

HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Studies on
MORAL ISSUES

**#3 - Decisions About
Perverted
Sexual Immorality**

- 1 -- Homosexuality**
- 2 -- Lesbianism**
- 3 -- Other Perversions**
- 4 -- Controlling Sexual Urge**
- 5 -- Same-Sex Marriage**
- 6 -- The Courage to Stand Alone**

Prepared by:
Paul E. Cantrell
84 Northview Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

pecantrell@juno.com

2009

Lesson One

"Homosexuality"

In this study book we will be looking at what we refer to as **perverted activities** in the sexual realm. While **fornication** is condemned in the Scriptures, yet the sexual activity is between a male and a female which is considered **natural!** Homosexual activity has long been considered as **unnatural** or **perverted!** Any change in this outlook has not been brought about by a "better understanding" of the Scripture teaching on this topic; nor has it come about through "sound scientific findings" that changes one's whole outlook about such activity. Change has come about more from pressure tactics, lobbying, and organized efforts by such people to try to force the change.

What is Homosexuality?

Homosexuality is generally and simply defined as *"sexual activities between members of the same sex."* The term is generally used with reference to males, but it can also be used with reference to females. There needs to be a distinction made between *"having homosexual feelings"* and *"engaging in homosexual activities."* A male may have strong feelings for another male (sexually), but he may not engage in any sexual activity. Heterosexual men have feelings for a female (sexually), but he chooses not to engage in sexual activity.

Homosexuality is not a new thing; it has been around for hundreds of years. Possibly, the best known activity of such people was pointed out in the Scriptures in telling why the cities close to Sodom were destroyed along with Sodom (Genesis 19). This account would be dated about 1900 years before the birth of Jesus! Such activities have been going on around us but were hidden because of the shame of such; but, now they are coming "out of the closet." One of their primary things they want changed is that their activity be no longer considered deviant or a perversion, but to be looked upon as an alternate or acceptable "lifestyle." The first major organized effort of homosexuals in this country is believed to have been in July of 1969.

Homosexuals want changes!

They want to be looked upon as normal, natural, and acceptable people. They are organizing in large numbers to try to bring about some of the following changes in our society.

- a) They want classes in Schools to teach the acceptability of such activity.

- b) They want a lower age of consent.
- c) They want their "marriage" to be recognized and legalized.
- d) They want the right of custody, adoption, and foster care for them.
- e) They want to redefine the terms: **Home, Family, and what constitutes marriage.**
- f) They want access to "scouting."
- g) They want "affirmative action" for themselves.
- h) They want "sex-change operations" to be covered under health insurance.
- i) They want acceptance as a normal lifestyle.

These are some of the issues they are calling for, but by no means all that they want.

Scripture Teaching on the Subject!

It is not a matter of whether the Scriptures teach on the activities of the homosexual—for it speaks loud and clear on the matter! It is more a matter of whether one respects the Bible as the Inspired Word of God!

Gen. 1:27 _____

Gen. 2:21-25 _____

Heb. 13:4 _____

Gen. 19:5, 7 _____

2 Pet. 2:7; Jude 7 _____

Lev. 18:22; 20:13 _____

Rom. 1:26-27 _____

1 Cor. 6:9-11 _____

Gal. 5:19 _____

1 Tim. 1:9-10 _____

One who claims to believe in the Bible as the Word of God has no choice in this matter—homosexuality is a sin, it is wrong, it is immoral, it is even against nature! The very fact that God condemns the activities of such people shows that

it must have some very bad side effects on the family, and social decay.

"Historically, virtually all societies have condemned incest, adultery, and homosexuality because such practices, in distinctive ways, threaten the family."

Our society has become more tolerate of this sexual permissive behavior that has brought on its consequences.

"We face epidemics in sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancies, abortions, illegitimacy, rape, and sexual abuse. Marriage rates are on the decline, and divorce is on the increase, especially among younger couples."

Special consideration is constantly being given to the medical consequences of homosexuality. Even those who have come out of that sinful activity give clear testimony of the destructive efforts of homosexuality on the individual!

God's willingness to forgive!

The Christian needs to hold to what the Scriptures teach about these sinful activities, but at the same time there is a need to explain to the persons involved that God is willing to forgive those who turn from their sinful ways (1 Cor. 6:9-11). The Christian must not hate the person, but rather to love the person but hate the sin and what it does (Rom. 6:23). And if God indicates that people can change; then, homosexuals need to make this change that God requires. This would also indicate that a person is not "born" this way! It generally comes out of the break-down of the home and marriage!

Concluding Thoughts

We have only touched on many of the things that could have been said or maybe should have been said. We will spend more time on this topic under the Lesson on Lesbians.

*"Christians are in a battle for the minds of a generation of young people. The thoughts, ideas, values, attitudes, preferences and aversions, will determine who and what they become. In our politically correct society, there is no right lifestyle, only different lifestyles. The terms 'Christian Right,' 'Christian Coalition' and 'Christian' are associated with bigotry and intolerance. The negative attitudes about Christianity and the positive attitudes about sodomy are being introduced into the thinking of our young people.....The wise man Solomon urged his son(s): **"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."** (Prov. 4:23).*

Lesson Two

"Lesbianism"

Why a lesson on Lesbianism? Isn't it the same thing as Homosexuality? Generally speaking, Homosexuality is used to refer to both men with men and women with women. But Lesbianism usually refers only to women with women. Both deal with sexual activity, stimulation, and satisfying of one's sexual passions by a person of the same sex. One thing for sure can be said of such practices—**It is a "sure-fire" way not to have an unwanted pregnancy!** We also feel that additional information is needed on this subject because of changing attitudes about such practices.

Attempts to Justify such Actions

In the previous lesson we listed several Scriptures (both Old and New Testaments) that speak clearly on the subject and all pronounce such activity as sin or wrong! If the Bible is so clear on the matter, how do people justify their actions in these activities? The following will give an idea of how some people deal with the Scriptures.

1. **Lev. 18:22; 20:13**—It is argued that these passages are irrelevant because they are not dealing with today's homosexual "lifestyles." These deal only with such practices in a pagan temple and not the "loving monogamous gay relationship" of today.
2. **Gen. 19**—The destroying of Sodom and Gomorrah was because of their attempt to "gang rape" people.
3. **Rom. 1**—This is condemning heterosexual people who engage in homosexual acts which is "unnatural" for them. Today, Homosexuals are doing what is "natural" for them.
4. **1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Tim. 1:10**—These deal with pederasty—which is the sexual possession of an adolescent boy by an older man.

The fact still remains that every time that homosexual activity is mentioned in Scripture, it is condemned! One has to either grossly mis-understand what is said or not respect God's Authority in His Word. How can one misunderstand this plain statement: **"You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination."** (Lev. 18:22). It is obvious that sex between a male and female is approved by God in Marriage, but not male with male or female with female.

Another approach to this subject would be to understand God's purpose for sexual union. It is the joining together of a man and woman in a marital relationship that is to last a life-time—the two become as one! It is in this relationship that children can be brought into the world and be cared for properly with a father and a mother (Eph. 6:1-4). Inspiration uses this arrangement to help us understand the relationship that Christ has to His Church (Eph. 5:21-33). Sexual desires have been given by God to be fulfilled correctly in the marriage of a male and female—and not abused in any other way. The inspired Apostle tells us clearly that the abuse of sexuality is "unnatural" and "shameful" and it is engaged in by people of a "debased mind." (Rom. 1:26-28). Those who practice such will receive *"in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."*

Can a Person's Sexual Orientation be Changed?

- 1. **Is Homosexuality a choice that a person has and that such can change if they really saw the need to do so?** _____
- 2. **If a person has homosexual desires that he or she did not consciously choose, can that person consciously choose to no longer have such desires?** _____
- 3. **If a person has such desires aroused within him, does he have to give in to those desires?** _____
- 4. **Is it a sin to be tempted, or it is a sin to act out one's temptations? (Heb. 4:15; Jas. 1:14-15)** _____

We believe the Bible indicates that man has the ability (with God's help) to not only change his behavior, but his thoughts as well. We can refrain from acting on our impulses and we can take control and redirect our thoughts.

Col. 3:2 _____

Phil. 4:8 _____

The real question that needs to be ask is.....**Who is going to be in control of my being—God, self, or others?** Will the homosexual place his or her desire for another person before obedience to God? While there are those who have changed from practicing homosexual activity—the numbers have not been overly encouraging even in spite of the terrible diseases that have come upon

such. It may be one thing to change one's desires, but another to change one's behavior. It may be easier to change one's behavior than one's desire.

The real remedy for sin is to sincerely turn to God for the help He has promised to give!

Phil. 4:13 _____

1 Pet. 5:6-9 _____

Concluding Thoughts

While we may not be able to fully understand or know why some people have or develop homosexual desires, it is sure and certain that God expects of us to refrain from those activities that He calls "sin" or "works of the flesh." **It is very important that we let people know that it is God who decides what is sin, not human beings!** It is also important that we let people know that continuing in sin will separate us from God and will bring the judgment of God against our soul in that Last Day (Rom. 6:23).

It is also important that Christians hate that which God calls "sin," but to love the sinner whose soul needs to be saved. He will need our help and our acceptance; and, he will need time to make his changes.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the difference between Homosexuality and Lesbianism?

2. What are some attempts to try to justify homosexuality activity?

3. Why does the Apostle say that homosexuality is not natural?

4. Why does marriage of a man and woman condemn homosexuality?

5. Why does the Apostle say that homosexuals have a "debased mind?"

6. Do you believe that homosexual orientation can be changed into heterosexual orientation?

7. Do you know of any person who has changed from homosexuality?

8. How can God help the homosexual to turn from his desires and practices?

9. Who determine what is sin?

Lesson Three

"Other Perversions"

This lesson continues to look at sexual perversions. We are looking at activities in the sexual realm that are not what is usually expected. Such things that are not the natural thing is another viewpoint concerning these actions. We will look at four different perversions in this lesson. We are not suggesting that this is all—but these are the more common that we may be aware of around us. Also, these four are mentioned in the Bible (Old or New Testaments) in one form or another.

Pedophile

A Pedophile is used to identify an older person that involves underage boys or girls in sexual activity. The word is taken from the Greek language that means "*A lover of children.*" This person can be anyone. While in Pittsburgh, PA, we were informed of a grandfather that had molested his two granddaughters. The man's daughter was married to a preacher. The parents were greatly surprised to learn of his actions with their daughters. He had taken advantage of them while baby-sitting the girls. Some of the Catholic "priest" have gotten involved that has greatly affected their membership. Children are usually very trusting of religious leaders and family members. Because family members are involved, the actions are generally "sweep under the cover" and not reported to the proper authorities. I have also heard that Pedophiles are using the Internet to pull children into this practice.

The effects that such actions have on children will vary—depending on several different things. But the effects are generally:

- 1. Causes fear because of what the Pedophile will say to them to keep these activities quiet.**
- 2. Causes a gross view of sexual activity.**
- 3. Causes emotional problems as they come into adulthood.**
- 4. Causes mistrust of people in general.**
- 5. Leads to perversions in their adult life.**

The following Scriptures deal indirectly or generally with this form of perverted sexual immorality:

Rom. 1:27-29 _____

Gal. 5:19-21 _____

1 Thess. 4:3-5 _____

1 Thess. 5:22 _____

Incest

This word is used to identify the person who has sexual relations or even gets married to a close relative. At the beginning of the human race, it was necessary to marry a sister or brother. By 1500 B.C., the Law that God gave to Israel through Moses, forbade such actions.

Lev.18:6 _____

Lev. 18:17 _____

Lev. 20:14 _____

Lev. 20:21 _____

Lev. 20:11 _____

As you can see such sexual activity is "unnatural" and is called "lewdness" (Lev. 18:17) or "abhorrent." (Lev. 20:21). It can lead to the breakdown of family relationships. It can also lead to mental health and/or physical health of offspring.

Rape

This word is used to indicate that someone has forced themselves upon another to engage in sexual activity. This could be with a child or an adult (male or female). It is to ravish a person (Zech. 14:2).

Deut. 22:25-29 _____

In some cases of sexual immorality, death was the penalty (Deut. 22:22). The purpose was to put fear into the heart of wrong-doers and help to keep the chosen people of God a "holy nation." But the harm that is done in forcing one's self upon another is not easily removed or forgotten. God wants His people to be holy—but He is also concerned for their physical and mental health and welfare.

Bestiality

This term is used to identify a human trying to have sex with a beast. This is the height of perversion or the unnatural! It would be loathsome and abhorrent.

Exo. 22:19 _____

Lev. 18:23 _____

Lev. 20:15-16 _____

Deut. 27:21 _____

Again, we see that the death penalty is prescribed as punishment for people who do such things.

Concluding Thoughts

Sexual activity between a man and woman is the way God has designed things. To change this is to pervert what God has given. This is the reason why some sexual activities are referred to as "unnatural" or "perverted." When God's way is circumvented, there can be disastrous results. God reminds us that His way is not only the right way but the only way we should travel.

Prov. 14:34 _____

Gal. 5:7-8 _____

Nations will fall when corruption and immorality overwhelm them. It is a denial to think that the same thing cannot happen to America some day.

Questions for Discussion

1. Does the word "perversions" have reference to what is not the norm or natural.
2. What is a "Pedophile?"
3. What are some of the effects of this perversion?
4. What is "Incest?"
5. How does God look upon such?
6. What is "Rape?"
7. Does this only refer to a male raping a female?
8. Why the death penalty for such people?
9. What is "Bestiality?"
10. Why the death penalty for such people?
11. Could all sexual activities be seen as perversion or unnatural?

Lesson Four

"Controlling Sexual Urge"

Olden Cook was watching the Jay Leno show on TV because he understood that Troy Aikman was to be on that night. John Ritter was on first and He and Jay Leno were talking about their sexual escapades and accomplishments. They were enjoying themselves when Troy's time came to appear. Mr. Leno pressed Troy to share some of his sexual stories. But he said that he likes girls, has dated some, but had no sordid or scandalous stories to tell. He said, "I consider myself to be a gentleman." He then added this question: "Say, Jay, do I need to apologize to you guys for that?" Brother Cook said, "You should have seen the shock on Jay's face!" Christian young people don't need to apologize for doing right!

Sexual Urge has been given by God. It is something good. Its purpose is to give pleasure to Husbands and Wives; to bring children into the world,; and to help cement two people into one (Gen. 2:21-25). God has also made us so we can exercise control over this strong urge.

1 Cor. 7:1-4 _____

1 Cor. 7:5 _____

1 Cor. 7:8-9 _____

There needs to be mutual concern on the part of both partners for the other. We are discouraged from putting our mates to the test by being unwilling to satisfy the desire of the other. The Apostle even discouraged others not to marry if they can deal with being single like himself. But if they are unable to exercise self-control; then, they should get married. But, it should be a marriage that is right in the sight of God.

Exercise self-control!

It is obvious that some people have a harder time dealing with their sexual urges than others do. But there are situations in which a person is forced into dealing with these urges and keeping himself under control

1 Thess. 4:2-8 _____

We are to abstain from sexual immorality, but if our marriage is correct in God's eyes, we can satisfy our sexual urge with our mate. So, control is required of all Christians in this sense.

However, there are some who never marry because they cannot find a person that will agree to marriage. Such a person is called upon to abstain from "sexual immorality!" He is not to turn to fornication, adultery, homosexuality, Pediphilism, bestialism, incest, or rape. He has no choice but to be celibate! Even a young widow, who has the right of remarriage, may not be able to find a person that will agree to marriage. She, also, has to remain celibate! Will this be hard for such people? Yes, I am sure that it is a real challenge. Just because it will be hard to be celibate the rest of my life, doesn't mean that I can ignore God's warnings against engaging in sexual immorality. To recognize that something is hard doesn't make it wrong. Sometimes—doing right is the hard thing to do!

Rom. 7:3-4 _____

Why is this woman called an adulteress? _____

Who may remarry and not be called an adulteress? _____

Who can rightfully be called an adulteress or an adulterer?

Matt. 19:9 _____

Teaching on Self-Control

Gal. 5:21-22 _____

2 Pet. 1:5-7 _____

1 Cor. 9:26-27 _____

Rom. 12:1-2 _____

Matt. 15:18-20 _____

Rom. 6:6, 17-18 _____

1 Cor. 10:13 _____

God's Word makes it very clear that we can do whatever He commands and abstain from whatever He condemns. The old man of sin is to be put to death and we are to become slaves of righteous living. If a person is unable to find someone he or she can marry, they can control themselves—they do not have to give in to their sexual urges and commit sexual immorality. A person may have to do what the Apostle did—"beat their bodies!" All must allow God's Word to renew their minds. And we need to take to heart what God has promised—He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able!

Concluding Thoughts

This country needs to have a few things restored that used to be held to so strongly:

1. Restore the home to its proper place—marriage of a man and woman is for life!
2. Fidelity is expected of both the man and the woman.
3. Sexual abstinence for single people.
4. Strongly condemn sexual immorality in all of its forms.
5. A sense of responsibility for our actions!
6. Churches that will uphold what the Bible teaches about the

need to control our sexual urges.

One of the big disappointments in this whole issue is that religious groups have given up what God says about these matters. They have, in reality, become promoters of the sexual evils that are condemned in the Scriptures.

True and faithful Christians need to speak out for God's truth and not be intimidated by the advocates of sexual immorality.

Questions for Discussion

1. Is it a sin to Marry?
2. Is it a sin not to Marry?
3. Is it a sin to deny sexual satisfaction to a mate?
4. What is sin?
5. Why is sexual purity so important?
6. Do some people seem to have a harder time dealing with sexual urges than others?
7. Who has no choice but to remain celibate?
8. Why is a person called an adulterer or an adulteress?
9. Who can remarry and not be called an adulterer?
10. What are some reasons why it is hard to be a celibate?
11. Where is the main problem we have with sexual immorality?

Lesson Five

"Same-Sex Marriage"

We are again looking at a "sexual perversion" or an "unnatural" relationship that is referred to as "same sex marriage!" People are calling for the government to give recognition to two men marrying or two women marrying each other. What does the Bible say about such? Does God approve of such a relationship? What is right or wrong with such an arrangement? Should marriage only be for a man and a woman? Who determines what marriage is or what constitutes marriage? What are some of the issues that are involved in this arrangement?

Issues Involved?

- 1. It is an effort to change society's views about what constitutes marriage.** Some want marriage to be for a man and a woman, but also they desire that two men or two women should be able to get married? To them, it is unfair not to give recognition to their arrangement. They want society to look upon them as a married couple.
- 2. They want the same privileges that present married people have.** If such an arrangement was made legal, they would get the same benefits that married couples have now. They would get some financial advantages that married couples enjoy. They already live together in a sexual relationship. They already have companionship.
- 3. They want recognition and acceptance by society.** They want to be looked upon as morally right in the eyes of others. Such can relieve their conscience of guilt over their activities—it will help to salve their guilt feelings. Primarily, they want to be accepted by religious people.

Three Questions:

1. Is same-sex "marriage" moral? Is such morally right? What is it that makes something moral or immoral? Morality requires some kind of a guide to help determine if our conduct is what it ought to be. Morality deals with judgments upon conduct—whether such conduct is right or wrong as measured by a certain standard or end. For the Christian, the answer is obvious! Same-sex "marriage" would be immoral because it goes against the "standard" that he has accepted—the Word of God

Gen. 2:21-24 _____

Notice that God made a woman for Adam, not an animal nor another man! The marital relationship of a man and woman was God's plan from the very beginning—not a marital relationship of a man with another man nor a woman with another woman. The Bible nowhere speaks favorably of a "marriage" between a man and a man or a woman and a woman! Same sex marriage is condemned by the Bible because it is contrary to God's plan for the make-up of a home.

2. Is God pleased with same-sex "marriage?" No where does He indicate that He is pleased with such. On the contrary, He condemns it plainly and severely. (Gen. 19:1-14; Lev. 18:22-23; 20:13; Rom. 1:26-32; 1 Tim. 1:8-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Pet. 2:4-8). What other conclusion can you draw from such teaching? If homosexuality is wrong....so would a "marriage!"

3. Is same-sex "marriages" legal? At present, a few states have made a decision to recognize such as "marriage," but the overwhelming majority of the states have not! We do not yet know what the outcome of this will be. If such becomes law country-wide, does the Christian have to accept and agree with what they do? Would we be force to perform the ceremony for such? Would we be forced to accept them into the church? Does legalizing something by the state or country make it right?

Marriage?

Our English versions of the Bible do contain the word "marriage." It is identified with a man and a woman that begin to live together as husband and wife. But, the Bible nowhere indicates that marriage is made up of the same sex!

Deut. 22:22 _____

Exo. 21:3 _____

Mk. 10:12 _____

Rom. 7:3 _____

Eph. 6:1-4 _____

Marriage, from a Biblical viewpoint, is not only for companionship, but it is God's designed for populating the earth. Same sex "marriages" cannot reproduce themselves. If such "marriages" are made legal universally, they would be able to adopt children into a situation that is unnatural and perverted. Would this be wise for children?

Concluding Thoughts

From a Biblical viewpoint, there is no statement or recognition of same sex "marriages." The very concept seems to be aimed at trying to justify sexual immorality of the worst kind; as well as, making mockery of God's arrangement. These people are more concerned about satisfying their perverted lust than finding out what God has arranged for mankind's welfare.

Questions for Discussion

1. Define Marriage.

2. Is the word "marriage" found in the Bible? (Jn. 2:1-2; Heb. 13:4; Mk. 12:25; 1 Cor. 7:38).

3. Should we change the concept of marriage to satisfy "gays" and "Lesbians?"

4. What would be the advantage of recognizing same sex "marriages?"

5. Should it make a difference whether people except same sex "marriages?"

6. Is such a relationship considered morally right?

7. Do you believe that same sex "marriages" should be legalized? If so, why?

8. How can we know if God is pleased with such an arrangement?

9. How will God treat such people in Judgment? (Rev. 21:8)

For Taking Notes

Lesson Six

"Who is Influencing Whom?"

The following passages emphasize very strongly that Christians are to live righteous lives!

2 Cor. 6:14-18 _____

Eph. 5:1-12 _____

One of the areas that we must be concerned about is our influence. We are to crucify the old man of sin and put on the new man created in Christ. Everyone understands that if you claim to be a Christian, you will live different from the world. If we will do this, we will be the one who is influencing others for their good. In order to influence the world around us, we must live among them! You can't influence people if you are never around them. And yet, the above passages seem to be saying we must not associate with them! The solution to this problem is that we live among the people in the world, but we do not engage in activities that are sinful.

1 Cor. 15:33 states that: *"Evil companions corrupt good habits...."* Wrong associations can be dangerous to our spiritual health! So, we must be strong enough to do the influencing. Otherwise, we might be pulled back into the world. The real question here is: *"Who is influencing whom?"*

CHRISTIANS ARE TO INFLUENCE THE WORLD!

Matt. 5:13-16--- 1) Light to enlighten the minds of mankind.

2) Salt to savor...to save the world.

3) Are we doing such?

4) Are we affecting the world around us?

5) Or, is the world influencing us?

Eph. 5:8—*"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."*

1) We are to walk as children of light—not as children of darkness.

2) Does the world see in us the light of God?

3) Is our walk having an effect to help change the world about us?

1 Peter 3:1-6--1) This passage is talking about a wife influencing her worldly husband.

- 2) How does she do such?
- 3) By putting the emphasis upon dressing up the inner person—the hidden person of the heart.
- 4) By the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit.

Her influence is not done by just outward dressing. The more emphasis that is put on the outward, the less that will be put on the inward! And the outward dressing can easily become gaudy, an over-kill, or even an extreme.

1 Tim. 2:9-10--An emphasis should be place upon proper attire also. It needs to be modest, with propriety, and with moderation. It should be appropriate for women professing godliness. The husband, if he is a Christian or not, can help give insight to what is appropriate. Both men & women need to ask the question: "*Who is influencing whom?*"

a) "*Are we letting the world influence us on our attire—so that it is not proper?*"

b) "*Or, are we influencing the world?*"

c) We need to avoid extremes in dress!

a) Not gaudy.

b) Not sloppy

c) Appropriate dress

d) Not revealing.

Eph. 4:22-24, 29, 31, 32--We influence people by our speech. They judge us by our speech. God will also judge us by our speech (Jn. 12:48). "*Who is influencing whom?*" "*Does our speech reflect the world's view or God's view?*" What we talk about shows our interest—it is where our heart is. "*Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" (Matt. 6:21).

Concluding Thoughts

Just who is influencing whom? Are we allowing God & His Word to influence us? Or, is the world influencing us? Religious groups around us are giving in to the pressures of the world! Their once firm moral stand is no longer—they have given in—Homosexuality, Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage, and even Living together outside of marriage. They are caught up in the world's entertainment. They no longer just have a piano or organ, but a whole band or orchestra. Their attitude is "Instrumental music—we like it, we want it, we will have it." What about the Lord's church? Are we wanting to become like the man-made churches about us? Just how far will we go to be like them? Just who is influencing whom? Jesus said about His people:

a) "*You are the light of the world*"

b) "*A city set on a hill to give light to all the people*"

Are we? What a challenge we have!

Questions for Discussion

1. How can a Christian "come out from among them" and still have an influence upon them?

2. How do we expose the unfruitful works of darkness?

3. Why do we need to be warned about "evil companions?"

4. How can we be light to those in darkness if we do not have some kind of association with them?

5. How can a Christian wife influence her unbelieving husband?

6. Why is it important for Christian women to dress appropriately?

7. How can we influence people for good by our speech?

8. Are we giving in to worldly ways and thoughts; or, are we having an impact on non-Christians in the world?

9. How can we know that we are being influence by the world?

Take Notes

