

X X-Rated For Christians

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

There are some things a Christian ought *NOT* do.

As this world staggers toward the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, things are going to get *w-o-r-s-e*, not better. According to *II Timothy 3:1*, these last days will be characterized by _____ times. *Matthew 24:12* predicts that _____ shall abound.

Were it not for the clear teachings of the Word of God, it would be easy for the believer to be swept along by the tide of sin. Thank God we have the Bible!

One of the "criticisms" of the Bible is that it is so *NEGATIVE* — full of "*thou shalt not's*," etc. The fact is, the Bible *IS* negative in the majority of its teaching — for the simple reason that man has a *POSITIVE* tendency toward sin.

This study will look at some of the current "sociological sins" facing you today. They are widespread and generally acceptable in the community today. That doesn't make them right — it's what the Bible says that counts.

— PREPARATION FOR THIS STUDY —

A. Review Lesson #19 — Separation.

1. What are the two aspects of separation?
_____ and _____
2. What is our liberty in Christ restricted to? _____

B. Review Lesson #22 — Victory.

1. What does the "world" seek from you? _____
2. According to *Colossians 3:1,2*, where are you to place your affections?

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T DRINK ALCOHOL.

- A. Drinking is a real problem in this country — hundreds of lives are lost, thousands of homes are destroyed, and millions of dollars are wasted annually as a direct result of the liquor industry. And yet, for all of that, consuming alcohol is one of the most socially acceptable (and expected!) pastimes in the nation.
- B. The Bible has much to say concerning liquor, and is very clear in its teaching on the subject.
- C. Before studying the Scriptures, it is vital to keep in mind the fact that the word “wine” in the Bible is a generic word which applies to all products derived from grapes — both natural grape juice and man-made alcoholic wine. The **context** of the passage determines what is meant in each case.
1. *Proverbs 20:1* — “Wine is a _ _ _ _ _ .”
 2. *Proverbs 23:20,21* — Drunkenness leads to P _ _ _ _ _ .
 3. *Isaiah 5:11* — The Bible pronounces _ _ _ upon drunks.
 4. *Genesis 9:20-23* — Drinking brings N _ _ _ _ N E S S and shame.
 5. *Habakkuk 2:15* — God hates us giving our N _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ a drink.
 6. *Proverbs 31:4,5* — Liquor perverts J _ _ _ _ _ .
(*Proverbs 31:4,5* refers to the practice of “drinking to drown your sorrows” — but drink **NEVER** removes the sorrows, it only compounds them, as *Proverbs 23:29,30* teaches.)
 7. *Isaiah 5:12,14* — Drink is a sure path to H _ _ _ .
 8. *Isaiah 28:7* — Drink causes us to E _ _ .
 9. *Mark 15:23* — Jesus refused a stupefying drink of _ _ _ _ _ as He was being crucified.
- D. The temptation for the Christian is to drink “socially.” To this we answer:
1. Every drunkard began with just one drink.
 2. First, man takes the drink — then, drink takes the man.
 3. Liquor is deceiving — *Proverbs 20:1* says so!!
- E. Keep in mind that alcoholic beverage is a man-made product. The process of fermentation requires special conditions and human intervention. The exact proportions of sugar, yeast, and water must be present, and a temperature range

of between 10° and 22°C (50°-72°F) maintained – otherwise vinegar will be produced.

- F. Many try to argue for drink by citing the first miracle of the Lord Jesus Christ where He turned the water into wine. But oriental weddings were religious occasions, not festive – and God never contradicts His Word. This wine was **grape juice**.

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T GAMBLE.

A popular slogan promoting a lottery says, “*Millions Won Weekly*” – but fails to tell the other side of the story – “*Countless Millions Lost Weekly*” – not to mention ruined lives, broken homes, hungry children, and the accompanying rise in organized crime, prostitution, and theft.

Our country is a nation of gamblers. From raffles, bingo, and lotto, to racing and casinos, many opportunities are presented to the child of God.

What Does The Bible Have To Say On This Matter?

A. Gambling Is An Insult To God.

1. *Philippians 4:19* – God shall supply _____ our _____.
2. *II Corinthians 9:8* – God will see to it that His children will have all _____ in _____ things.

When we gamble we are in effect saying to the Lord, “I do not think you will keep your promise.”

B. Gambling Is Spiritually Dangerous – a sin which has drowned many a man in destruction and perdition (Hell).

I Timothy 6:9 – To those that will (want to above all else) be rich, the danger is that they will experience:

T _____
A S _____
F _____ and H _____ lusts.

C. Gambling Is Basically Selfish. To gamble requires seeking prosperity at the expense of others.

1. *Exodus 20:7* – “Thou shalt not _____.”

No one gambles to lose. The prime motivation for all forms of gambling is to gain what is not owned. That is **covetousness**.

2. *I Timothy 6:10* — This verse does not teach that money is a problem, but rather the _____ of money.
3. *Genesis 3:19* — God intends man to live by the _____ of his face; i.e., to work for a living.
It is a principle of God that there must be:

**WORK BEFORE WEALTH
SOWING BEFORE REAPING**

Gambling abrogates God's natural law because the gambler seeks to reap what others have sown.

D. Gambling Is Poor Stewardship.

1. Nobody ever really wins by indulging in gambling.
2. According to *I Corinthians 4:2*, God requires each Christian to be _____ over all that has been given to him from God's hand.

E. Gambling Is Often Plain "Superstition" — involving "lucky numbers," "lucky systems," "keeping your fingers crossed," etc.

Read what God has to say about such things in *Isaiah 47:12,13*.

1. *Romans 8:28* — "All things work together for _____ to them that love God..."
2. *I Peter 5:7* — "Casting _____ your _____ upon _____..."

One word which needs to disappear from the Christian's vocabulary is "LUCK." Luck plays no part in our Heavenly Father's loving and providential care for His own.

F. Gambling Makes One Insensitive To God's Will.

According to *John 19:23,24*, the Roman soldiers gambled for the clothes of the crucified Lord. They were completely unaware of the event transpiring in their presence. When anyone is consumed with self-interest, they are most insensitive to the things of the Lord.

Resist any temptation to win something. Avoid gambling as an enemy of your soul. Lean wholly upon the Lord for everything good.

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T SMOKE.

Smoking (like many other drugs) is addictive. That's why so many Christians have a real problem in this area.

Smoking (and other harmful drugs) should be absent from your life — for three basic reasons:

A. For PHYSICAL reasons.

It is common knowledge that smoking is harmful and even deadly. Unsaved people quit smoking for this reason, but more so should the Christian.

1. *I Corinthians 6:19* — The believer's physical body is the _____ of the _____. It is sacred, and ought not to be defiled by any known harmful substance.
2. *I Corinthians 9:27* — The Apostle Paul kept his physical body well by keeping it under _____.

Remember — it is with your body that you serve the Lord. Harming it only hinders effective service.

B. For EMOTIONAL reasons.

1. Many people take up serious smoking (and drugs) because of underlying emotional causes — insecurity, anxiety, etc. It becomes a deadly crutch. Addiction is a terrible thing.
2. The believer is to be "... C _____ (full of care, anxious) for nothing..." *Philippians 4:6*, but to learn to trust in the Lord for all things.
3. Experiencing *Philippians 4:7* does away with any need for drugs of addiction.

C. For SPIRITUAL reasons.

1. A smoking Christian is a poor testimony because, rightly or wrongly, the world perceives the Christian to be clean in his habits.
2. One of the great obstacles to winning a soul for Christ is a stale tobacco breath (or any bad breath, for that matter).

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T DANCE.

A. Dancing Is A Practice With Strong Sexual Overtones — be it “ballroom” style with its intimate embrace, or the latest body-shaking “gyrations” which flaunt the flesh and lower God-given inhibitions. If dancing has *any* place whatsoever, it could only be between husband and wife in the privacy of their marriage relationship.

B. The Bible Associates Dancing With Evil.

1. Read: *Exodus 32:1-29*. Dancing is mentioned here in *verse 19*. Notice the things associated with the dance:

- a. Verse 4 — _____ .
- b. Verse 6 — D _ _ _ _ I N G.
- c. Verse 25 — N _ _ _ _ N E S S.

2. Read: *Matthew 14:1-12*. Dancing was the means of getting the adulterous Herod to put John the Baptist to death. Who danced here?

C. Some Christians (usually those who want to dance) point out that king David danced before the Lord, as recorded in *II Samuel 6:12-21*.

It is important to understand some facts relating to this case.

1. David danced alone.
2. David danced out of extreme joy before the Lord.
3. Even so, it seems this kind of dancing led David to uncover himself — *verse 20*.

As innocent as this dance of child-like excitement and praise to the Lord may have been, it was nothing like the kind of dancing seen in today's society.

WHY BAPTISTS DON'T LISTEN TO ROCK AND ROLL “MUSIC.”

Many Christians believe the issue of music is simply a matter of personal taste. Some like classical; others prefer jazz; many love “Country & Western”; and a lot go in for rock and roll.

However, this is **not** the case!

There is much more to rock and roll than meets the ear, as any careful study of the subject will reveal. Rock and roll especially is a downright **dangerous** music form.

Not only should Christians avoid listening to it, but our young ones must be protected from its Satanic influence.

According to *Ephesians 5:10*, believers are to prove what is _____ to the _____.

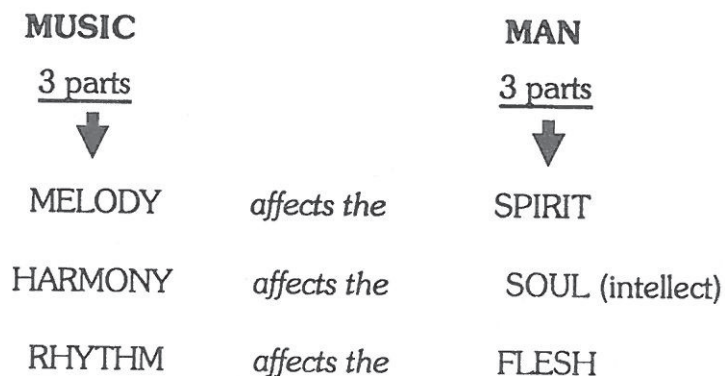
A God's Standards For Music.

1. *Ephesians 5:19,20*. The three forms of music listed are:
 - a. P _____ = Scripture set to music.
 - b. H _____ = songs based upon Scripture.
 - c. S _____ S _____ = Christ-exalting music which speaks to the spiritual man, not the old nature.
2. *Colossians 3:16*.
Christian songs should T _____ and A _____ one another.

B. Music Profoundly Affects Us.

1. Think of how a stirring march picks us up — how soft organ music makes many people feel “religious” — how a love ballad can make you melancholy. Music can give a man courage in battle, or reduce him to tears. Thus we see the importance of music — and, for the Christian the importance of the **right** kinds of music.

The following diagram will explain the effect of music upon a man.



2. The difference between godly music and rock and roll is that godly music emphasizes the melody and controls the harmony and rhythm — whereas rock and roll is heavy on the beat, with little attention to the melody. In doing so, rock and roll arouses the flesh.

C. Why Rock And Roll Music Is Harmful.

1. Its emphasis is on the **beat**, and the kind of beat (throbbing, pulsating) appeals to the flesh; and in conjunction with everything else about rock and roll, it arouses impure thoughts and actions.
(By the way, putting “Christian” words to a rock beat, as do so-called ‘Christian Rock’ and much of the Contemporary Christian Music (CCM), is just as wrong! Sacred music should move the spirit, not the feet!)
2. The **lyrics** of rock and roll music are usually wicked, perverse, immoral, and just plain ungodly. With so-called “heavy metal” rock, they are occult.
3. Many heavy metal rock recordings contain “back-masking” or subliminal (unheard) sounds which the brain unscrambles. Experts say these messages preach rebellion and **Satanism**.
4. The “**Rock Culture**” is hardly a model for Christians to follow. The majority of “performers” are living immoral lives, associated with drugs, sex, sadism, etc. Many commit suicide.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *Philippians 4:8*.