This is a very early suction abortion, often done before the pregnancy test is positive.
 - B. Suction-aspiration: In this method, the abortionist must first paralyze the cervical muscle ring (womb opening) and then stretch it open. This is difficult because it is hard or 'green' and not ready to open. He then inserts a hollow plastic tube, which has a knife-like edge on the tip, into the uterus. The suction tears the baby's body into pieces. He then cuts the deeply rooted placenta from the inner wall of the uterus. The scraps are sucked out into a bottle. The suction is 29 times more powerful than a home vacuum cleaner.
 - C. Dilatation & Curettage (D&C): This is similar to the suction procedure except that the abortionist inserts a curette, a loop-shaped steel knife, up into the uterus. With this, he cuts the placenta and baby into pieces and scrapes them out into a basin. Bleeding is usually profuse.
- D. What are second trimester ones?
1. In the 1970s and '80s the most common type was saline amniocentesis, or salt poisoning abortions.
 - A. These are not used much anymore because of danger to the mother. These are done after the 16th week. A large needle is inserted through the abdominal wall of the mother and into the baby's amniotic sac. A concentrated salt solution is injected into the amniotic fluid. The baby breathes and swallows it, is poisoned, struggles, and sometimes convulses. It takes over an hour to kill the baby. When successful, the mother goes into labor about one day later and delivers a dead baby.
 - B. Is it actually poisoning?
 1. Yes. The mechanism of death is acute hypernatremia or acute salt poisoning, with development of wide-spread vasodilatation, edema, congestion, hemorrhage, shock, and death. Galen et al., Fetal Pathology and Mechanism of Death in Saline Abortion, Amer. Jour. of OB & GYN, 1974, vol. 120, pp. 347-355.
 2. And other methods?
 - A. In the '70s and '80s, prostaglandin drugs were used to induce violent premature labor and delivery. When used alone, there was: '. . . a large complication rate (42.6%) is associated with its use. Few risks in obstetrics are more certain than that which occurs to a pregnant woman undergoing abortion after the 14th week

of pregnancy.’ Duenhoelter & Grant, Complications Following Prostaglandin F-2 Alpha Induced Mid-trimester Abortion. Jour. of OB & GYN, Sept. 1975

- B. Because of these problems, the D&E or Dilatation & Evacuation method was developed and largely replaced the above. It involves the live dismemberment of the baby and piecemeal removal from below. A pliers-like instrument is used because the baby’s bones are calcified, as is the skull. There is no anesthetic for the baby. The abortionist inserts the instrument up into the uterus, seizes a leg or other part of the body and, with a twisting motion, and tears it from the baby’s body. This is repeated again and again. The spine must be snapped, and the skull crushed to remove them. The nurse’s job is to reassemble the body parts to be sure that all are removed.
- 3. Any new methods?
 - A. Yes, intracardiac injections. Since the advent of fertility drugs, multi-fetal pregnancies have become common. ‘The frequency of triplet and higher pregnancies . . . has increased 200% since the early 1970s.’
 - B. Since these are usually born prematurely and some have other problems, a new method has been developed. Assisted Repro. Techniques..., L. Wilcox, Fertl. & Sterility, vol. 65, #2, Feb. ’96, p. 361.
 - 1. At about 4 months a needle is inserted through the mother’s abdomen, into the chest and heart of one of the fetal babies and a poison injected to kill him or her. This ‘is pregnancy reduction.’ It is done to reduce the number or to kill a handicapped baby, if such is identified. If successful, the dead baby’s body is absorbed.
 - 2. Sometimes, however, this method results in the loss of all of the babies.
- 4. Are there 3rd trimester abortions?
 - 1. A more recently developed method here is the partial birth abortion, also called ‘brain suction’ or ‘D&X’ methods.
 - A. These are done after 4 or 5 months.
 - B. 80% of babies are normal.
 - C. Most babies are viable.
 - D. This is like a breech delivery. The entire infant is delivered except the head. A scissors is jammed into the base of the skull. A tube is inserted into the skull, and the brain is sucked out. The now-dead infant is pulled out.”
([http://www.abortionfacts.com/online_books/love_them_both/why_cant_we_love_them_both_18.asp#What are the first trimester surgical ones?](http://www.abortionfacts.com/online_books/love_them_both/why_cant_we_love_them_both_18.asp#What%20are%20the%20first%20trimester%20surgical%20ones%3F))
- E. Now that we have discussed the various methods of abortion let’s conclude this part with these final thoughts.
 - 1. Whichever method of abortion is used, it is extremely cruel to the baby.
 - A. The Book “In Necessity and Sorrow: Life and Death in an Abortion Hospital” describes the author’s view of an aborted baby. The face, the author says, showed “the agonized tautness of one forced to die too soon.”

12. WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN?

- A. The major argument relative to abortion is when life actually begins.
 - 1. “My opinion is that the fetus is not a living soul until it has the breath of life.” As I See Sex through the Bible, Robert L. Pettus, Jr. M.D., p. 138.

- A. By the way, I found the following quite revealing, “THIS BOOK is the outgrowth of a series of lessons that I gave first to my Sunday Morning Bible Class at the Madison Church of Christ. The lessons were so well received I was asked to give them again on Wednesday nights. The attendance at the Wednesday classes ranged close to 500 from teenagers through all ages. These lessons were taped and from these tapes came these edited and organized chapters. The reader should realize that by profession I am a physician. I do a family type of general practice in Madison, Tennessee, a suburb of Nashville. The thoughts of these lessons are mine and even though they were delivered at the Madison Church they are not necessarily endorsed by the leaders of the Madison Church. These lessons are not entirely the results of my experiences but are the results of my studies, extensive readings and the insight I have gained from counseling with my patients for the past twenty-three years.” Preface, *As I See Sex Through The Bible*.
- B. Basically, the argument revolves around two points concerning when life begins:
 1. At first breath.
 2. At conception.
- C. Many who say that life begins at the first breath claim that the fetus is just “so much garbage,” to be done with as they please.
 1. One researcher, who sliced open a live aborted fetus without anesthetic, so that its liver could be obtained, said, “. . . the baby was complete and ‘was even secreting urine.’ He disclaimed the need for anesthetic, saying an aborted baby is just garbage.” *101 Uses For A Dead (Or Alive) Baby*.
- D. Let’s give consideration to the evidence pointing to life beginning at conception.
 1. The original Hippocratic Oath stated, “I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from its conception.” *Abortion and Mercy Killing*, p. 142
 2. The original International Code of Medical Ethics stated, “A doctor must always bear in mind the importance of preserving human life from the time of conception until death.” *Abortion and Mercy Killing*, p. 43
 3. “. . . Biologically, at no stage can we subscribe to the view that the foetus (English spelling) is a mere appendage of the mother. Genetically, mother and baby are separate individuals from conception.” Dr. A.W. Liley, research professor of Fetal Physiology at the National Women’s Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand., as quoted in *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p. 3.
 4. In an early pamphlet prepared by Planned Parenthood the following quote was found, “An abortion kills the life of a baby after it has begun.” as quoted in *The Challenge To Be Pro Life*, p. 19.
 - A. Four years later Planned Parenthood changed the pamphlet.
 5. Columnist Nick Thimmesch in a newspaper article stated, “For me it (fetal surgery) also raises this question: If the unborn child is a patient, is it also then a person?” *Science Emerging Ally of the Pro-Life Movement*, *Detroit New*, April 7, 1983, as quoted in *Abortion: Death Before Life?*, p. 2.
 6. “Exactly as the introduction of a minicassette inside a tape recorder will allow the restitution of the symphony, the new being begins to express himself as soon as he has been conceived.”, Dr. Jerome Lejeune, internationally known geneticist, as quoted in *When Does Human Life Begin?*, p. 1.
- E. Scientific facts that will help us to see when life begins.

1. The events of the first week:
 - A. The fertilized egg enters the womb of the mother.
 1. A new life, so small that it could not be seen with the naked eye, has begun.
 2. According to Roberts Pugh, Ph. D and Landrum B. Shettles, Ph.D., M.D., in the book *From Conception to Birth; the drama of life's beginning*, pp. 2-7, "Within six to twelve hours after conception and the exchange of genetic information, the zygote begins the process of cell division or growth."
 - B. Immediately upon fertilization, cellular development begins. Before implantation the sex of the new life can be determined. At implantation, the new life is composed of hundreds of cells and has developed a protective hormone to prevent the mother's body from rejecting it as a foreign tissue.
2. The events of the second week:
 - A. It is during this period of time the embryo (called so as it has reached the uterus) suppresses it's mothers menstrual cycle and begins to develop his (or her) own life support system.
 - B. It develops its own space capsule (the amniotic sac) and its own lifeline (the umbilical cord).
 - C. It also develops its own root system (the placenta).
 - D. All of these belong to the child, not to the mother.
 1. All being developed from the original fertilized ovum.
3. The events of the third week:
 - A. By the time the baby is 18 to 25 days old the following events transpire:
 1. Eyes are forming.
 2. The spinal cord, brain, lungs, stomach, liver, and kidneys are present.
 3. The heart begins to pump.
 - B. All of this has happened prior to, in many cases, the mother even knowing she is pregnant.
4. The events of the fourth week:
 - A. The head is formed.
 - B. The backbone is complete.
 - C. The spinal cord is closed.
 - D. Arms and legs forming.
 - E. 40 pairs of muscles are developed along the trunk of the new life.
5. The events of the fifth week:
 - A. The chest and abdomen are formed and separated.
 - B. Eyes have retina and lens.
 - C. Ears forming.
 - D. The arms and legs have fingers and toes.
 - E. Regular blood flow within the vascular system has begun.
 - F. The ears and nasal development have begun.
6. The events of the sixth to eighth week:
 - A. At this point, the baby now is referred to, medically, as a fetus.
 1. It is interesting to note that the word "fetus" comes from the Latin word meaning "offspring."
 - B. All organs are present.
 - C. The head is complete.

- D. Face, mouth and tongue are formed.
 - E. The brain is complete.
 - F. At this stage the baby responds to tickling.
 - G. The heart energy output is reported to be almost 20% of an adult.
 - H. At 42 days, the skeleton is complete and the reflexes are present.
 - I. At 43 days, electrical brain wave patterns can be recorded.
 - 1. This is usually ample evidence that “thinking” is taking place in the brain.
 - 2. The new life may be thought of as a thinking person.
 - 3. “The President’s Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research, established by Congress in 1978, has endorsed the concept that human life ends when the brain stops functioning.”
 - J. At 56 days all organs functioning - stomach, liver, kidney, brain - all systems intact.
 - K. All future development of new life is simply that of refinement and increase in size until maturity at approximately age 23 years.
7. The events of the ninth to tenth week:
- A. At this stage “95% of the known structures, features and organs, from tiny nerves to fingers and muscles are in place. The thyroid and adrenal glands are functioning. The baby can squint, swallow and move his tongue, and the sex hormones are already present.” Abortion: Death Before Life?, p. 2.
 - B. Electrocardiogram Readings can be taken.
 - C. The baby squints, swallows, and retracts tongue.
8. The events of the 11th and 12th weeks:
- A. All body systems are working.
 - B. The nerves and muscles synchronized.
 - C. Arms and legs move.
 - D. The baby sucks its thumb.
 - E. It inhales and exhales amniotic fluid.
 - F. Nails begin to appear.
 - G. The baby weighs approximately one ounce.
 - H. It is also important to know that at this stage the baby can feel pain.
9. Events of the fourth month:
- A. The baby is from 8 to 10 inches in height.
 - B. It begins a growth spurt so rapid, that if continued, it would weigh 14 tons at birth.
 - C. Genital organs clearly differentiated.
 - D. The baby grasps with hands.
 - E. Swims, kicks and turns somersaults, still not felt by mother.
10. Events of the fifth month:
- A. The mother feels the baby’s movements.
 - B. This is a time of lengthening and strengthening.
 - C. Skin, hair, and nails are growing.
 - 1. Fine hair begins to grow on the head.
 - 2. Eyebrows and eyelashes appear.
 - D. Sweat glands arise and oil glands excrete.

- E. The baby can cry.
- 11. Events of the sixth month:
 - A. The baby responds to light and sound.
 - 1. It can hear its mother's heartbeat and recognize her voice.
 - B. It can sleep and wake.
 - C. It can hiccup.
 - D. It can even learn.
 - 1. Researchers have discovered that the baby at this point leads an active emotional life that helps shape attitudes and expectations about himself.
 - E. At this point survival outside the womb is possible.
 - 1. This is what people are talking about when they speak of the point of viability.
- 12. Events of the seventh month:
 - A. During this stage of development the nervous system is much more complex.
 - B. At this point there is substantial cerebral functioning of pain perception.
 - 1. If a child is delivered at this point it will shed tears and cry.
 - C. Recent neurological studies have proven that consciousness exists in utero beginning in the seventh month.
 - 1. Between the 28th and 32nd week of development, the brain's neural circuits are just advanced as the newborns.
 - 2. The child, at this point, retains memories.
- 13. Events of the eighth and ninth months:
 - A. This is a time of fattening and continued growth.
 - 1. The baby gains up to seven pounds or more.
 - 2. It grows to about 20 inches.
- 14. Events of birth:
 - A. The onset of labor is a unilateral decision of the child.
 - B. 41 of the 45 generations of cell division needed to grow from zygote to adulthood have occurred.
 - 1. The final four will occur during childhood and adolescence.
- 15. Some information taken from - Diary Of An Unborn Child
(<http://www.priestsforlife.org/diary.html>)
- F. To conclude this point, which I hope has impressed upon you that the baby is indeed a baby; I quote Dr. Bernard Nathanson, one-time head of the largest abortion clinic in N.Y. "After certain medical technology he had decided that the embryo was one of us." Phil Donahue Show, December 3, 1979.
 - 1. If you disagree, suppose you are right and he is wrong, what have you lost?
 - 2. Suppose he is right, and you are wrong, what have you lost?
- G. Song - What Was I Supposed To Be?
 - 1. "When Jesus walked upon the earth on the shores of Galilee he said to his disciples, 'Let the little children come to me.' I wonder if up in heaven do you suppose we'll see little children asking, 'What was I supposed to be?'
What was I supposed to be? What were my eyes supposed to see? Why did I taste of death before I even drew a breath? Lay my head at my mother's breast to see, oh Jesus, what was I supposed to be.
What was I supposed to be? What were my eyes supposed to see? Why did I taste of death before I even drew a breath? Lay my head at my mother's breast

to see, oh Jesus, what was I supposed to be?

Was I to be a prophet used in the ministry? A doctor who would find a cure for some terrible disease? Even if I'd been born imperfect why couldn't my body see I'd of been made perfect when you came back for me.

Oh Jesus, what was I supposed to be? Were my eyes supposed to see? Why did I taste of death before I even drew a breath? Lay my head at my mother's breast to see oh Jesus what was I supposed to be?

Jesus, what was I supposed to be?"

13. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ON THE SUBJECT

- A. The Bible does not specifically mention abortion by name in either testament.
 - 1. But there are numerous principles that speak of this crisis.
- B. Note some scriptures that the Pro-Abortionist uses to "prove" that God sanctions abortion.
 - 1. Exodus 21:22 - 25
 - A. The pro-abortionist's position is that this is speaking of an abortion.
 - B. To see what is actually under consideration here, we are especially concerned with verse 22, and the necessity of the pro-abortionist to prove the following:
 - 1. They must prove the text is speaking of abortion rather than a miscarriage, which they cannot prove.
 - A. "Exodus 21:23-25 was not a prescription against the intentional, deliberate act of abortion, which was likely no problem in the Jewish community at the time." Jack P. Lewis, p. 75, Abortion and Mercy Killing.
 - B. "A chance hurt is clearly intended." Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 1, p. 169.
 - 2. They must prove the phrase "... and yet no mischief follow ..." is speaking only of the mother.
 - A. Actually the text is speaking of a spontaneous abortion, otherwise known as a miscarriage, and not an induced abortion, making it a totally irrelevant argument.
 - 2. Genesis 2:7
 - A. The pro-abortionist's position on this passage is that life began at the time God breathed into Adam's nostrils the "breath of life."
 - B. To see the error of this argument we should understand that the circumstances are somewhat different in Genesis 2:7 than in any other case.
 - 1. Adam was created - not born.
 - 2. He was, therefore, a complete adult human before God breathed into his nostrils.
 - C. This is not to say that breath is unimportant, but to ask if this a true parallel?
 - 1. And, of course, the answer is no.
 - C. Let's look at some other scriptures which help us to see when life actually begins.
 - 1. Genesis 25:22
 - A. Notice the word "children" used here, in relation to when God viewed them as such.
 - 2. Job 3:11
 - A. How could Job of given up the spirit if he did not have one?
 - 3. Job 10:18, 19
 - A. Again, how could Job of given up the spirit if he didn't have one.

- B. You say, “Oh he had a spirit, but he wasn’t alive.”
 - 1. James 2:26
- 4. Proverbs 6:16, 17
- 5. Jeremiah 1:5
 - A. Jeremiah came out of the womb.
 - B. He didn’t become Jeremiah after coming from the womb.
- 6. Luke 1:41 - 44
 - A. In the New Testament the Greek word “Brephos” is used to identify a human infant, either born or unborn.
 - B. “An unborn child, embryo, fetus.” Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon.
 - 1. This is the sense that it is used in Luke 1:41, 44
- 7. Luke 2:12, 16
 - A. Thayer says that “Brephos” also means, “a new-born child, an infant, a babe.”
 - 1. Used thusly in Luke 18:15; Acts 7:19; 1 Peter 2:2.
 - B. When John the Baptist leaped in the womb of Elisabeth, he was alive; his soul was in his body - Luke 1:41, 44.
 - 1. The reason for this is simple, a body without the spirit is dead (James 2:26), and dead bodies don’t leap.

14. OUR RESPONSE

- A. Briefly, then, what should be our response to this problem, and what can we do to help against it?
 - 1. As to our response it should be as God’s - Proverbs 6:16, 17.
 - 2. As to what we can do let me list ten things:
 - A. Repent of our own apathy and sin.
 - B. Pray for our nation, the church, and the pro life movement.
 - C. Counsel people with Scripture as to the truth.
 - D. Believe that we can win this battle.
 - E. Provide an alternative - support prolife organizations with your time, talent, and treasure.
 - F. Take a stand - get off the fence on this issue.
 - G. Vote for prolife political candidates.
 - H. Communicate your views to elected officials.
 - I. Be non-violent in your stand.
 - J. Stand with the courage of conviction.

THE CHRISTIAN AND ALCOHOL

Galatians 5:19-21

INTRODUCTION:

1. I would like to begin our lesson on The Christian and Alcohol by reading the 23rd Psalm.
 - A. Not the one found in the Bible, but the Devil's 23rd Psalm.
 1. I believe it a good description of our subject.
 - A. "King Liquor is my shepherd, I shall always want. He maketh me to lie down in the gutters. He leadeth me beside the troubled waters. He destroyeth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of wickedness for the effort's sake. Yea, I shall walk through the valley of poverty and will fear all evil for thou, alcohol, art with me. Thy bottle and can try to comfort me. Thou strippest the table of groceries in the presence of my family. Thou robbest my head of reason. My cup of sorrow runneth over. Surely alcoholism shall stalk me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the damned forever."
2. Today, America is one of the "drinkingest" nations in the world.
 - A. The problem with alcohol consumption, and alcoholism, is of major proportion as we will see.
3. As Christians we need to be vitally concerned about this issue as it relates to us, our children, and the church.
 - A. Let me say in the very beginning of our lesson that the only defendable Christian position is that of total abstinence from alcoholic beverages.
 1. This may be considered "backward thinking," but it's Biblical.
 - A. And I would rather be "backward" and right than "modern" and wrong any day.
4. I would like for us to consider our subject from various aspects.
 - A. Statistically
 - B. Medically
 - C. Objections to total abstinence from the Bible.
 - D. Biblically

BODY:

1. STATISTICALLY

- A. In the U.S. there are between 95 and 100 million persons above the age of 21 that use alcoholic beverages.
 1. 8 out of 10 men over the age 21 drink at least occasionally.
 2. 6 out of 10 women of the same age group drink occasionally.
 3. This figures out to 75% of our population that drink from occasionally to being alcoholics.
- B. Of that number, between 9 and 10 million are alcoholics (some form of it).
 1. For each of these 9 to 10 million people directly affected there is an additional four people who are affected in other ways.
 2. This means that between 45 and 50 million Americans are adversely affected by alcoholism.
 3. 95 to 97% of all alcoholics are "ordinary" people.
 - A. Only 3 to 5% are "skid row bums" or "winos."
 4. For every alcoholic there is at least one "problem drinker."

- A. For every “problem drinker” there are several who are indirectly affected.
- 5. Alcoholics are increasing at the rate of 50,000 per year.
- C. Crime is adversely affected by alcohol consumption drastically.
 - 1. 70% of all homicides are alcohol related.
 - 2. 55 to 80% of all crimes are alcohol related.
- D. Accidents - approximate percentages:
 - 1. 53% of all fire deaths are alcohol related.
 - 2. 45% of all drowning accidents are alcohol related.
 - 3. 22% of all home accidents are alcohol related.
 - 4. 77% of all falls are alcohol related.
 - 5. 36% of all pedestrian accidents are alcohol related.
 - 6. 44% of all aircraft crashes are alcohol related.
 - 7. 50% of all automobile deaths are alcohol related.
 - A. There are more than 24,000 deaths in alcohol-related traffic accidents every year in the US.
 - B. This is more deaths yearly than those caused by AIDS or homicide.
 - C. A fully loaded 747 jet would have to crash every week to create a similar figure for air disasters.

3. MEDICALLY:

- A. Alcohol consumption is the source of numerous medical and psychological problems.
 - 1. Let me say in the very beginning of this point that alcoholism is not a disease.
 - A. It is the cause of numerous illnesses and deaths.
 - B. It, per se, is not a disease but, rather, a sin that needs to be dealt with.
 - 1. A promotion dated October 4, 1989 said, “Everyone should remember that alcoholism and drug abuse are diseases, not a matter of will power or good or bad.”
 - 2. If alcoholism is a disease, then it . . .
 - A. It is the only disease contracted by an act of will.
 - B. It is the only disease that is habit forming.
 - C. It is the only disease that comes in a bottle.
 - D. It is the only disease promoting crime and brutality.
 - E. It is the only disease contributing to hundreds of thousands of automobile accidents.
 - F. It is the only disease playing a major part in 50% of the more than 50,000 annual highway deaths.
 - G. It is the only disease which is sold by license.
 - H. It is the only disease that is bought in grocery stores, drug stores, and well-marked retail outlets.
 - I. It is the only disease that is taxed by the government.
 - J. It is the only disease that is necessary for medical doctors to fellowship one with another.
 - K. It is the only disease in which medical support for the disease outweighs any effort to prevent it.
 - L. It is the only disease given as Christmas gifts.
 - M. It is the only disease that has been “legalized” for sale on Sunday by our legislators.

- B. Alcohol consumption is third in relation to medical problems.
 - 1. Only cancer and heart attacks out number medical problems caused by alcohol.
 - 2. Many of these are directly related to alcohol consumption.
 - 3. The former Surgeon General, Dr. Parran, stated, “. . . poisoning from (alcohol) causes more deaths than from all our most infectious diseases.” The Bible, The Saint And The Liquor Industry, p. 30.
 - 4. Dr. Karl Menninger said that alcohol constitutes the country’s largest mental health problem.
 - 5. Most of 30,000 who die annually from cirrhosis of the liver do so due to alcohol.
 - 6. Over 11,000 annual deaths from alcoholic psychosis.
 - B. Medically and psychologically speaking alcohol consumption is very dangerous to ones health.
 - 1. As many as 10,000 brain cells are destroyed at a time.
 - A. Most people who drink can’t afford this.
 - 2. Dr. Charles Mayo, one of the founders of the Mayo Clinic, stated, “You can get along with a wooden leg, but you can’t get along with a wooden head. It is the brain that counts. But in order that your brain may be kept clear, you must keep your body fit and well. That cannot be done if one drinks liquor.”
 - C. Alcohol consumption is one of the top four causes of frequent family crises.
 - 1. A Superior Court Judge in Chicago said, “Seventy-five percent of all divorce cases I have heard resulted from alcohol.”
 - 2. 90% of the children placed in children’s homes are from homes broken either directly or indirectly by alcohol.
 - D. Teenage Abuse:
 - 1. Alcohol is the #1 problem among teenagers today.
 - 2. More than a half a million teenagers are alcoholics.
 - 3. One of the tragedies of all this is, a great number of teenagers drink because their parents do so, or are apathetic concerning their children drinking.
 - A. Parents sometimes sigh a sigh of relieve when told their teenagers are alcoholics and not heroin addicts.
 - B. If you’re one of those parents let me tell you something.
 - 1. More teenagers die annually from alcohol related accidents than from all the other drugs put together.
 - 2. If your child dies from an accident caused by alcohol he’s just as dead as if it had been caused by crack.
 - 4. As shocking as it seems, one of the major sources of alcohol for youth today is from their parents.
 - A. Some parents are so foolish they even buy their kids booze.
 - 1. You say I shouldn’t say “foolish.”
 - 2. What other adjective should I use?
 - A. Kind? Loving? Intelligent? Christian?
- 4. SCRIPTURES USED TO SUPPORT “SOCIAL DRINKING”**
- A. John 2:1-11 (esp. 10)
 - 1. Of this passage a Catholic priest said, “Jesus was the bartender for the wedding feast in Cana.”
 - A. Don’t look so shocked - everyone who says that Jesus made and distributed it is

saying exactly the same thing.

1. They just don't have the courage to say it like this guy.
2. There are a few things you need to consider if you believe that Jesus turned the water into alcoholic beverage.
 - A. First, the text doesn't say that the wine was of alcoholic content.
 1. The word wine in this text is "oinos," which means wine or grape juice.
 2. As a matter of fact, the Old Testament equivalent of this word refers to "wine" while it is still in the grape - Isaiah 65:8.
 3. Someone says, "Well, doesn't verse 10 indicate alcoholic content?"
 - A. No
 - B. All it says is that which Jesus made tasted better than what was first set out.
 1. The phrase "well drunk" doesn't necessarily indicate drunkenness.
 2. All it indicates is that consumption deadens the taste after large amounts are consumed.
 - A. Most all would agree that the first usually tastes better than the last.
 - B. Secondly, the amount of "wine" made needs to be considered carefully.
 1. Read verse 6
 2. Note that there are six water pots.
 3. Each holding between two and three firkins.
 - A. A firkin equals to approximately nine gallons.
 4. Simple arithmetic would say that Jesus turned a great deal of water into wine.
 - A. $6 \times 2 = 12$ firkins \times 9 gallons = 108 gallons.
 - B. $6 \times 3 = 18$ firkins \times 9 gallons = 162 gallons.
 5. So what you end up with, is a God who condemns drunkenness encouraging it by the quantity of "booze" He's made under this idea.
 3. Another says, "You really don't believe that at a big wedding feast they drank grape juice instead of fermented wine, do you?"
 - A. I can just as easily believe that as I can a wedding feast today where only coffee, tea, and soda is served.

B. 1 Timothy 5:23

 1. Someone says, "Don't you know that Paul told Timothy to drink a little alcoholic wine for his stomach's sake?"
 - A. I must confess, I don't know that.
 1. And neither do you.
 - B. But even if it were true, all it would prove is the right of medicinal use of wine during Biblical times.
 1. Nothing at all is said about social usage.
 2. Medical technology has so changed that it invalidates the argument from a medical point today.
 2. One thing that should be kept in mind is that we do not know whether Paul spoke of fermented or unfermented wine in 1 Timothy 5:23.
 - A. It can't be proven one way or the other from the text.
 3. What Paul was telling Timothy was to stop drinking water only, and use a little "wine" for his infirmities.

- A. During ancient (and present) time grape juice was (is) used for stomach ailment.
 1. Write Welch's Grape Juice offices and ask them about it.
 - A. Here is what their web site says, "Many of you may have heard of the French Paradox - a term given to describe the unexpected findings that the French have healthy hearts despite their high fat diets. Studies suggest that this finding may be due, at least in part, to the higher consumption of red wine in that country.
It is widely thought that the grape flavonoids are providing much of the heart-health benefits. The deep red grapes used to make red wine and the deep purple Concord grapes that are used to make Welch's Grape Juice contain many of the same flavonoids and several studies have shown similar cardioprotective benefits from red wine and Concord grape juice."
<http://www.staging.welchs.com/healthy/heart-health-more.html>
 2. Read some of the current books on "natural" medicines, and the use of grape juice.
 3. I have an article from NYtimes.com entitled The Claim: Grape Juice Has the Same Benefits as Red Wine where it states, "the substances believed to provide much of red wine's heart benefits - resveratrol and flavonoids - are also found in grape juice, especially the variety made from red and dark purple Concord grapes."
 4. Dr. Howard A Kelly, a surgeon at John Hopkins University, said, "There is no disease in the world for which alcohol is a cure."
 4. Recognizing the fact that Paul was instructing Timothy to do that which would help him medically, consuming alcohol would not accomplish this desire.
- C. 1 Timothy 3:8 - Titus 2:3
1. The argument goes that the aged women and deacons were to be "not given to much wine," which, therefore, gives approval for a "little wine."
 - A. Therefore, Biblical proof for consumption in moderation.
 2. Let's examine a point or two and see if we draw that conclusion.
 - A. First, there are only two classes of people mentioned - the aged women and deacons.
 1. If you're not one or the other, and if these passages imply what some claim, then these two groups, and only these two groups, have such authority.
 - A. It doesn't do the "social drinking Christian" a bit of good to appeal to these scriptures.
 - B. Secondly, we should understand that the emphasis should be on the word "given" instead of "much."
 1. In 1 Timothy 3:8 the word "given" is a Greek compound word meaning "to hold toward."
 2. In Titus 2:3 the word "given" is the verb form of the Greek word for slave.
 - A. So what you end up with is a prohibition against addiction to wine.
 - C. Thirdly, the logic is all wrong in trying to make the passage say this.
 1. "... not greedy of filthy lucre." - 1 Timothy 3:8.
 2. To apply the same "logic" to this part of the passage as the "logic" used on the other part reaches an interesting conclusion.
 - A. The deacon should not be "greedy of filthy lucre" (i.e. dishonest money).

B. But it says nothing at all about being “greedy” of non-filthy gain so, therefore, the deacons have Biblical approval to be greedy?

1. Right?

2. Wrong! Just like they don’t have Biblical approval of consumption of alcohol on a moderate basis from this scripture.

D. Luke 5:37, 38 (Matthew 9:17; Mark 2:22)

1. The argument here, although it misses the entire meaning and purpose of the story, is the unfermented wine is placed in the new wine skins so when fermentation happens the skins would not burst.

A. This sounds all well and good except for one thing, its wrong being based upon a faulty premise.

B. That premise being that grape juice ferments naturally, therefore turning into alcoholic beverage.

2. The wine put into the new wineskins was put there to prevent it from being corrupted or spoiled.

A. It was not put there to allow room for fermentation.

B. You do not make wine by simply putting grape juice in a bag and let it take its course.

3. But, for the sake of argument, let’s say that the idea was to put the juice in the wineskin so when it naturally fermented, and expanded, it would not be lost.

A. What have you proven, concerning what you must prove, about God approving the consumption of alcoholic beverage?

1. Absolutely nothing!

B. Many things are used as illustrations which are not approved of by God.

1. Olympic games - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Hebrews 12:1.

2. Murder - Colossians 3:5.

4. This way of understanding better suits the illustration that Jesus was using than saying that the wine was placed in new wineskins to allow room for fermentation.

A. The new teachings of Jesus should not be placed in the old container of Judaism, which would corrupt Jesus’ teachings, just as the dregs of an old skin container would corrupt the fresh juice.

5. ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

A. “Since people drank alcoholic beverage during Biblical times it must be okay, right?”

1. Wrong!

2. People committed murder, rape, stole, etc., etc., etc., during Biblical times.

A. Would you suggest these things were right?

B. “During Biblical times it was impossible to keep the grapes from fermenting, so the people had to drink fermented wine or nothing, right?”

1. Once again, wrong.

2. People could just as easily, during Biblical times, keep fresh grapes on hand as they can now without the use of refrigeration.

6. WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT

A. Drunkenness is wrong.

1. Most Christians would not argue against this.

A. Yet these same people would argue for the “right” to moderately drink.

2. According to the Bible, there are several effects of drunkenness.

- A. It weakens restraint against sin - Genesis 9:20, 21; 19:32-35.
 - 1. "Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker."
 - B. It increases lustful thinking - Proverbs 23:33.
 - C. It destroys sound judgment - Leviticus 10:9, 10.
 - 1. Tests show that 3 ounces of alcohol measured 30 to 60 minutes after ingestion impairs judgment by 20%.
 - 2. One Beer Company fired a driver for drinking a beer at lunch.
 - D. It is a source of unrighteousness, and unrighteousness is condemned - Galatians 5:19-21.
3. The question always comes up, "When is one drunk?"
- A. Physical actions are frequently a dead give-away.
 - 1. Staggering, stupor, red eyes, etc.
 - B. The mental condition is also a significant factor.
 - 1. "The consumption of even small amounts causes a loss of judgment, of memory and of the ability to perform tasks which require marked concentration of mental efforts." Encyclopedia Americana
 - 2. "The cerebral cortex is the most sensitive portion of the brain having to do with its highest possible function. It is in this area of the brain that relative values are compared, thus enabling the individual to make decisions. It is the first portion of the brain to be affected by alcohol." Drug Addiction, World Health Organization.
 - C. Visual impairment comes after one drink.
 - 1. "A study involving a chest-thumping gorilla comes with a serious message: People who think they can handle just one drink after work and still drive home safely may want to think again." HealthDay article, June 30, 2006, <http://www.swedish.org/130948.cfm>
 - D. Let me make the following suggestions:
 - 1. Sober is the absolute opposite of drunk.
 - A. If one is 100% sober, then he's not drunk.
 - 2. If 5 drinks makes that person drunk:
 - A. Then one drink makes him 1/5 drunk (if not, why not?).
 - B. Two drinks makes him 2/5 drunk (if not, why not?).
 - C. Three drinks makes him 3/5 drunk (if not, why not?).
 - D. Four drinks makes him 4/5 drunk (if not, why not?)
 - E. 5 drinks makes him drunk.
 - B. Strong drink is condemned by the Bible, and the Christian will heed these verses - Proverbs 20:1; Isaiah 5:11; Habakkuk 2:15, 16; Galatians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 6:10.
- 7. THE "SACRED COW" OF SOCIAL DRINKING**
- A. Social drinking is contrary to numerous Biblical teachings.
 - A. It damages influence - Romans 14:21.
 - B. It is incompatible with Christian leadership - 1 Timothy 3:3, 8.
 - C. It is not the kind of life that commands respect of others - 1 Timothy 4:12.
 - D. It is a deliberate abuse of the Spirit's temple - 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

THE CHRISTIAN AND DANCE

Galatians 5:19-21

INTRODUCTION:

1. I am sure that as I present our lesson at this time, along with some of the others lessons in this series on the Christian and . . . some will not like what I have to say.
 - A. Normally, when a preacher stands in the pulpit and condemns popular sins, some will not like what is said.
2. The majority of the world desires that we preach against sin, so long as it is not one of theirs.
 - A. To begin with, I am not ashamed or apologetic for standing against popular sins while taking a stand for the truth.
3. Among the many problems facing the Christian today, and especially young Christians, is what should be their attitude toward the modern dance?
 1. Satan says, "The dance is a way to have fun; there is no harm in it."
 - A. But, do we think he would tell us it is wrong?
4. In this lesson, I want us to consider the Christian and Dance.

BODY:

1. DANCE IN THE BIBLE

- A. Dances of public rejoicing - Exodus 15:20, 21; Judges 11:34; 21:20, 21; 1 Samuel 18:6; 2 Samuel 6:12-16.
 1. These dances were not regularly established practices, but occurred due to extraordinary occasions.
 - A. I am told that they were performed in open daylight; by men or women, each dancing separately; never for amusement.
 2. Even with this in mind, those dances were not performed by Christ.
- B. Dances of worship - Psalms 150:4.
 1. Here we read of dances that were a part of the worship in the Old Testament era.
 2. Such dances are not found in the New Testament - Luke 24:44.
 - A. Even though these religious dances are to be found, none would be so foolish to classify the modern dance as a religious dance!
- C. Lustful dance - Exodus 32:19, 20; Mark 6:18-26.
 1. It seems that no matter how you look at it, the modern dance is comparable to these lustful dances.
 2. The I.S.B.E., Vol. 2, p. 1170 states, "Of the social dancing of couples in the modern fashion there is no trace."

2. EVILS OF DANCING

- A. Dancing is "revelling," and "revelling" will keep people out of heaven - Galatians 5:19-21.
 1. Before you say I don't know what I'm talking about, let me prove that I do indeed know what I'm speaking of.
 - A. Modern Dictionaries:
 1. Webster's Third New International Dictionary, page 1942, says: "merrymaking, revelry, carousal."
 2. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, page 725, says; "to be festive in a riotous or noisy manner; merrymaking; carousing; conviviality."

3. The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary says the same, but adds “with dancing.”
4. So does The Twentieth Century Dictionary and The Century Dictionary.
- B. Greek reference books translating the word “komos.”
 1. Liddell & Scott’s Greek-English Lexicon, Abridged, page 402, says of komos: “a revel, carousal, merrymaking, with music and dancing; it ended in the party parading the streets with crowned heads, and with torches, singing and dancing . . .”
 2. Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament, page 367, adds this thought; “. . . of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry.”
 3. Arndt and Gingrich in A Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament And Other Early Christian Literature, on page 462, says the word komos means: “Originally a festal procession in honor of Dionysus, then a joyous meal or banquet, in the New Testament only in a bad sense excessive feasting, . . . carousing, revelry . . . Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21.”
 4. Vincent’s Word Studies in the New Testament, Vol. 1, p. 660, “The word originally signifies merely a merry-making; most probably a village festival . . . In the cities such entertainments grew into carouses, in which the party of revelers paraded the street with torches, singing, dancing, and all kinds of frolics.”
 5. Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, p. 367, “a nocturnal and riotous procession of half-drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the street with torches and music . . . hence used generally, of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry.”
2. Dancing is “lasciviousness,” and this will keep people out of heaven.
 - A. Modern dictionaries:
 1. Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, page 1274, says that it means “lewd, lustful, tending to arouse sexual desire.”
 - B. Greek reference books translating the word “aselgeia”:
 1. Abbott-Smith’s Manual Greek Lexicon Of The New Testament, page 63, states, “licentiousness, wantonness, excess.”
 2. Liddell & Scott’s Greek-English Lexicon, Abridged, page 107, lists it as “licentiousness.”
 3. Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament, pages 79-80, says it means, “unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence, . . .”
 4. Arndt and Gingrich in A Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament And Other Early Christian Literature, p. 114, says, “. . . licentiousness, debauchery, sensuality . . . give oneself over to debauchery . . . live licentiously . . . pervert favor into licentiousness . . . follow the inclination to sensuality. Especially of sexual excess. Romans 13:13; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19.”
3. A survey was conducted with 1500 men who were asked to raise their hands if they could dance without evil thoughts.

- A. Not a hand was raised!
 - 4. If some were to find their wife, husband, girlfriend or boyfriend in the embrace of another without musical accompaniment (as they are in the dance) they would likely be inclined to kill.
 - A. As a matter of fact some have taken the life of their mate, or others, even though there was musical accompaniment.
 - 1. I have in my files an article referring a young man by the name of Jimmie Rogers who shot and killed Jim Moore, as he danced with Rogers' girlfriend, due to the sexual nature of the dance they were performing.
 - B. No matter how we look at it, the fruits of dancing are evil - Matthew 7:16, 17.
 - 1. Evil companions, obscene language, drinking, drugs, petting, adultery and divorce are closely related to the dance floor.
 - 2. Dancing destroys morals.
 - C. Testimonial Evidence.
 - 1. In Los Angeles, California, a matron for fallen women stated that, "Seven-tenths of the girls received here have fallen through dancing and its influence", Popular Amusements, by Sinks, page 63, as quoted by J. T. Marlin.
 - 2. "The head of a home or fallen girls in Geneva said that 80% of the girls received traced their downfall to the dance", Christian Worker, 1940, page 3, as quoted by Cecil N. Wright.
 - 3. "A Professor who is a converted dancing instructor, stated that out of 200 prostitute inmates in a prison, whom he visited and personally interviewed, 163 of them pointed to the dance as the cause of their shameful condition", quoted from John McRay in sermon 'What About Dancing?'"
 - 4. "The Chicago Vice Commission, . . . talked to 300 prostitute girls in Chicago and asked, 'What led you wrong, what led you to become such a sinner, what led you to become what you are today, a scarlet woman?' Eighty-five per cent of them (that would be all of the three hundred except forty-five) said, 'My first step wrong was caused by the modern dance.'" (John R. Rice, What's Wrong With The Dance?, pages 32, 33).
 - 5. J. Edgar Hoover said, "Many a juvenile crime had its inception in the dance hall, either public or private."
 - D. Unless you are going to suggest that these fruits are good, then the modern dance is evil.
- 3. DANCING DESTROYS SPIRITUALITY**
- A. Someone has said that a dancing foot and a praying knee do not grow on the same leg; and I believe they're right!
 - B. Arguments for the dance.
 - 1. "I only go to chaperoned dances."
 - A. If something needs to be chaperoned doesn't that suggest a possibility of "foul play."
 - B. Chaperoning sin doesn't change its nature at all.
 - 2. "Dancing is good exercise, good for poise and grace."
 - A. If so girls dance with girls, boys with boys.
 - 1. Would soon find other means of "exercise, poise and grace."
 - 3. It is necessary for social popularity or acceptance.
 - A. That, even if true, would not make it right.

- B. The right kind of friends respects a Christian's refusal to engage in questionable things.
 - 1. A candidate for "Homecoming Queen" requested that her name be removed from list of candidates if she would be required to attend the homecoming dance.
 - A. She was not required to attend.

CONCLUSION: (Ask yourself these questions)

- 1. Can I dance with a clear conscience?
- 2. What kind of people will I be around?
- 3. Does it draw me nearer to God or farther from Him?

THE CHRISTIAN AND DRUG ABUSE

1 Corinthians 6:12, 19, 20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Let me begin by saying that I do not profess to be an expert in the field of drug abuse.
 - A. However I do have some material that I would like to share with you.
2. Often when a person discusses the subject of drug abuse someone will ask, "Have you tried these drugs, and if not, what right do you have to speak against them."
 - A. It is the "Don't knock it until you've tried it" idea.
3. However, this thinking is incorrect.
 - A. Doctors don't have to give birth to a child before they can advise.
 - B. Neither do they have to have faced a heart attack before giving advice on such.
4. Definition of Drug Abuse.
 - A. "Use of drugs for non-medical reasons in an attempt to influence the mind and body, an attempt to alter the emotions, to change the senses, to escape from reality."
 1. We are not discussing proper use of prescription drugs used to correct an imbalance of a person's body chemistry.
4. Drug abuse, even though not specifically mentioned in the Bible, is a problem that we as Christians need to be aware of.

BODY:

1. CAUSES OF DRUG ABUSE

- A. The National District Attorney's Association has listed seven causes for people turning to drugs and the abuse of them.
 1. We want to briefly examine each of them.
- B. The belief that medicine (drugs) can solve every problem.
 1. There seems to be a pill for every pain or problem.
 2. TV commercials convey the idea: "Can't sleep - take Sleep-eze; Sleepy - take No-Doze; Eat too well - take Digel"; and on and on it goes.
 3. This has led to abuse of such things as diet medications, etc.
- C. Dissatisfaction with the "Establishment."
 1. Those who do not like the way the home, school, government, etc. are run, rebel by abusing drugs.
 - A. Instead of offering constructive advice they get hooked on drugs.
 2. Parents should be teaching respect for authority - Ephesians 6:1-3.
- D. Risk discounting factor (Extreme pressures of modern society).
 1. College entrance exams; job applications; competition, etc.
 - A. The answer seems to be to take a pill.
 2. Parents need to be teaching their children to depend on Christ in difficult times - Philippians 4:13.
 - A. David faced Goliath "in the name of the Lord," not by the power of drugs - 1 Samuel 17:45.
- E. Desire for easy solutions, and escape from reality.
 1. It seems no one wants to pay the price.
 - A. But substance abuse will not solve the problem of facing reality.
 2. Parents need to teach their children to appreciate the value of suffering -

2 Corinthians 12:10; James 1:2-4.

F. Increasing permissiveness in homes.

1. Parents need to respect God and impress upon their children to respect Him.
2. There is also the need for proper discipline in the home today - Hebrews 12:9-11.

G. Peer pressure - 1 Corinthians 15:33.

1. Far too many are learning the “hard” way.

H. Music

1. Today, the music of the world encourages drug abuse.
 - A. Not only is Rock Music doing so but so is Country and Western music.
2. Many lyrics actually praise drug (including alcohol) abuse.
 - A. “Mothers Little Helper” and “Sister Morphine” by Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones
3. “An Associated Press poll revealed that 77 percent of the people surveyed believed that rock lyrics promote drug abuse.” Washington Post, 22 January 1986. Raising PG Kids in an X-Rated Society, p. 127.
4. Parents need to teach their children to think pure things - Philippians 4:8.

2. STATISTICS

A. If you believe that drugs are unavailable to you or your kids then you have been hiding your head in the sand.

1. A Purdue University study shows that 51% of all High school students polled as answering, “Yes, I’m sure. ” when asked, “If you had the desire for doing a drug right now, would you be able to get it?”
 - A. Another 20% said they, “probably could.”

B. Due to the fact that we have already discussed alcohol consumption, we will not go over the statistics associated with teenage abuse of alcohol.

1. Let it suffice to say that alcohol is the #1 abused drug for High School students.

C. At this point, I want us to take a quick look at how the drug scene is affecting our youth.

1. Based on Columbia University’s Center on Addiction’s findings, “the notion of drug-free high (and middle) schools is little more than wishful thinking. ‘This survey of teens and parents revealed the following: 80 percent of American high school students and 44 percent of middle school students have personally witnessed illegal drug use, illegal drug dealing, illegal drug possession, students drunk and/or students high on the grounds of their school.’”

<http://www.campusreportonline.net/main/articles.php?id=1907>

2. Approximately 60% of all High School students have tried marijuana.
3. Each year, 100,000 teens are treated for marijuana dependence.
4. 25% of 4th graders say they have been pressured into trying drugs or alcohol. (From the Weekly Reader).
5. Of the 14.6 million teenage marijuana users in 2002, approximately 4.8 million used it on 20 or more days in any given month (Kids and Marijuana).

D. Marijuana is considered as something other than a so-called “hard” drug.

1. One marijuana cigarette is equivalent to 112 tobacco cigarettes in lung damage.
2. 30 days after any dose of marijuana approximately 30% of that dosage will still be in the user’s body.
 - A. Clinically speaking, a regular marijuana user is stoned at all times.
3. Marijuana was introduced as an intoxicant in the U.S. in 1920.

4. Dr. Jack Arters, director of an early 1980's substance abuse workshop at Middle Tennessee State University termed marijuana a 10,000 times more potent intoxicant than alcohol, molecule for molecule.

B. Medical Effects:

1. Cellular Damage - "According to Dr. Gabriel Nahas of Columbia University, marijuana interferes with the body's production of genetic material which controls cell division, thereby weakening the body's immunity to disease. Dr. Forrest S. Tennant, Jr., director of the University of California, Los Angeles, drug treatment center, indicates that there is a very close relationship between this disruption of the immune system and development of cancer."
2. Lung Damage - "It was found that soldiers using hashish on a regular basis had considerable lung damage. During the past two years, 31 soldiers volunteered to have biopsies taken of their lungs. They showed in all cases pre-cancerous lesions. (The biopsies were analyzed by Dr. Oscar Auerbach, an authority on pulmonary pathology; by pathologists at Duke University, at UCLA, and at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.)"
3. Brain Damage - "The breakdown products of marijuana accumulate, especially in brain tissues, according to Dr. Walter X. Lehmann, specialist in adolescent medicine . . . (who) said marijuana and other hallucinogens produce a kind of short circuit in the brain."
4. Impairs Short Term Memory - "Five to 10 milligrams of marijuana smoked significantly decreases psychomotor performance and produces a significant impairment of immediate memory storage . . ."
5. Crosses Placenta - "New research results that will be presented to the President's Marijuana Commission for its final report will include the finding that marijuana crosses the placental membrane in humans. Therefore, like heroin, marijuana can pass from the mother's blood into the blood of her unborn child, who will receive essentially the same dose of THC as its mother."
6. Chromosome Breakage - "Sixty percent of marijuana users, in a test at the University of Utah in 1973, showed significant increases in chromosome breaks. Dr. Tennant's research also shows that there is a breakage of chromosomes in 60 percent of marijuana users tested."

A. All quotes from pamphlet, Latest Research on Marijuana.

F. "Hard Drugs"

1. Most of the so-called hard drugs, Heroin, Crack, L.S.D., P.C.P., Valium, didn't exist 40 years ago.
2. A drug rehab center in N. Y., The Phoenix House, reported that 398 out of 400 addicts in their program had started with marijuana.

A. One report indicated that 9 out of 10 Heroin users first began with marijuana.

3. THE BIBLE CONDEMNS DRUG ABUSE

A. Even though, as we have already said, drug abuse is not specifically mentioned in the Bible, it is condemned - 1 Corinthians 6:12, 19, 20.

1. These passages issue a condemnation in regards to abusing the body and mind.
 - A. Every form of substance abuse does just that, harm either the body or mind or both.
2. This cannot be contested when considering addictive drugs.

- A. We have all heard of the stories of babies being born to an addicted mother.
 - 1. Usually the baby that is born is also addicted.
- 3. We find, also, that substance abuse causes people to do things they would not normally do because of instability of mind.
 - A. For example, several years ago a baby sitter in Cleveland, Ohio baked an infant in the oven thinking it was a turkey.
- 4. It has been conclusively proven that substance abuse alters the normal function of the brain and, therefore, is condemned by these scriptures.
- B. Romans 13:13
 - 1. Characteristics of drunkenness are seen in these passages:
 - A. Irrational behavior - Genesis 9:20, 21.
 - B. Impaired consciousness - Genesis 19:31-35.
 - C. Incoherent speech, hallucination - Proverbs 23:23.
 - D. Inability to reason - Proverbs 31:4, 5.
 - 2. Alcohol consumption is condemned because of these effects and drug abuse brings on the same traits.
 - A. Therefore it is condemned.
- C. Romans 13:1-7
 - 1. This text makes drug abuse wrong because it is illegal.
 - A. There are numerous state and federal laws forbidding drug abuse.
 - B. If none other of the arguments were valid, this one, to the Christian, should be enough to cause the child of God to abstain.
- D. 1 Thessalonians 5:22
 - 1. The abuse of drugs is in most all cases surrounded by evils such as various types of crimes, prostitution, murder, thievery, etc.
- E. 1 Corinthians 15:33
 - A. As we have already noted, many young men and women become addicts in order to run with the so-called “in crowd.”
 - B. So often this leads to deeper problems and, therefore, should be avoided by the child of God.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The “Way of the cross” and the “Way of drugs” lead in two different directions.
 - A. One to eternal life, the other to an early grave and eternal torment.

THE CHRISTIAN AND FORNICATION

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our society is getting more and more evil as time passes by.
 - A. “Christian Values” are no longer held high.
 1. Instead, the Humanistic Philosophy of self-gratification rules.
2. Even the church must face the drastic increase of moral weakness.
 - A. Fornication and adultery run rampant in the world today.
3. We live in a nation where there are no longer any sexual mores.
 - A. The word “love” is used flippantly and indiscriminately.
 1. Immorality abounds all around us.
4. Sex is used to sell everything from automobiles to zig-zag sewing machines.
 - A. We find ourselves being bombarded with “free-love,” “living-in,” and “one night stands.”
5. Society would like to make everyone believe that “sex outside marriage” is the “norm,” and “as American as apple pie.”
 - A. Mothers have their daughters on the “pill.”
 - B. Fathers caution their sons to practice “safe sex.”
 1. Abstinence is a word no longer heard when it comes to sex.
 - C. Teenage pregnancy has risen significantly since 1940 when statistics began to be kept.
 1. For a while, in the 1990’s the rate dropped, but since has been on the increase.
6. Surveys reflect the moral decline of our nation.
 - A. One survey indicated that 75 percent of those ages 18-19 believe that living together before marriage is morally acceptable. Sixty percent of those ages 39-57 and 41 percent of those ages 58 and up share that same belief.
 - B. Another survey indicated that better than 60% of those surveyed felt that premarital sex was alright.
 1. And only about 16 % felt adultery to be wrong.
 2. The significant thing about this survey was that it was conducted among college religious teachers and counselors.
 - C. Another study of more than 160,000 teenagers revealed alarming statistics.
 1. In the 13-15year old group, 41% of the boys and 21% of the girls surveyed reported having had sexual intercourse.
 2. In the 16-18 year old group, the figures were 70% of the boys and 46% of the girls reported having had sexual intercourse.
 - D. Abortion clinics abound in this nation, and sexually transmitted diseases are constantly on the incline.
7. The cry that is heard far too often today is, “Boys will be boys and girls will be girls.”
 - A. But we have allowed these boys and girls to act more like barnyard animals, instead of human beings with a degree of modesty and intelligence.
 - B. God had something to say about this kind of a life - Jeremiah 5:8, 9.
 - C. We need to let our boys be boys, and our girls be girls.
 1. But let’s not encourage them to be animals!
8. In this lesson, I want us to pay close attention to what the Bible has to say about the subject of fornication and adultery.

BODY:

1. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

- A. Fornication is a broad term describing sexual immorality in general.
 - 1. It would include acts of homosexuality, lesbianism, sodomy and bestiality, along with any acts invoking any kind of sexual activity among those who are not married.
 - 2. Every form of the lack of chastity is included in the term.
 - 3. The word fornication is found some 36 times in the Bible.
- B. Adultery is a specific word used to describe sexual immorality between a married person and another.
 - 1. All adultery is fornication.
 - A. But not all fornication is adultery.
 - 2. The word adultery is used 40 times in the Bible.

2. TWELVE REASONS WHY FORNICATION IS SINFUL

- A. It is a distinct sin against one's own body in a way that no other sin is - 1 Corinthians 6:18.
 - 1. No other sin has the immediate and direct affect upon the human body as does fornication.
 - A. Such activities affect the body, waste its energies, and destroy life.
 - 2. No other single sin has done so much to produce the most painful and dreadful diseases.
 - A. Nor to weaken the constitution and shorten life, than this one has.
 - 3. The sins of drunkenness and gluttony injure the body.
 - A. But none so directly harm the sanctity of the human body as does fornication.
- B. It is the only sin that is grounds for divorce - Matthew 5:32; 19:9.
 - 1. You can read the Bible until you are blue in the face, and not once will you see any other sin spoken of as fornication is in these passages.
 - A. Clearly, this gives us an idea of how God views the sin of fornication.
- C. Under the Law, fornication was the sin punished by death if committed before marriage - Deuteronomy 22:20, 21.
 - 1. Deuteronomy chapter 22 serves to show the people of God exactly how God felt about the sins that were mentioned therein.
 - A. This portion of the text clearly shows that sexual dishonor before marriage is odious in the sight of God.
 - 2. It must be seen that such sins of impurity nip at the very bud of the true nature of the faithful child of God.
 - A. Instead of being of the fruit of the Spirit, fornication is a work of the flesh, which results in one having no part of the kingdom of God - Galatians 5:19, 21.
- D. It is the sin that is used to depict sinfulness or unfaithfulness to God - Ezekiel 16:36-38; Revelation 19:2.
 - 1. Throughout the Bible, God uses this sin to illustrate the broken relationship that once existed between Himself and man.
 - A. Surely it should be evident to us that He would not have chosen that which He approved of to illustrate such a condition.
- E. It is a sin which is not to be once named among Christians - Ephesians 5:3.
 - 1. We can easily see that such activity is not that which "becometh saints."
 - A. The whole point here is that fornication just isn't part of the Christian makeup.

- B. We need to quit making excuses for those who commit this sin.
 - 1. As Christians, we are called to a much higher life than this.
- F. It is a sin men will not forget or forgive - Proverbs 6:30-35.
 - 1. Those who have been on the “innocent side” of a marriage broken by such infidelity, know full well of that which I speak.
 - A. Over the years I have listened as one after another have poured out their broken heart brought on by such activity.
 - 2. I have never met a person whose mate was unfaithful to them, who has forgotten the pain they suffered at the knowledge of such.
 - A. Seldom have I met the person who was willing to take back the one who cheated on them.
 - 1. Just in case someone might be wondering, one can do so, but in the vast majority of cases it never works out.
 - 2. The teachings of Jesus in such passages as Matthew 19:9, give Biblical right for divorce and remarriage.
 - 3. They do not bind upon the innocent party concerning the absolute necessity of a putting away the unfaithful mate.
- G. It is a sin that is called a heinous crime and will result in final destruction unless repented of - Job 31:9-12.
 - 1. There is little doubt as to what the Bible is saying, in this passage, in regard to the depravity of an adulterous relationship.
 - A. Job’s point, in verse 10, is that if he had been unfaithful, his wife would be compelled to do the servile work of grinding the corn in the household of another woman.
 - 1. The condition of the female slave who performed such tasks was regarded as the lowest point in domestic slavery - Exodus 11:5; Isaiah 47:2.
 - B. Further, she would be reduced to extreme degradation.
 - 2. Then in verse 11, we see exactly how such activity is pictured - “an heinous crime.”
 - A. The crime of adultery subverts the family relation, on which God erected the entire fabric of human society.
 - B. Under Jewish Law, adultery was made a capital offence - Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22.
- H. It is a sin which causes the Lord to abhor those who practice such - Proverbs 22:14.
 - 1. The phrase “strange women” found herein is equivalent to “a harlot” or “an adulteress.”
 - A. Thus, the point is those who fall prey to such a woman’s devices, are abhorred by the Lord.
- I. It is a sin worthy of death - Romans 1:28-32.
 - 1. This “death” is a spiritual “death” that results in such persons being cast away eternally - Revelation 21:8.
- J. It is a sin which promotes wickedness in the land - Leviticus 19:29.
 - 1. I don’t care what anyone says, immorality causes immorality.
 - 2. The sin of fornication results in the further spread of such sin.
 - A. It is glorified in almost every form.
 - 1. I have a book entitled “A Woman’s Guide To Adultery.”
 - A. Publishers Weekly advertised this book as “An absorbing chronicle of

modern sexual mores...”

- K. We are to withdraw fellowship from those who continue in this sin - 1 Corinthians 5:9-11.
 - 1. Today, church discipline is not a very popular subject.
 - A. As a matter of fact, some are adamantly opposed to such.
 - 2. Yet, when we come to matters such as these, we are not left at liberty as to whether we will or will not practice such.
 - A. New Testament Christianity is the practice of all aspects of the teachings of the New Testament.
 - 1. We are no more at liberty to pick and choose what we want, and do not want, than are the denominations.
 - 3. God does not want the church filled with those who are practicing immorality.
 - A. The only way this can be prevented is through such discipline.
 - 4. In seeing this, we can see exactly how God views the sin of fornication.
- L. This sin bars one from heaven - Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; Revelation 22:15; Ephesians 5:5; Hebrews 13:4.
 - 1. If this point won't cause us to see the seriousness of the sin of fornication then, I suppose, nothing could.
 - A. As Christians, we are to do all that we can to flee fornication -1 Corinthians 6:18.
 - B. We must not allow the desires of the flesh to endanger our immortal souls.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. No other sin leaves the conscience guiltier.
 - A. The body so diseased.
 - B. The soul so depraved.
 - C. The reputation so spoiled.
 - D. And the emotions so shattered as fornication.
- 2. We, therefore, must not participate in such activities.

THE CHRISTIAN AND GAMBLING

Matthew 5:13-16

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our lesson at this time in the series “The Christian and . . .” will center on the subject of the Christian and gambling.
 - A. In the lesson we will give consideration to the following:
 1. What is gambling?
 2. Statistical information.
 3. What the Bible say about gambling.
2. “In May 2004 the Gallup Organization conducted a nationwide poll to determine the moral acceptability of various social issues. Pollsters interviewed one thousand adults aged eighteen and older regarding their opinions . . . Overall, gambling was considered morally acceptable by 66% of those asked. It tied with divorce as the social issue considered most acceptable to people. The acceptability of gambling has risen slightly since 2003 when 63% of Americans polled pronounced it morally acceptable.”
<http://www.libraryindex.com/pages/1561/Gambling-in-America-An-Overview-PUBLIC-OPINION.html>

BODY:

1. CLARIFICATION OF SOME MATTERS

- A. In this lesson we are not talking about taking a chance.
 1. Normally, those who seek to defend gambling seek to do so with an argument about planting crops, driving an automobile, owning stocks and bonds, and so on, as being of the nature of a chance and, thus, if taking a chance is sin, these would be sin too.
- B. We have to agree, if taking a chance were sin, then every time we took a chance it would be sin.
 1. But, the taking of a chance, as per planting crops, driving an automobile, etc., is not sin, because such activities do not fit the definition of gambling.
- C. To gamble is the action of one who gambles.
 1. “Gambling is the wagering of money or something of material value on an event with an uncertain outcome with the primary intent of winning additional money and/or material goods.” Wikipedia, Online Encyclopedia.
 2. Thus, we see that gambling and the taking of a chance, or a risk, are not the same.
 - A. In gambling, one stands to win at the loss of others.
 - B. In the others areas this is not true.
 1. Of course there is chance involved, but the outcome does not have the potential of a negative result for others.
- D. Thus, to use these as an argument to defend gambling is to use a very weak argument at least.

2. WILL NOT ARGUE THAT THE WORD GAMBLE IS IN THE BIBLE

- A. We will not endeavor to argue that the term “gamble” is in the Bible and is forbidden in a text such as, “Thou shalt not gamble.”
 1. Perhaps you will recall that in our study of the subject of drug abuse we saw no passage that said, “Thou shalt not be addicted to heroin, cocaine, etc.”
 - A. But, nevertheless, we saw ample proof from the scriptures that drug use is wrong.

- B. To point to the Bible and say you have no “Thou shalt not,” is another weak argument.
 - 1. By the way, the following words are not found in the K.J.V. of the Bible, “rape,” “manslaughter,” “larceny,” “embezzling,” “bootlegging,” “white slavery,” etc.

3. IMPORTANT STATISTICS

- A. “The gambling industry has grown tenfold in the U.S. since 1975.
- B. Thirty-seven states now have lotteries. (43 states as of 2008)
- C. 15 million people display some sign of gambling addiction.
- D. Two-thirds of the adult population placed some kind of bet last year.
- E. Gambling profits in casinos are more than \$30 billion while lotteries are about 17 billion annually.
- F. ‘Players’ with household incomes under \$10,000 bet nearly three times as much on lotteries as those with incomes over \$50,000.
- G. Gambling among young people is on the increase: 42 percent of 14-year-olds, 49 percent of 15-year-olds, 63 percent of 16-year-olds, 76 percent of 18-year-olds.
- H. Internet gambling has nearly doubled every year since 1997. In 2001 it exceeded \$2 billion.
- I. According to the American Psychological Association the Internet could be as addictive as alcohol, drugs, and gambling.
- J. After casinos opened in Atlantic City, the total number of crimes within a thirty-mile radius increased 100 percent.
- K. The average debt incurred by a male pathological gambler in the U.S. is between \$55,000 and \$90,000 (it is \$15,000 for female gamblers).
- L. The average rate of divorce for problem gamblers is nearly double that of non-gamblers.
- M. The suicide rate for pathological gamblers is twenty times higher than for non-gamblers (one in five attempts suicide).
- N. Sixty-five percent of pathological gamblers commit crimes to support their gambling habit.” <http://www.overcominggambling.com/facts.html#Statistics>
- O. In the first two months of casino gambling crime rose 25% in Atlantic City, N. J.
 - 1. The Police Dept. was increased from 44 to 406 officers.
 - 2. The next time someone tries to justify gambling by pointing to the increased tax revenue remember this.
- P. “Domestic Issues
 - 1. Effects of Adult Problem Gambling on Children:
 - A. Children of compulsive gamblers are often prone to suffer abuse, as well as neglect, as a result of parental problem or pathological gambling (NORC, 1999).
 - 1. NORC - National Opinion Research Center
 - B. Research consistently shows higher rates of pathological gambling in teens whose parents gamble too much (Gupta & Derevensky, 1997; Jacobs, 2000; Wallisch & Liu, 1996).
 - C. Children of problem gamblers have been shown to have higher levels of use for tobacco, alcohol, drug use, and overeating than do their classroom peers (Gupta & Derevensky, 1997).
 - D. Child endangerment and child abuse may increase (NRC, 1999).
 - 1. NRC - National Research Council
 - E. The NRC reported on two studies indicating between 10 and 17 percent of children of compulsive gamblers had been abused (NRC, 1999).

- F. Child endangerment was exemplified in Oregon with the September 2001 report of an Oregon licensed day-care provider who left three children (1, 2 and 3 years old) in a van for over 11 hours while she gambled in a casino (Lawrence-Turner, 2001, September 15).
- Q. Domestic Violence
1. According to the National Research Council (1999), studies indicate that between 25-50 percent of spouses of pathological gamblers have been abused.
 2. Case studies of 10 casino communities revealed that the majority of those communities witnessed increases in domestic violence related to the opening of casinos (National Opinion Research Center, 1999).
- R. Crime
1. Several studies suggest that crime rates rise with increased availability of gambling to communities, but this issue is under intense debate.
 2. Forty percent of clients enrolled in Oregon's gambling treatment system reported committing crimes to finance their gambling (Moore, 2003).
 3. As access to money becomes more limited, gamblers often resort to crime in order to pay debts, appease bookies, maintain appearances, and garner more money to gamble (NRC, 1999).
 4. Studies of Gamblers Anonymous (GA) members report that approximately half of the participants had stolen to gamble and over one-third had been arrested (Thompson, Gazel, & Rickman, 1996).
 5. The vast majority of gambling-related crimes are non-violent; embezzlement, check forgery, stealing credit cards, fencing stolen goods, tax evasion, insurance fraud, employee theft and fraud are common gambling-related crimes.
- S. Suicide/Depression
1. Ten percent of clients enrolled in Oregon's gambling treatment system considered and formulated plans to commit suicide within six months of enrollment to treatment (Moore, 2003).
 2. A major depressive disorder is likely to occur in 76 percent of pathological gamblers (Unwin Davis, & Leeuw, 2000)."
<http://www.npgaw.org/problemgamblinginformation/factsfigures.asp>
- T. Consider Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:33.
- 4. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GAMBLING?**
- A. In study of this subject, the Christian should realize their responsibility to the implications that are found in the Word.
1. Gambling violates the principle of stewards.
 - A. The Christian is to be a faithful and wise steward - Luke 12:42; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 4:2.
 - B. Legion is the names of those who fail in this area because of gambling.
 2. Gambling goes against the "golden rule" - Matthew 7:12.
 - A. We are to love our neighbor as we do ourselves (Matthew 22:39), and love works no ill against their fellowman - Romans 13:10.
 - B. To acquire another's goods by gambling is not doing to him as you would have him to do you.
 3. Gambling contradicts the work ethic.
 - A. According to the scripture, man is to eat his bread by work and the sweat of his

face - 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Genesis 3:19.

4. Gambling sets bad examples.
 - A. Christians must be concerned about their influence for truth and righteousness - Matthew 5:13-16.
 - B. We must provide things honest in the sight of all men - Romans 12:17; 2 Corinthians 8:21.
 - C. We must not give occasion for the devil to desecrate the word and name of God - 1 Timothy 5:14; Titus 2:5, 10.
 - D. Tertullian (So-called church father who lived 160-220 A.D.), is reported to have said, "If you say you are a Christian when you are a dice player you say what you are not, because you are partner with the world."
5. Gambling causes other sins.
 - A. In Reno, Nevada, the Police Dept. estimated that 75% of their embezzlement cases were related to gambling.
 - B. In the Akron Beacon Journal, June 2, 1968, the following was stated, "Everybody in town (Las Vegas) at one time or another has been offered to share a wife in trade for gas or repairs."
 1. These words were from a gasoline station attendant who worked in Las Vegas at the time.
6. Gambling affects homes in a negative way.
 - A. Remember what we saw earlier when we looked at the domestic issues?
 - B. "Problem gambling affects not only the person experiencing gambling difficulties but also their families, friends and often employers. In 1999 the Federal Government's Productivity Inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industries, found that for every one person with a gambling problem between 5-10 other people are negatively affected." <http://www.gisnsw.org.au/family/Family-Family.html>
 - C. "The estimated, annual prevalence of problem gambling among Adults, Age 18 and older in New York is 4.9% or 668,000 residents. (2006 NYS OASAS {New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services} Household Survey.) Estimated annual prevalence of problem gambling amount of students in grades 7-12 in New York State is 10.1% or 141,055 students. Estimated annual prevalence for at risk youth for gambling is 10.0% or 139,137 students. (2006) NYS OASAS School Survey.) Problem gambling affects the family as a whole, as well as each and every member. It disrupts family life through its negative financial consequences, the deterioration of basic trust between the gambler and other family members, and the loss of the problem gambler's ability to carry out his or her normal family roles and responsibilities. These developments in turn produce social, emotional, and even physical changes in the family's well-being. In adjusting to the impact of gambling addiction, family members may become increasingly isolated from each other and from their community. Family members often need help to recover from the impact of the problem gambler's behaviors as well as support in building a family environment that supports recovery for all family members." <http://www.pederson-krag.org/gampro.html>
 - D. "In a survey of nearly 400 Gamblers Anonymous members, 28 percent reported being either separated or divorced as a direct result of their gambling problems.

The National Gambling Impact Study Commission reported that it received 'abundant testimony and evidence that compulsive gambling introduces a greatly heightened level of stress and tension into marriages and families, often culminating in divorce and other manifestations of familial disharmony. The number of divorces in Harrison County, Mississippi, has nearly tripled since the introduction of casinos. The county, which is home to ten casinos, has averaged an additional 850 divorces per year since casinos arrived. A nationwide survey undertaken for the National Gambling Impact Study Commission found that 'respondents representing 2 million adults identified a spouse's gambling as a significant factor in a prior divorce.'

<http://www.citizenlink.org/FOSI/gambling/cog/A000002186.cfm>

- E. "In NORC's survey, 53.5 percent of identified pathological gamblers reported having been divorced, versus 18.2 percent of non-gamblers and 29.8 percent of low-risk gamblers. Further, NORC respondents representing two million adults identified a spouse's gambling as a significant factor in a prior divorce."
<http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/ngisc/reports/7.pdf>
7. Gambling contributes to homelessness.
 - A. "Individuals with gambling problems seem to constitute a higher percentage of the homeless population. The Atlantic City Rescue Mission reported to the Commission that 22 percent of its clients are homeless due to a gambling problem. A survey of homeless service providers in Chicago found that 33 percent considered gambling a contributing factor in the homelessness of people in their program. Other data presented to the Commission further substantiated this link. In a survey of 1,100 clients at dozens of Rescue Missions across the United States, 18 percent cited gambling as a cause of their homelessness. Interviews with more than 7,000 homeless individuals in Las Vegas revealed that 20 percent reported a gambling problem."
<http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/ngisc/reports/7.pdf>
8. Gambling contributes to suicide, which is forbidden by scripture.
 - A. "According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, approximately one in five pathological gamblers attempts suicide. The Council further notes that the suicide rate among pathological gamblers is higher than for any other addictive disorder. A survey of nearly 400 Gamblers Anonymous members revealed that two-thirds had contemplated suicide, 47 percent had a definite plan to kill themselves, and 77 percent stated that they have wanted to die."
<http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/ngisc/reports/7.pdf>
 - B. "A recent study in Australia found that 81 percent of gamblers surveyed considered suicide, and 30 percent attempted it at least once in a 12-month period." New Gambling Studies Highlight Age-Old Problem, Wayne Jackson, ChristianCourier.com
 - C. Can we not see the grave danger when we put ourselves into a life style that may well lead us to the taking of our own life?
 - D. How could a Christian parent even hope to justify such conduct as they participate in such a way of life that could encourage their children to follow their example?
9. Gambling displays a covetous spirit which is contrary to God's will for man - Exodus 20:17; Hebrews 13:5.

10. Nowhere in the Bible is there found any indication of gambling for entertainment purposes.

A. The casting of lots is seen often in the Bible, but never for entertainment purposes
- Leviticus 16:8; Joshua 18:10; Nehemiah 11:1; Matthew 27:35; Acts 1:26.

CONCLUSION:

1. As Christians, called out of the world, let us be careful that we do not forget that such things as gambling fall clearly within the realm of those things that we have been called out of.
 - A. The influence of gambling is worldly.
 1. This cannot be successfully denied.
 - B. Gambling, much like many other addictions may start off “innocent.”
 1. However, as time goes by, one may become more involved until they become a compulsive gambler.
 2. Even that which is “lawful” becomes problematic when one allows himself to be brought under the “power” or control of it to the point where it controls his life – 1 Corinthians 6:12.
 3. A “sure-fire” way of making sure one does not “cross the line” on these issues is to not get involved to start with.
 - A. Just like the drug addict, I am sure no compulsive gambler ever started out to become one.
2. As Christians, who pattern their lives after Christ, no doubt we would find it difficult to picture Jesus in a Casino, down some dark alley on His knees “shooting craps”, or even socially gambling with some friends.
 - A. If we cannot honestly see him doing it, how can we see ourselves doing it as we walking in his footsteps? - 1 Peter 2:21.
3. With all of the negative things associated with gambling, are we ready to overlook them just so we can buy a Lottery Ticket, bet on a horse race, or some other form of social gambling?
 - A. If you choose to gamble, and I am wrong on this, what have I lost?
 - B. If you choose to gamble, and I am right on this, what have you lost?
 1. There is a way that is right and cannot be wrong.
 2. Is that not the safest path to choose?
 3. Should we not encourage our children to follow that path by the example we set?

THE CHRISTIAN AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Romans 1:26, 27, 32

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is time that we pulled back the curtain of secrecy and took a honest look at the problem of homosexuality as it relates to the kingdom of God.
 - A. It is past time that we frankly consider the subject of homosexuality in light of what the Scriptures say.
2. I do not want to appear to be rude in saying what I am about to say, but I am not really concerned with what the world thinks about the subject.
 - A. My only concern is, what does God think, and what has He said about it.
3. Homosexuality is a growing problem in the world today.
 - A. Perhaps this can be attributed, to a great deal, to the apathy shown this subject by the so-called religious world.
 - B. It is amazing the number of religious organizations that have come out in support of "homosexual rights."
 1. Even the Lord's church has not escaped this problem as we see later.

BODY:

1. WHAT IS HOMOSEXUALITY?

- A. In order to understand what it is that we are dealing with, let's begin with a brief explanation of what homosexuality is.
- B. Homosexuality is a common term for a condition in which men or women have emotional and sexual interest in members of the same sex as they are.
 1. It is in complete opposition to heterosexuality, which is the condition in which men or women have emotional and sexual interest in members of the opposite sex.
 2. The term that is mainly used today to describe the homosexual is much less offensive than terms used a few years ago.
 - A. The common term used today is "gay."
 3. Therefore, when one refers to another as being "gay," they are not suggesting that they are happy go-lucky people but, rather, they are homosexuals.
- C. In order to better understand the direction that we are going in this study, lets say right now that homosexuality is not a disease.
 1. Many people who attempt to defend such a life style do so by suggesting that it is a disease that those who participate in cannot help.
 - A. But this is not true.
 2. My reasoning for saying this is the same as my denial that alcoholism is a disease.
 - A. God has never condemned a person for having a disease that was beyond his control.
 1. God condemns the sinner, not the sick - Romans 6:23.
 3. As a matter of fact, most professing homosexuals will deny the idea that what they do is the result of an illness.
 - A. Most admit they are living a life style they have chosen to live, believing it to be an appropriate lifestyle.
 4. "Homosexuals got homosexuality removed from the list of mental illnesses in the early 70s by storming the annual American Psychiatric Association (APA)

conference on successive years. ‘Guerrilla theater tactics and more straight-forward shouting matches characterized their presence.’”

<http://www.traditioninaction.org/HotTopics/a02rStatistics.html>

5. It is interesting to note that the Apostle Paul, writing by Inspiration, stated that women “changed the natural use” and men left “the natural use of the woman” - Romans 1:26, 27.

2. THE EXTENT OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE US

- A. Scientists define a person as a homosexual if they have committed six or more acts of homosexuality.
 1. It is claimed that approximately 10% of the population of the U.S. are homosexual, with only about 4% being exclusively homosexual.
 2. Only one or two percent have “come out of the closet.”
 3. In Washington D.C. there is better than 80 different homosexual organizations.
 4. In Boston there are more than 70 such organizations.
 - A. There is at least one organization for overweight lesbians.
 5. Better than 25% of the entire population of San Francisco is homosexual.
 6. In the U.S. today there are more than 100,000 boys, ages 13-16, who are male, prostitutes for homosexuals.
 - A. Most are run away boys, from lower class homes.

3. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- A. “Some statistics about the Homosexual lifestyle:
 1. One study reports 70% of homosexuals admitting to having sex only one time with over 50% of their partners.
 2. The average homosexual has between 20 and 106 partners per year.
 - A. The average heterosexual has 8 partners in a lifetime.
 3. Homosexuals account for 3-4% of all gonorrhea cases, 60% of all syphilis cases, and 17% of all hospital admissions (other than for STDs) in the United States.
 4. 73% of psychiatrists say homosexuals are less happy than the average person, and of those psychiatrists, 70% say that the unhappiness is NOT due to social stigmatization.
 5. 25-33% of homosexuals and lesbians are alcoholics.
 6. One study reports that 43% admit to 500 or more partners in a lifetime, 28% admit to 1000 or more in a lifetime, and of these people, 79% say that half of those partners are total strangers, and 70% of those sexual contacts are one night stands.
 7. 78% of homosexuals are affected by STDs.
 8. Judge John Marttaugh, chief magistrate of the New York City Criminal Court has said, ‘Homosexuals account for half the murders in large cities.’
 9. Captain William Riddle of the Los Angeles Police says, ‘30,000 sexually abused children in Los Angeles were victims of homosexuals.’
 10. 50% of suicides can be attributed to homosexuals.
 11. It takes approximately \$300,000 to take care of each AIDS victim.
 12. Homosexuals account for a disproportionate number of hepatitis cases: 70-80% in San Francisco, 29% in Denver, 66% in New York City, 56% in Toronto, 42% in Montreal, and 26% in Melbourne.
 13. 37% of homosexuals engage in sadomasochism, which accounts for many accidental deaths.
 - A. In San Francisco, classes were held to teach homosexuals how to not kill their

partners during sadomasochism.

14. 41% of homosexuals say they have had sex with strangers in public restrooms, 60% say they have had sex with strangers in bathhouses, and 64% of these encounters have involved the use of illegal drugs.
15. Depending on the city, 39-59% of homosexuals are infected with intestinal parasites like worms, flukes and amoebae, which is common in filthy third world countries.
16. The median age of death of homosexuals is 42 (only 9% live past age 65).
 - A. This drops to 39 if the cause of death is AIDS.
 - B. The median age of death of a married heterosexual man is 75.
17. The median age of death of lesbians is 45 (only 24% live past age 65).
 - A. The median age of death of a married heterosexual woman is 78.
18. Homosexuals are 100 times more likely to be murdered (usually by another homosexual) than the average person, 25 times more likely to commit suicide . . .
19. 21% of lesbians die of murder, suicide or traffic accident, which is at a rate of 534 times higher than the number of white heterosexual females aged 25-44 who die of these things.
20. About 50% of the women on death row are lesbians.
21. Homosexuals prey on children.
 - A. 33% of homosexuals admit to minor/adult sex.
 - B. There is a notable homosexual group, consisting of thousands of members, known as the North American Man and Boy Love Association (NAMBLA).
 1. This is a child molesting homosexual group whose cry is 'Sex before 8 it's too late.'
 2. This group can be seen marching in most major homosexual parades across the United States.
 - C. Homosexuals commit more than 33% of all reported child molestations in the United States.
 - D. 73% of all homosexuals have had sex with boys under 19 years of age.
 - E. Many homosexuals admit that they are pedophiles: 'The love between men and boys is at the foundation of homosexuality.'
22. Because homosexuals can't reproduce naturally, they resort to recruiting children.
 - A. Homosexuals can be heard chanting 'Ten percent is not enough, recruit, recruit, recruit.'
 - B. A group called the 'Lesbian Avengers' prides itself on trying to recruit young girls.
 1. They print 'We Recruit' on their literature."
 2. (<http://www.traditioninaction.org/HotTopics/a02rStatistics.html>)

4. HOMOSEXUALITY CROSSES THE BOUNDARIES

- A. It is easily seen that homosexuality has crossed the boundaries into the religious world.
- B. Basically, all major denominations have been affected in various ways.
 1. Some still openly oppose homosexuality, but that number is getting smaller.
 2. Numerous others have opened their arms to receive such as being consistent with the will of God.
 - A. A Pentecostal preacher formed what was originally called the church of Sodomy.
 1. Its name has been changed to the Metropolitan Community Church, and has over 250 congregations in 23 countries.

2. There are 16 such groups in Texas.
- B. They advocate the following:
 1. That we're in a new era, in the past we were in the heterosexual era.
 2. The age of the future is the homosexual era.
 3. The purpose of God for having the heterosexual era was to populate the earth.
 4. Now that that is complete the homosexual era has been ushered in.
 5. It has come in order that we might develop love for each other.
 6. They teach that homosexual love is the highest form of love.
 7. They believe that it is God's will that they are homosexual and, therefore, are only doing His will.
- C. We will respond to the idea that it is God's will later, but I would like to take note of a couple of things in relation to homosexual love being a higher or more superior love than heterosexual.
 1. There is not one case recorded of two homosexuals living together from the age of 20 to the age of 70 or 80 as you see with heterosexual marriages.
 2. The average homosexual has at least six partners with most having 20 while some have in the hundreds.
 3. When the homosexual grows old no one wants them.
 - A. They must pay to obtain their "superior love."
- B. Numerous denominations are now actually taking part in "homosexual marriages."
 1. All one needs to do is to watch the evening news and read the papers and they will note this happening more and more often.
- C. You may ask, "What has all this got to do with the church?"
 1. As sad as it is, the church has not escaped the problem of homosexuality.
 2. "Perversion has become quite a problem in Nashville. Many of you may remember the raids carried out by the police in our local Centennial Park just a few years ago. This was a well known hangout for male homosexuals. (Remember I am still talking about why we should talk about sex in the church.) You may be surprised to know that the largest number of male homosexuals that the police picked up in Centennial Park were teachers and preachers. Preachers in Churches of Christ were the second most numerous mentioned. They were close behind the number who preached for the largest denomination in our city. This I think is deplorable. If you answer that they constitute a minority, I agree. However, if one gospel preacher or one Bible school teacher is a homosexual, it is a problem." See *As I See Sex Through The Bible*, p. 12.
 3. For several years now there has been an active homosexual group associated with the church.
 - A. In 1979, they formed an organization called "A Capella Chorus."
 - B. A tract they wrote stated, "... gay and lesbian members of the Houston area Churches of Christ formed a fellowship ..." that "... also serves as a network for gay people in small towns and rural area."
 - C. According to the tract, they publish "... a bulletin every other month which is mailed to gay members of the Church in 27 states, South Africa and Micronesia. It is also mailed to non-gays within the Church nationally to enlighten their consciousness."
 - D. Also, according to the tract, there "Additional Chorus fellowships have begun in Los Angeles, Nashville and Seattle."

5. SUPPORT FROM OTHER AREAS

A. Besides so-called religious groups that have come out in support of homosexuality, various groups from the field of entertainment and music have supported such.

1. For example, only a few years ago the group "The Village People" produced several songs in order to promote homosexuality.

A. "... members of the Village People are reluctant to come out of the closet. They are disco's Sha Na Na, a flamboyant chorus line of gay and straight former New York actors and models, organized by Morali as 'a protest against Anita Bryant ...' Everyone finds what he wants in the group, ... I am sincerely trying to produce songs to make the gay people more acceptable." Newsweek article April 2, 1979.

1. Jacques Morali, producer, admitted homosexual.

B. "Chastity Bono, civil rights advocate, journalist, author and musician, is in the early stages of changing his gender - transitioning from female to male. ... Bono, the child of legendary entertainers Sonny and Cher, began the process earlier this year, shortly after his 40th birthday ..."

1. http://www.jillstanek.com/archives/2009/06/chastity_bono_b.html

C. "Called Music with a Twist, Sony's new label is a joint project with Wilderness Media & Entertainment - the founders of MTV's homosexual channel, LOGO."

1. <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2006/jan/06011110.html>

6. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

A. First, as we have already said, God has not said that homosexuality is a disease but a sin - Genesis 19:4-9; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26, 27, 32; 1 Corinthians 6:9.

1. See NIV on 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10 - Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
2. An abomination is that which was detested by God.

B. The Bible does not even begin to suggest that homosexuality is God's plan - Genesis 1:27; 2:21-24.

1. As is often pointed out, God did not create them male-male.
 - A. Neither did He create them female-female.
2. He created them male-female, and any variation from this is an abomination before God.

C. In Judges Chapters 19 and 20, we note the story of the destruction of nearly all the tribe of Benjamin due to the sin of homosexuality.

1. A certain Levite and his concubine came to the Benjamite city of Gibeah where they were invited to stay the night in another's house - Judges 19:16-21.
2. Soon after arrival at the older man's house, evil men surrounded the house with the desire to commit homosexuality with the visitor - Judges 19:22.
3. To head off this act the old man offered unto them the concubine of the Levite - Judges 19:23-28.
 - A. With her the men added to their crimes the sin of rape and murder.
4. When this sin was brought to the attention of the tribe of Benjamin, they refused to assist in the punishment, which resulted in their being punished just like those guilty

- of the sin - Judges 20:29-48.
- D. Several passages in 1 Kings deal with homosexuality - 1 Kings 14:24; 15:11, 12; 22:46.

CONCLUSION:

1. Homosexuality is a sin.
 - A. But it can be forgiven - 1 Corinthians 6:11.
 - B. Just as any sin can be forgiven, so can the sin of homosexuality if one will follow God's laws pertaining to such.
 1. Which demands the ceasing of such activity.

THE CHRISTIAN AND IMMODEST DRESS

1 Timothy 2:9, 10

INTRODUCTION:

1. Immodesty, lust, adultery, deceit, drunkenness, and murder.
 - A. Not a very pleasant listing of words, is it?
 - B. Some might wonder why we would put immodesty and murder in the same category.
 1. The reason is, all of the words listed belong in the same narrative, and are listed in the progressive order of events, beginning with immodesty and ending with murder.
 - C. You should by now recognize the story of David and Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11:2-12:25.
2. Who knows the reasons for Bathsheba's displaying herself immodestly within the view of David?
 - A. Maybe she thought no one would see her.
 - B. Maybe she thought no one would look.
 - C. Maybe she thought, "If someone looks, it's not my fault."
 - D. Whatever the reason, however innocent it may have seemed to her, her actions brought forth sin, sorrow and death, and its consequences reached into the distant future for the king of Israel.
3. In this lesson I want us to, with this story in mind, consider the Christian and immodest dress.
 - A. In this study we will not only be considering the dress of the Christian woman, but also the Christian man for I fear that we too often single out the woman and allow the man to do as he pleases.
 1. And this is not consistent with Biblical principles.

BODY:

1. BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING DRESS

- A. Nakedness has always been a symbol of shame, beginning with Adam and Eve - Genesis 3:7.
 1. The aprons they made for themselves might well have covered about as much as a modern swimsuit of the modern male and female.
- B. It is without doubt that God was not pleased with these garments, as He made for them "coats of skin" to clothe them - Genesis 3:21.
 1. It is interesting to me that it seems that the same amount of clothing was made for both Adam and Eve.
 - A. In other words, not a top and bottom for Eve, and a bottom for Adam.
- C. Nakedness was also used as a symbol of spiritual shame - Isaiah 47:3; Revelation 3:18.
 1. We can note from this that a person can have clothing on and still be naked in the sight of God, if it is not sufficient to cover what He would have covered.
- D. The word "naked" is used in the sense of "thinly clad" - Job 22:6; James 2:15, 16.
 1. According to this, one most likely is "naked" in many of the modern styles of clothing that are accepted as normal attire.
- E. 1 Timothy 2:9, 10
 1. "Modest," in this passage, means "well arranged, seemly . . ."
 - A. Thus, dress is to be orderly, in good taste, and in such fashion as to cause a woman to be respected, to be thought highly of.

- B. Some argue that “good taste” is reflected in whatever the current fashions are.
 - 1. That might be so to a certain extent, but customs can go beyond that which would be considered godliness.
 - 2. It seems this was the case with Adam and Eve.
 - A. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve set the “custom,” but God changed it to fit His plan.
- C. The Christian is warned concerning this - Romans 12:2.
 - 1. With the attitude of Romans 12, we are not so eager to ape the fashions of this world and justify ungodliness just because “everyone is doing it.”
- 2. “Shamefacedness” refers to “a sense of shame, modesty, reverence, the ability to blush.”
 - 1. “Modesty” is defined as; “. . . not forward, shy or reserved. Behaving according to a standard of what is proper or decorous; decent; pure; now especially not displaying one’s body.”
 - 2. In keeping with this definition, can one honestly defend many of the modern styles of dress?
 - 3. Modest ladies would be embarrassed for a man, other than their husband, to walk into a room and see them in their undergarments.
 - A. As such, they have “shamefacedness” in respect to their attire.
 - B. So why are they not embarrassed when other men see them in clothing which covers no more, if not as much, as their undergarments?
 - C. Or does the fact that the name of one is shorts, and the other is underwear, make the difference between modesty and immodesty?
 - 1. I’ve seen ladies tug at their skirts to try to cover themselves, and then turn around and put on other types of clothing that reveals more than the skirt.
 - 2. Does any of that make sense?
 - D. In the end, modesty is an outward manifestation of inward chastity or purity.
 - 4. How about us men, does not this shoe fit on us also.
 - A. Or, maybe, there is no-need for us to be modest?
- F. The Bible describes two types of clothing:
 - 1. The attire of the harlot - Proverbs 7:10.
 - 2. Modest apparel - 1 Timothy 2:9.
 - 3. The Christian who doesn’t want to dress like, act like, or be like the world will endeavor to dress modestly.
 - A. So that we might “walk worthily of the calling wherewith we were called.” - Ephesians 4:1.
- G. It is high time we seek the approval of God rather than the world.
 - 1. I hear people say, “Well my friends will laugh.”

THE CHRISTIAN AND PORNOGRAPHY

Romans 1:24-32

INTRODUCTION:

1. From a moral standpoint our country has reached the “open sewer” stage.
 - A. Anyone who would argue this point need only to investigate the average news stand, or glance at the entertainment pages of the majority of local newspapers.
2. To read the reports prepared by those who have made a thorough investigation of the “adult only” books, movies and plays is shocking.
 - A. One New York critic, after seeing an off Broadway play wrote: “After this, what can there be for an encore?”
3. With the onslaught of this form of corruption, the crime rate is now almost to the point of anyone’s power to stop or even check it.
 - A. The American Commission on Obscenity and Pornography found in one survey that 55% of the men in prison for rape, and 35% for serious sex crimes, said that pornography had been responsible for their offence.
4. The printed page, movies (in theatres and on television screens), and much of the music of today, have a tremendous influence on the attitudes, manners and morals of their recipients.
 - A. With these thoughts in mind, let us look at The Christian and Pornography.

BODY:

A. PORNOGRAPHY DEFINED

1. “The depiction of erotic behavior (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement.” Webster’s Online Dictionary
 - A. It is obscene or licentious writings or pictures.
 1. Obscene: Foul, disgusting; offensive to chastity or to modesty; lewd.
 2. Licentious: Lawless, lewd.
2. Etymology: Greek pornographos.
 - A. Porneia is the Greek term for sexual uncleanness of all kinds, including fornication.
 1. The Greek word “porn” referred to prostitutes.
 - B. Grapho is the Greek term meaning to write or picture.
 1. Thus, we can see we are speaking of obscene books and films sold in the “adult” book stores, over the Internet, etc.

2. PORNOGRAPHY’S RANGE OF USE

- A. In the case of the printed page, censorship for all practical purposes is nonexistent.
 1. The most lurid and obscene literature imaginable is now freely circulated.
 - A. Obviously protected by the nation’s highest courts.
 2. Although these publications carry the “Adult Only” warning, any thinking person knows that this is only a ridiculous attempt to justify their existence.
 3. Besides that, where is the evidence that adults are not being demoralized and encouraged to act by these publications?
 - A. “At a 2003 meeting of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, two thirds of the 350 divorce lawyers who attended said the Internet played a significant role in the divorces in the past year, with excessive interest in online porn contributing to more than half such cases.” (Divorcewizards.com)
 - B. “In a study of convicted child molesters, 77 percent of those who molested

boys and 87 percent of those who molested girls admitted to the habitual use of pornography in the commission of their crimes.”

<http://www.protectkids.com/effects/harms>

- C. “One study reveals that among 932 sex addicts, 90 percent of the men and 77 percent of the women reported that pornography was significant to their addiction.” <http://www.protectkids.com/effects/harms>
 - D. “Pornography is the theory, rape is the practice.” Robin Morgan, Theory and Practice: Pornography and Rape
 - E. “A high percentage of non-incarcerated rapists and child molesters have said that they have been incited by pornography to commit crimes; Hundreds of women have testified in public about how they have been victimized by pornography; Ten percent of a probability sample of 930 women in San Francisco and 25% of female subjects in an experiment on pornography in Canada reported having been upset by requests to enact pornography. Many prostitutes report that they have experienced pornography-related sexual assault. A large body of experimental research has shown that the viewing of violent pornography results in higher rates of aggression against women by male subjects.”
<http://www.dianarussell.com/conclusion.html>
 - B. As far as children are concerned, there are no laws to keep such trash out of their hands, once it has been purchased.
 - 1. If you don’t believe that teenagers, and even preteens are reading this stuff, I suggest to you had better wake up and in a hurry.
 - 2. Children’s exposure to pornography:
 - A. Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography - 11 years old.
 - B. Largest consumer of Internet pornography - 12-17 age group.
 - C. 15-17 year olds having multiple hard-core exposures - 80%.
 - D. 8-16 year olds having viewed porn online - 90% (most while doing homework).
 - E. Children’s characters linked to thousands of porn links -26.
 - C. Internet pornography statistics:
 - 1. Pornographic websites - 4.2 million (12% of total websites).
 - 2. Pornographic pages - 372 million.
 - 3. Daily pornographic search engine requests - 68 million (25% of total search engine requests).
 - 4. Daily pornographic emails - 2.5 billion (8% of total emails).
 - 5. Average daily pornographic emails/user - 4.5 per Internet user.
 - 6. Monthly Pornographic downloads (Peer-to-peer) - 1.5 billion (35% of all downloads).
 - 7. Daily “child pornography” requests - 116 thousand.
 - 8. Websites offering illegal child pornography - 100,000.
 - 9. Worldwide visitors to pornographic web sites - 72 million annually.
 - E. As far as laws against the selling of this garbage, no state that I know of has laws prohibiting the sale of pornographic material.
 - A. Although some states do have laws concerning public display, but only as far as display is concerned.
- 3. PORNOGRAPHY’S AFFECT ON THE CHURCH**
- A. The Problem of Internet Pornography - 2/8/2005 prepared by John Bentley - targeted email sent to members of the church of Christ.

1. 6,444 visits, 4,210 completed surveys used.

B. Survey results:

1. 41% of all men say they either strongly agree or agree with the statement "I believe Internet pornography to be one of the biggest problems facing my congregation," compared with 29% of women who say the same.
2. 84% of men have viewed some type of pornography, 51% of women have viewed some type of pornography.
3. 57% of men have intentionally viewed Internet pornography, 15% of women have intentionally viewed Internet pornography.
4. 45% of all men say they either strongly agree or agree with the statement "I have struggled with Internet pornography as a temptation" while only 6% of all women say this.
5. 30% of all men have viewed Internet pornography on more than 25 occasions; only 2% of all women have done the same.
6. 79% of the men who have ever intentionally viewed Internet pornography even once say that it is now a temptation for them.
7. 73% of all men 19-29 indicate they struggle with Internet pornography as a temptation. Compared with 9% of men 60+.
8. 59% of all men 19-29 have viewed Internet pornography on more than 25 occasions. Compared to 3% of men 60+.
9. 70% of internet pornography is being viewed between the hours of 9 a.m. & 5 p.m.

4. THE SOURCE OF THIS POLLUTION

- A. The source of this pollution is the human heart - Proverbs 23:7; Mark 7:14-23; Matthew 12:34, 35.
1. With these few scriptures in mind, we can see that it is from a heart filled with evil that these materials come.
- B. If a man fills his heart with corruption, it will be that which flows out of that heart - Proverbs 4:23.
- C. The heart is the point of attack made by pornography.
1. It warps one's concept of what is right and good.
 2. It awakens, kindles, and inflames the vilest forms of lust, which starts the individual down the road of degradation and ruin.
- D. When people ignore what God's word says about purity of heart, when they leave God out of their lives, they are on the road to ruin - Romans 1:24-32.
- E. As Christians our thoughts should proceed forth from hearts filled with purity - Philippians 4:8.
1. How could one possibly obey this injunction of Paul, while filling his heart with pornography?
 - A. We need to be cultivating proper and pure thinking and leave no room in our hearts for that which is vile.
 2. Our young people need to be heeding to the warning flag before they dabble in Pornography.
 - A. There is absolutely nothing good that can come from.
 - B. Young people need to be careful to not be deceived.
 1. There is too much good and wholesome literature for them to degrade themselves with the trash that comes from depraved minds.

CONCLUSION:

A. We cannot cleanse the whole world.

1. God's people have been outnumbered, outvoted and outraged by the pollutants which have taken over the minds, morals, and wills of wicked men.

A. However, we can begin with our own household.

B. We can teach our children to be selective in their reading, viewing and listening materials.

C. We can help them to keep themselves pure.

THE CHRISTIAN AND PROFANITY

Titus 2:7, 8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our speech often belies those of us who claim to be Christians.
 - A. We sound more like the world than people in pursuit of “godliness.”
2. In many circles, profanity has become the norm.
 - A. It has been said that “...in the US about 72% of men, 58 of women, 61 percent of adolescents use swear words in public.” Article, Why Avoid Profanity in Your Public Speaking. <http://www.speechmastery.com/profanity.html>
3. When I speak of profanity, I speak of that which “...is the act of using rude words. Profanities can also be called swear words, curse words, dirty words, bad words, foul language, obscenity or obscene language, or expletives. It can be called an oath.” Wikipedia
 - A. “Originally it had reference to blasphemy, sacrilege, or using God’s name in vain. Today it also includes derogatory, sexual and racist expressions. It can be referred to as swear words, curse words, dirty words, four letter words.”
<http://www.speechmastery.com/profanity.html>
4. The story is told of the man who used several profanities, not knowing a preacher he knew was present. The preacher chided him for his language, and the fellow apologized, “Sorry preacher, I didn’t know you were here.” The preacher replied, “Don’t apologize to me; it wasn’t my name you were abusing.”
5. Alex Dunlap has written and published a tract entitled Ten Reasons Why I Swear.
 - A. The purpose of the tract was to show how foolish swearing is.
 - B. Here are the reasons he gives:
 1. “It pleases my mother so much.
 2. It is a fine mark of manliness.
 3. It proves I have self-control.
 4. It indicates how clearly my mind operates.
 5. It makes my conversation so pleasing to everyone.
 6. It leaves no doubt in anyone’s mind as to my good breeding.
 7. It impresses people that I have more than an ordinary education.
 8. It is an unmistakable sign of culture and refinement.
 9. It makes me a very desirable personality among women and children of culture and refinement.
 10. It is my way of honoring God, who said, ‘Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain.’”
6. With this in mind, let’s give some thought to The Christian and Profanity.

BODY:

1. “NOTHING WRONG WITH IT”

- A. For many, the use of such language is nothing more than a habit.
 1. I did not grow up in a Christian home.
 - A. The use of profanity was common.
 - B. It was habitual, but I never attempted to justify it based upon it being a habit.
 1. I may have grown up in a non-Christian home, but I didn’t grow up ignorant.

2. Even though I used profanity around my parents, I had “religious” relatives of whom I refused to use such language in front of them.
2. Some attempt to justify the use of profanity with such arguments as “it is nothing more than a habit.”
 - A. What else would we justify with such “logic”?
 1. I beat my wife, but it is nothing more than a habit, so it must be okay?
 2. I abuse children, but it is nothing more than a habit, so there can’t be anything wrong with it, can there?
 3. The next time you get picked up for speeding, or running a red light, or a stop sign tell the judge, “Well, it’s just a habit.”
 - A. Let me know how that works for you.
 - B. Others say, “Well, I don’t mean anything by it.”
 1. Call your best friend’s wife a name and see how that works.
 2. Call up the Secret Service and threaten the President, telling them you “don’t mean anything by it,” and see how that works.
- 2. MAN’S SPEECH REFLECTS HIS HEART**
 - A. It is out of the heart that the “issues of life” come - Proverbs 4:23.
 - B. It is from the heart that either purity or impurities come as we think - Philippians 4:8.
 - C. It is from the heart that comes forth those things which defile a man - Matthew 15:18-20.
- 3. WHY WE SHOULD AVOID PROFANITY**
 - A. Because we respect those things that are holy.
 1. How can we love, obey, and live for God if we treat Him with contempt?
 - B. The book of Malachi deals with the issue of turning that which is holy into that which is profane or polluted - Malachi 1:7, 12.
 1. Profanity (in language, action, deed, or thought) shows disrespect for God and what belongs to Him and what is holy to Him.
 - C. The Christian should not be profane since profanity shows division within.
 1. The division exists because by saying we are a Christian, we confess to being holy and being of God.
 2. Profanity, on the other hand, states that we don’t care about holy things.
 - A. We care more about the things of the world as we act like it.
 - D. Profanity, much like lies, cannot come forth from the tongue of the one who is holy - Matthew 12:33-35.
 - E. When profanity comes out of a person’s mouth, whether it is the careless use of the name of God or outright cursing, he is displaying to all who hear his lack of reverence and fear of God.
 - F. Profanity is a form of corrupt speech (ASV) or communication, which should be avoided by the Christian - Ephesians 4:29.
 1. According to the New American Standard Version, such “corrupt communication” is “unwholesome speech.”
 - G. The use of profanity has a bad association, for which we are to abstain - 1 Thessalonians 5:22.
 1. When we think of the use of profanity, what type of people do we think of?
 - A. No doubt, evil people.
 2. Good manners (KJV) or good morals (ASV) are corrupted by evil associations – 1 Corinthians 15:33.

- A. Birds of a feather have a tendency to flock together, do they not?
- H. We need to exercise care in the idle use of the name of God.
 - 1. We hear such phrases, “O my God” as a favorite byword of the ungodly generation in which we live.
 - 2. When confronted for doing so, Christians often say, “Oh, but I don’t mean anything by it. I don’t even think about saying it.”
 - A. That’s the point!
 - 1. We’re using God’s name in vain, for no purpose.
 - 2. By using God’s name this way, we are demonstrating that we do not reverence or fear Him.
 - 3. We are using His name as an “idle (careless, NASB) word.”
 - B. Consider Jesus’ warning against using such idle words - Matthew 12:36, 37.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Our speech should be different from that of the world just like every other aspect of our lives.
 - A. If it isn’t, then there is something wrong.

THE CHRISTIAN AND RACISM

Genesis 1:26, 27

INTRODUCTION:

1. Several years ago the following statement was made in the “Report of the National Advisory Commission of Civil Disorders.”
 - A. “Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white-- separate and unequal . . .” New Bantam Books, 1968.
2. Since that statement was made our society has gotten no better.
 - A. As a matter of fact, things have, to a great degree, gotten worse.
3. Even the church has been affected by racism.
 - A. I have heard racial slurs from “Christians” from both the North and the South over the years that I have been a member of the church.
4. In all of those years, I recall very little being said about racism.
 - A. Yet, it is a major problem that we must confront.
 - B. Today we have “black” churches of Christ and “white” churches of Christ that have very little to do with one another.
 1. I recall a story of a white “youth minister” who was directed by his elders to stop knocking on “black doors” in their community. He kept knocking on the doors of those in the community that were black, and when confronted by the elders for doing so, he said, “I did not see any black doors.”
5. In discussing this subject, let it be understood that racism crosses all boundaries.
 - A. We hear of both whites and blacks who are racists.
 - B. Since we are composed of all white members, let us address the subject from the white racist prospective.
 1. Keeping in mind that the principles that we will outline fit both categories.

BODY:

1. WHAT IS RACIALISM?

- A. Webster defines racialism as “a doctrine or feeling of racial antagonism, with reference to supposed racial superiority or purity; racial prejudice, hatred, or discrimination.” Webster’s New World Dictionary, p. 611.
- B. With this in mind, we see that one easily could be a racist without any concern at all for skin color, but where nationalities appear.
 1. We have all heard of people who put down certain people, simply because they belonged to a certain ethnic group or nationality.
 - A. I have known of people who disliked Mexicans because they were Mexicans.
 - B. Others that disliked the Chinese because they were Chinese.
 - C. Still, yet others, who disliked other groups solely because of their nationality.

2. WHITE RACISM

- A. Whenever the subject of racism arises, people object by saying something like, “But, I am not a racist.”
 1. But how do we know whether we are or are not racists?
- B. Let me give us a little test on the subject.
 1. While taking the test, examine your heart, look carefully at your own conscience, and see how you fare.

2. Our test will be directed at white racism only.

C. Test:

1. The white racist says that the African-American (or for that matter, any black) belongs to a distinct and separate race of mankind that has existed since the beginning of time.
 - A. Others move the origin of the black race up to the time of Ham, and the events of his seeing the nakedness of his father Noah - Genesis 9:20-22.
 - B. The claim is that the curse placed upon Ham for seeing such was black skin.
 1. Yet this overlooks numerous things:
 - A. First, the curse is not placed upon Ham, but Canaan his son - Genesis 9:25; 10:6.
 1. To which we see a fulfillment when Israel took Canaan's land - Joshua 9:22-27; Judges 1:28; 1 Kings 9:20, 21.
 - B. Secondly, it overlooks the fact that not all blacks are descendants from Ham.
 1. Some, for example, the aborigines, are descendants of Japheth.
 2. White racism believes that the black race has no common ancestry with other human beings.
 - A. They believe that this race started from a distinct stock that has remained largely unchanged until now - Genesis 3:20.
 3. White racism holds that the black man is a distinct biological species that falls somewhere between white men and apes.
 4. White racism teaches that all white men in America are part of our common racial groups which goes back to the beginning of mankind.
 - A. Thus, it is charged, that the white man is superior, in every important respect, from the black man.
 5. White racism believes that regardless of personal ability and achievement, every black is more similar to all other blacks than a person of comparable skills and intelligence who happens to be a member of the white race.
 - A. For example, the black brain surgeon is more like the black sharecropper than he is the white brain surgeon.

D. So, how did we fare?

1. Were any of guilty of these, or similar, ideas concerning other races or nationalities?

3. RACISM AND CHRISTIANITY

- A. Racism threatens the very heart of Christianity.
 1. It strikes at the root of all Biblical truth.
 - A. And directly violates Christian faith.
- B. Racism's challenge to Christianity is more than a theoretical, "word battle."
 1. Over the years desperate men have committed unimaginable atrocities in the name of a superior race.
 - A. Hitler's death camps still serve as an example of this point.
 - B. Darwin's "Origin of the Species."
- C. There are at least ten reasons why racism is idolatry and stands under the judgment of God and the Bible.
 1. There can be little doubt that the tenets of racism conflict with the teachings of the Bible.

- A. Only one completely ignorant of the Scriptures would ever attempt to argue that the Bible does not speak relative to the subject.

4. TEN REASONS WHY RACISM IS IDOLATRY

A. RACISM AND GOD:

1. Our first group of reasons why racism is false, and must be rejected, centers on the proper understanding of God - Matthew 22:37- 39.
2. Racism attacks the wisdom and goodness of God - Genesis 1:27.
 - A. The white racist claims that Caucasians are God's favored people.
 1. The black racist, in reaction or perhaps, in self-defense, invents his own myths of God's favoritism toward black skin.
 - B. Both ideas, of course, are incorrect.
 1. Every man, regardless of coloration and condition, bears the "image" of God - Acts 17:26.
3. Racism opposes Jesus Christ - Titus 2:14.
 - A. Redemption is through the shed blood of Christ - Ephesians 1:7.
 - B. All forms of racism are built on the alleged "superior" blood that dominates the group or race, instead of on the blood of Christ which give all men their hope - Hebrews 9:13-15.
4. Racism denies the Holy Spirit.
 - A. The Racist makes all of their value judgment on a fleshly, physical basis.
 1. While God, on the other hand, looks upon the heart of individuals - 1 Samuel 16:7.
 - B. As Christians, we need to be careful to not look upon one's flesh as the determining factor - 2 Corinthians 5:16.

B. RACISM AND YOUR NEIGHBOR:

1. Racism also affects and corrupts our relationship with others.
 - A. Instead of "loving our neighbors," racism invariably promotes human pride, arrogance, and the disruption of any meaningful communication and association with those who differ with us.
2. Racism attacks the church of Christ.
 - A. Racist doctrines demand that varying ethnic groups remain separated from one another in every important area of life.
 - B. In study of the early church, one sees that it included all kinds of men, both Jews and Gentiles - Ephesians 2:11, 12.
 1. In Christ and His church, all kinds of men find this kind of unity - Colossians 3:11.
 2. Isaiah said that God's House, the church, would know the membership of "all nations" and many people - Isaiah 2:2, 3.
 - A. This truth denies racism.
 - C. On the beginning day of the Lord's church, we see that men from all over the world, out of varying social, national, and cultural backgrounds, came into the church - Acts 2:5-11.
 1. Later, when Peter practiced social discrimination with the church, Paul withstood him to his face - Galatians 2:11, 12.
3. Racism often misdirects Christians who are under the orders of Jesus to "go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." - Mark 16:15.

- A. The gospel possesses the power to save - Romans 1:16.
- B. Racism would modify Christ's words to mean, "Go you therefore and teach your own kind."
 - 1. Or even worse, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, making sure to keep them in their place."
- 4. Racism refuses to accept the Lordship of Jesus over all areas of human thought and conduct - Acts 17:24.
 - A. What this says is that the Christian doesn't support "white-only" or "black-only" enterprises six days each week and then faithfully worship God on Sunday.
 - B. The true Christian cannot talk about "loving his neighbor" on Sunday, and then keep from being a neighbor to all men the rest of the week.
 - C. Since God is no respecter of persons, the believer in God cannot respect persons for their race - Acts 10:34.
 - D. You might say, "I'm not a racist."
 - 1. What would you say if you found out that your new neighbors were from a different race than you?
- 5. Racism depends on the idolatry of group-preservation and the animal principle of survival of the fittest.
 - A. One of the world's greatest racists stated, "Those who want to live, let them fight, and those who do not want to fight in this world of eternal struggle do not deserve to live." (Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf, p. 189)
 - 1. Racism demands the preservation of blood purity at any cost.
 - B. It is necessary to contrast this attitude with what Jesus taught regarding our concern for others - Matthew 5:43, 44.

C. RACISM AND SELF

- 1. We have seen three observations which exposed racism's attack on God.
 - A. We have seen four observations which exposed racism's distortion of our relationship with others.
 - B. Let us now see what racism will do to us.
- 2. Racism destroys the proper Biblical view of one's self.
 - A. The healthy respect for one's self fostered by the Biblical doctrine of creation and human nature is lost in the racist's creed.
 - B. Jesus said that He came that all men, not a racially distinct group, might have life abundantly - John 10:10.
 - 1. We further see that God so loved all men that He gave His son on Calvary - John 3:16.
 - C. Christianity is individual.
 - 1. Racism is collective.
- 3. Racism destroys the universal character of Christianity.
 - A. Old Testament prophets pointed to the reign of God over all men - Isaiah 2:2, 3; 42:1-4; Jeremiah 31:31-33.
 - B. Paul concluded that all were one in Christ - Galatians 3:27.
 - C. Racism breeds hate and violence rather than the stability and peace that comes with God's personal acceptance of them.
 - D. For the person who has been made new in the blood of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), racism is a vile repudiation of everything human and divine.

4. Racism's future depends on my attitude and yours.
 - A. Will we oppose racism in a loving, courageous manner?
 - B. One thing is for certain, a day of judgment is coming in which each of us will face God in relation to how we have treated our fellowman - 2 Corinthians 5:10.
 - C. We cannot hope to live this life as a racist, despising others who have been created in the image of God, and still expect to be saved eternally.
 1. If we are racist, we must be as Peter who confessed his racism and repented of it - Acts 10:34-37.
 2. If we are racist, we must become as the Apostle Paul who would allow no racial barriers to prevent him from preaching the gospel to all men - 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.
 3. If we are racist, we must become as the early church, which had all kinds of people, from all walks of life, conditions, and races, within it - Acts 6:1-6; Colossians 3:11; Romans 16:1-15.

CONCLUSION:

1. The true child of God believes that Jesus is the solution to man's sin and hatred - Ephesians 2:11, 12.
 - A. We must respond to the Lordship of Jesus by consciously allowing the truth of Christ to be our stand for life - Romans 10:9, 10; 14:7, 9.

THE CHRISTIAN AND TEMPTATION

James 1:12-15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Living the Christian life is not a bed of roses.
 - A. It requires much toil and labor.
 - B. It is a constant fight with temptation.
2. The Christian's greatest danger is temptation.
 - A. Let us think together on The Christian and Temptation.

BODY:

1. WHAT IS TEMPTATION?

- A. It is the enticing or inducement to yield to the lust of the flesh - James 1:14.
 1. After one becomes a Christian, they have the same desires that they had before doing do.
 - A. We are still tempted to lie, steal, gossip, etc.
 2. The one who has become a Christian has not received any "second blessing" that involves the removal of "inborn sins" or the desire to sin.
- B. Actually, it is the testing of one's faith and loyalty to God - James 1:12; Job 1:6; 2:10.
 1. Even Christ experienced temptation - Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15.
- C. Temptation is common to man - 1 Corinthians 10:13.

2. SOURCE OF TEMPTATIONS

- A. Not from God - James 1:13.
 1. God "proves" His children, but He does not induce them to do evil - Genesis 22:1.
 2. God allows temptation, but He does not cause it.
- B. Temptation is from Satan - 1 Corinthians 7:5; Matthew 4:1.
 1. John shows us Satan's avenue of sin - 1 John 2:15, 16.
 - A. Adam and Eve.
 1. Lust of the flesh - good to eat - Genesis 3:6.
 2. Lust of the eyes - delight to eyes.
 3. Pride of life - make one wise.
 - B. Christ had the same temptations:
 1. Lust of the flesh - stones to bread - Matthew 4:3, 4.
 2. Lust of the eyes - kingdoms - Matthew 4:8, 9.
 3. Pride of life - cast thyself off temple - Matthew 4:5, 6.
- C. Tempted from within - James 1:14.
 1. Due to the avenues of sin within - 1 John 2:15, 16.

3. THE CERTAINTY OF TEMPTATION

- A. By no circumstances, environment, or condition are we exempt.
- B. Our character or our spiritual power will not prevent us from being tempted.
 1. Jesus was tempted immediately after receiving the Holy Spirit - Matthew 3:16; 4:1.
- C. Our sonship will not prevent our being tempted.
 1. Jesus was tempted after the Father had acknowledged him as His Son - Matthew 3:17.
- D. Our solitude will not prevent it.
 1. In Matthew 4, Jesus was alone, yet he was tempted.
 2. Actually, solitude might add to the intensity of it.

4. BENEFITS OF TEMPTATIONS:

- A. To be tempted is not to sin, but only when yielded to.
 - 1. Song: "Yield Not To Temptation."
- B. The one who yields to temptation sins - James 1:14, 15.
 - 1. The one who overcomes is blest - James 1:12.
 - 2. The one who yields is made weaker, while the one who overcomes is made stronger.
- C. Overcoming temptation works patience - James 1:2, 3.
 - 1. Temptation can cause within us a greater desire to go to heaven where there is no temptation.
- D. There is a crown awaiting the one who overcomes - James 1:12.

5. OVERCOMING TEMPTATION:

- A. We can overcome any temptation - 1 Corinthians 10:12, 13.
- B. What is this way of escape?
 - 1. The way of preparation - Psalms 119:11.
 - A. Jesus overcame because He filled His heart with the word - Matthew 4:1-11.
 - B. David did the same thing - Psalms 119:11.
 - 2. Way of prayer and watchfulness - Matthew 26:41; 6:13.
 - 3. Way of strong purpose - 1 Corinthians 9:27.
 - A. The man with his heart set is hard to move.
 - 4. May be way of flight - 1 Corinthians 10:14; 2 Timothy 2:22.
 - 5. May be way of fight - Ephesians 6:10-12.
 - 6. Avoid bad company - Psalms 1:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 15:33.
 - 7. Forsake not the assembly - Hebrews 10:25.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Temptations will come.
 - A. As Christians we simply need to rise above them.

THE CHRISTIAN AND WAR

Genesis 9:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. The question of how the child of God is to react to capital punishment, physical restraint, and war is a difficult and emotion filled question.
 - A. If we are to come to terms with this question, we must first divorce from it any feelings of emotion.
 - B. The reason for this is that a purely emotional approach to this question will result in an illogical, irrational conclusion.
2. The proper way to determine the correctness of the involvement of the child of God in these matters is to search the scriptures to see what they have to say.
3. Our lesson at this time will be directed at the question, "Does the Bible allow the child of God to take the lives of other human beings in war, or while trying to restrain them from harming family members, or through capital punishment?"

BODY:

1. GENESIS 9:6

- A. Since man is made in the image of God, and his blood is precious in the sight of his maker, God has ordained the punishment of death for all who unlawfully take the life of others.
- B. Let us be careful that we do not hastily cast this scripture aside due to it being in the Old Testament.
 1. The reason for this is there are many principles found in the Old Testament that are continuing to the present time - Genesis 2:24; 3:16; 3:19.
- C. It is true that Jesus' death on the cross abrogated the Law of Moses, but He did not repeal the principles that had already been laid down.

2. MURDER IS WRONG

- A. Murder has and will always be wrong.
 1. But our discussion is not dealing with murder, but with the taking of another's life as a restraint against something or for punishment of a criminal act.
- B. Murder can be defined as, "The intentional killing of one human being by another, with malice aforethought, and without moral right or legal authority."
 1. This is the deciding line between what is condemned and approved by scripture.
- C. Law and order with justice must be upheld, and the sanctions of the law enforced.
 1. Otherwise, "every man will become a law unto himself."
 2. If this should ever come about, the weak, the good, the gentle, the kind, the generous and the noble will be ruled and robbed, abused and killed by the vicious, the strong, the reprobate, and the evil.
 3. This is precisely the point that Paul makes - Romans 13:1-7.
 4. No doubt we have heard it said "All that is needed for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." attributed to Edmund Burke.

3. ROMANS 13:1-7

- A. In Romans 12:19 we read, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."
 1. And all too often we tend to say that at judgment this will come about while overlooking that which we have just read in Romans 13:1-7.

4. ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- A. Let us examine some of the arguments that have been presented to “prove” that a child of God cannot participate in a war, capital punishment, or physical restraint.
- B. Perhaps the strongest reason offered against participation in these things is that it is contrary to love, forgiveness and mercy.
 - 1. The following scriptures are sometimes given to prove this point - Matthew 7:12; Romans 13:8-10.
 - 2. Granted, love is to be the distinguishing mark of the Christian - John 13:34, 35.
 - A. But love is not weak kneed passivity.
 - B. It was a loving and all merciful God who commanded the total destruction of the Amalekites - 1 Samuel 15:3.
 - C. It was a God of infinite mercy who rained down fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah - Genesis 19:23-25.
 - D. It is the Lamb of God whose wrath we read of in Scriptures - Revelation 6:16.
 - 3. At times love dictates restraint against an evildoer.
 - A. Suppose you were to pull into a parking lot late one evening and saw some fiend dragging an innocent girl or women into the woods near it.
 - 1. What would love dictate for you to do?
 - B. Call the police?
 - 1. No, as a pacifist you cannot request aide from the law.
 - A. “It would seem, then, that the servants of God may accept the assistance of those whom God has ordained to be His ministers unto them for good, but they may not call upon them nor rely upon them for the carrying out of the purposes of God.” God and Government, Lee Rogers, p. 27.
 - 2. “Take as an example the criminal rapist, what will love do - leave the criminal unopposed, and leave a helpless victim without the protection of resistance? On the basis of love itself, a choice would be inevitable. It was on this point that R. L. Whiteside said, that if he should see a criminal dragging an innocent woman or girl into a secluded spot to assault her, he would have no more compunctions of conscience against shooting down that criminal than to shoot a mad dog attacking a child. We subscribe to that statement unreservedly.” The Sermon on the Mount and the Civil State, Foy E. Wallace, p. 225
 - 3. Let a person tell me that participation in war is wrong for the Christian and I can push him to the point that he cannot so much as lift his little finger to restrain another.
 - 4. To assume the position of several in the brotherhood in this area is to have the Bible on the side of the criminal.
 - 5. In regards to forgiveness, if a man were to murder 50 people, and while on trial he obeyed the gospel, if he was not immediately set free then he has not been forgiven, if the principles set forth by the pacifist dictated to the civil power what was to be done.
- C. War and capital punishment are horrible, but they have always been such, and God has always commanded such.
 - 1. To say, “Allow the civil government to do the dirty work” while keeping the Christian’s hands clean, is to encourage others to sin, if we believe it sinful to protect us.

2. To say, “Let the non-Christian do the wrong, while we do the right” is to remove all obligations of right doing from the non-Christian - James 4:17.
3. To say, “All Christians will be pacifistic” would have all who believed they were Christians; regardless of what religious preference they were as pacifists.
 - A. This would result in the vilest men running the world.

CONCLUSION:

1. If we had two more hours I don’t know if we could cover this as it should be covered.
 - A. But I hope that which we have seen will encourage us to study further in this area.