

Fellowship With Evil

Intro: Our world today has literally been taken over with evil. What should the Christians response be to that iniquity? That is what I want us to consider in this lesson.

I. SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM EVIL.

A. We must come out of it.

1. 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1 ¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you. ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. ^{7:1} Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
2. Come out of it, not to partake of it; Rev. 18:4 ⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”
3. Not to partake of it, have no fellowship with it; Eph. 5:7, 11 ⁷ Be not ye therefore partakers with them. ⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: ⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) ¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.”

B. We are to abstain from it.

1. Cast it off; Rom. 13:12 ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”
2. Put it off; Eph. 4:22 ²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;”
3. Abstain from it; 1 Pet. 2:11 ¹¹ Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”
4. Eschew means to turn aside or to turn from; 1 Pet. 3:10-11 ¹⁰ For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: ¹¹ Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.”
5. Abstain from even the appearance of it; 1 The. 5:22 ²² Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

C. Our attitude toward it.

1. Not lust after it; 1 Cor. 10:6 ⁶ Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.”
2. Abhor it; Rom. 12:9 ⁹ *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”
3. Be ashamed of it; Rom. 6:21 ²¹ What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.”
4. Have no pleasure in it; Rom. 1:32 ³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

II. EXAMPLES OF SUCH EVIL THAT IS PERMEATING OUR LIVES.

A. Dancing; Gal. 5:19-21 ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

1. Lasciviousness
 - a. Denotes an absence of restraint, indecency.
 - b. The prominent idea is shameless conduct.
 - c. Invoking lust or wantonness.
2. Revellings
 - a. Means a revel or carousal.
 - b. It is to indulge freely in, without restraint.
3. And such like. This would also include dancing.

B. Alcoholism

1. Drunkenness is strongly condemned in the scriptures.
 - a. 1 Cor. 5:11 ¹¹ But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”
 - b. Gal. 5:21 ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”
2. How could drinking that which makes us drunk, in moderation, be right.
3. 1 The. 5:22 ²² Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

C. Immorality

1. Divorce and remarriage
 - a. In the church, just about any reason is acceptable for divorce and remarriage today.
 - b. Mat. 19:9 ⁹ And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”
 - (1) Gives the one reason for divorce and remarriage.
 - (2) It is a universal law, for those in the church and out of the church.
2. Homosexuality
 - a. It is clearly sin.
 - (1) Gen. 2:22-24 ²² And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. ²³ And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. ²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”
 - (2) Rom. 1:26-27 ²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”
 - b. Yet we have what is referred to as “gay” churches of Christ, today.

3. Premarital and extra-marital affairs
 - a. This has almost become common and acceptable in our society.
 - b. It is sin.
 - (1) Gal. 5:19 ^{“19} Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,”
 - (2) Heb. 13:4 ^{“4} Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”

D. Immodest Apparel

1. Clothing such as short dresses, short-shorts, see-through-blouses, etc.
2. Mixed swimming where the people are more undressed than dressed.
3. The Bible still says.
 - a. 1 Tim. 2:9-10 ^{“9} In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; ¹⁰ But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”
 - b. 1 Pet. 3:3-4 ^{“3} Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ⁴ But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

E. Gambling

1. Violates many principles in the Bible.
 - a. Shows a lack of contentment, Phi. 4:11 ^{“11} Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.”
 - b. Violates the golden rule, Mat. 7:12 ^{“12} Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”
 - c. Violates the principle of work.
2. Yet, how many Christians go to the gambling casinos, buy lottery tickets or chances, etc.

III. WE NEED TO BE PURE IN HEART.

- A. **Mat. 5:8** ^{“8} Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”
- B. **1 Cor. 6:20** ^{“20} For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”
- C. **1 Tim. 5:22** ^{“22} Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.”

Conclusion: Let us in this life abstain from all evil, come out from it, be separate; and be pure in life glorifying God in our actions.