

In The Days of Your



YOUTH

Michael Pickford

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HONESTY

Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson One

Dishonesty is rampant in our society; perhaps because so many people do it, or because in some cases it's actually viewed as acceptable behavior. Often, one learns to be dishonest in his youth and carries this ungodly characteristic into adulthood. The Bible has a great deal to say about dishonesty when it speaks of lying.

LYING TO MAN: God has always expected men to be honest with others. The ninth of the Ten Commandments prohibits a type of dishonesty (Exodus 20:16). "A true witness delivers souls, But a deceitful witness speaks lies" (Proverbs 14:25). In the New Testament, Paul wrote "Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another" (Ephesians 4:25).

TYPES OF LIES CONDEMNED: Essentially, God never condones dishonesty. Revelation 21:8 tells us that "ALL" liars have their place in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. There are many types of lies men may tell. (1) Malicious Lies. This is the type of lie told to do harm to someone else, either to their well being or their character. A malicious lie constitutes slander and is driven by hatred, jealousy, and spite (Proverbs 10:18-19). (2) Common Lies (Psalm 50:19). It seems that some can't help but to lie. They seem to lie just for the fun of it. Perhaps they like to exaggerate things in order to make themselves appear better than they are. A fisherman may lie about the size of fish he caught. This type of lie seems to be driven by low self esteem. (3) Cowardly Lie (Isaiah 57:11). Sometimes one is afraid to tell the truth because of the fear of bad consequences. "My dog ate my homework" would be such a lie. Telling mom and dad "I didn't do it" when you know you did would be a cowardly lie. (4) Commercial Liars. This is the one who lies to obtain money under false pretences. A salesman may make his product seem better than it really is in order to make the sale. (5) Social Lies. This liar will compliment a lady's dress when he really thinks it's the ugliest dress in existence. Some use these lies to flatter their employer or teacher in order to get a raise or a better grade. (6) Religious Lies (Romans 3:4). There are many who teach religious error. In doing so, they are lying when it comes to the truth of the Gospel. Some do so for fame or power. Other do so for monetary gain (2 Corinthians 2:17). Whatever the reason, all religious liars will lose their souls if they do not repent (Galatians 1:6-9). Whatever the lie, remember, God condemns them all.

"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight."
—Proverbs 12:22

SITUATIONS WHERE THE YOUNG ARE TEMPTED TO LIE: There are many situations in which you might be tempted to lie. Perhaps you did something wrong and you lied to your parents about it in order to keep from getting into trouble. These lies often are found out, and if not, God knows about it. You may be tempted to lie to your teacher about homework. You may be tempted to lie to your friends about your family in order to make yourself look better. You might be tempted to cheat or to let someone cheat off you. This is dishonest; it constitutes lying to the teacher. Lying is always wrong, even if it seems to accomplish good. We should not do evil that good may come (Romans 3:8).

LET YOUR YES BE YES: James tells us to let our yes be yes and our no be no (James 5:12). If we develop the type of honest character God desires, the effect will be that men will take our word for things, thus eliminating the need for emphatic and casual swearing. Lying can get us into all kinds of trouble in this life, but the worst trouble will come at judgment. Some speak about "Old fashioned honesty." Honesty shouldn't be old fashion; it should always be the modern style.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is possible to lie without even speaking. Jesus often condemned hypocrisy. This is the sin of acting like a kind of person that you're not. The Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day acted more righteous than they really were. Instead of pleasing God, their main interest was to impress other men. "But all their works they do to be seen by men" (Matthew 23:5). It is important for us to serve God with the right motive; otherwise our life will be a lie.

It is also possible to lie with our silence, or with the inflection of our voice, or even with our actions. If a man is sitting at his desk pretending to work, when he is really playing games on his computer, this is a lie. Can you think of some other examples where one might lie in this way?



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Psalm 101:7
A. What are the consequences for one who works deceit and tells lies?
2. Proverbs 6:16-19
A. How does God feel about a "Lying tongue?"
3. Proverbs 3:3
A. What two things should we do with truth; and what does this mean?
4. Proverbs 12:17
A. What does one do when he speaks truth?
5. Colossians 3:9
A. Lying is a characteristic of whom?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. What has God always expected of men?
2. Why does Paul say we should speak truth with our neighbor?
3. All liars have their part in what?
4. Name at least 4 types of lies.
1) _____ 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____
5. Where does the Bible condemn doing evil that good may come?

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ It's only in the New Testament where God requires honesty.
2. _____ Dishonesty is usually a characteristic one learns in his youth.
3. _____ It is alright to lie in certain situations.
4. _____ Men who teach religious error are considered liars.
5. _____ People are often tempted to lie in order to keep themselves out of trouble.

THINK ABOUT IT.

1. Why do you think dishonesty is so rampant in our society?
2. Why do you think a fisherman would lie and say the fish he caught was bigger than it actually was?
3. Can you think of some lies you might be tempted to tell to make yourself look better in front of your peers?
4. Why would a person tell lies in order to flatter their teacher?
5. What do you think James means when he says for us to let our "Yes" be yes and our "No" be no?
6. Why do you think cheating in school would be considered lying?
7. If I tell a lie and no one ever finds out, have I gotten away with lying? (Hebrews 4:13; Romans 2:16)

REBELLION

Michael Pickford

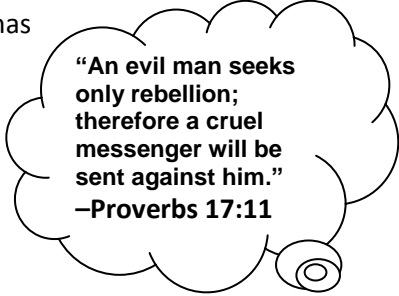
Study Sheet

Lesson Two

Rebellion is active opposition to authority. Unfortunately, rebellion is often portrayed as being “Cool” in the entertainment arena of our society. This has had a negative effect on our young people. Young people will sometimes “Talk back” to their parents when their friends are around in order to “show off.” This is shameful behavior.

REALMS OF AUTHORITY: From the time we enter this world we are under some source of authority. Jesus Christ has all authority today, with the only exception being God the Father (Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:25-28). God has delegated authority to others. To delegate authority is to give someone else the right to rule according to certain standards. For example, God has delegated a certain amount of authority to Parents who have children.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1). The government has also been given authority over its citizens (Romans 13:1-7). God expects us to obey the laws of the land. In the church, God has given a certain amount of authority to the elders of the church. Elders of the church are expected to enforce the doctrine of Christ, the perfect law of liberty (1 Peter 5:1-4; James 1:25). God has also commanded servants to be obedient to their masters (1 Peter 2:18-25). This same concept would represent the employer/employee relationship of our day. Also, wives are to be submissive to their husbands (1 Peter 3:1; Ephesians 5:22-24).



**“An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.”
–Proverbs 17:11**

LACK OF RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY: Sadly, there is a great lack of respect for authority in our day. Often, one of the contributing factors is those who are in authority abusing their position. A child can learn rebellion from the rebellion of his own parents. The way one reacts to and interacts with those in authority is often determined early in life with the parent/child relationship. This places a great responsibility on parents to be responsible in enforcing their authority on young people. However, even when parents do not act respectful, God still expects young people to honor their position of authority. There are times when we may disagree with our parents, our teachers, our bosses, the laws of the land, etc., but we must still submit. People can also be influenced by their peers to be rebellious. Many a good person has been led astray by their friends. Rebellion can be taught (Jeremiah 28:15-17).

THE ROOTS OF REBELLION: The roots of rebellion include a lack of respect for authority, and pride. Young people need to reflect the attitude expressed by Elihu toward the aged and those in authority; “I am young in years, and you are very old; therefore I was afraid, and dared not declare my opinion to you. I said, ‘Age should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom’” (Job 32:6-7). Jesus set a perfect example for young people in subjection and obedience (Luke 2:51). The word “subject” or “Obedient” here is defined: “To subject one’s self, to obey; to submit to one’s control; to yield to one’s admonition or advice” (Thayer’s Lexicon). Because of pride, young people think they know more than their elders and this leads to rebellion against their wisdom and direction. An older person (ex. Your parents) has lived in this world a lot longer than you have and therefore has a better knowledge than you about what’s best for you. This is wisdom.

REWARDS: The idea of subjecting ourselves to others may not on the surface sound pleasant, but the rewards are certainly gratifying. You’ll have peace and contentment, rather than fear, punishment and adversity when you obey your parents, your teachers, your boss, the government, etc. And you will certainly be rewarded for not rebelling against God’s will. Those who obey God have eternal life (Hebrews 5:8-9) while those who rebel against His will only have His eternal wrath to look forward to (Romans 2:5; Hebrews 10:27; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

DID YOU KNOW?

There are times when God releases us from the command to submit to authority. For example, if our Government were to legislate laws which prohibit us from carrying out God’s will, we must not submit to those particular laws. If our Government made it illegal for us to assemble to worship God, Christians would have to violate this law, giving God’s higher command preference (Hebrews 10:25). The ruling body of the Jews (Sanhedrin) commanded Peter and the other apostles not to preach in Jesus’ name. Peter said “We ought to obey God rather than man” (Acts 5:29).

However, just because we cannot honor a law that prohibits us from worshipping and serving God, this does not release us from the obligation of obeying all the other laws. For example, we must continue to stop at red-lights and honor all other laws of the land that do not violate God’s will.



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. 1 Samuel 15:23
 - A. What is the sin of rebellion compared to?
 - B. How does God feel about witchcraft? (Deuteronomy 18:9-14; Galatians 5:19-21)
2. Ephesians 6:1-3
 - A. Give two reasons why we should obey and honor our parents.
3. Numbers 20:24
 - A. Why was Aaron not allowed to enter into the Promised Land?
4. Lamentations 1:18-22
 - A. Why were God's people taken into captivity?
5. Exodus 21:17; Matthew 15:4
 - A. Under the Law of Moses, what was the punishment for one who rebelled against his parents?
6. Proverbs 13:1
 - A. What does a wise son do?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. Give a definition of "Rebellion."
2. What does it mean to delegate authority?
3. What did Jesus do in relation to His parents? What does this mean?
4. Name three things we can avoid by subjecting ourselves to the proper authorities (Parents, Government, etc.).
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
5. Those that rebel against God's will have what to look forward to?

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ If a wife's husband doesn't act the way he should, then the wife doesn't have to submit to him.
2. _____ It is acceptable for a child to occasionally "talk back" to his parents.
3. _____ In special situations, it is acceptable to disobey a law the Government enacts.
4. _____ Due to living in this world longer, your parents know better about what is best for you.
5. _____ Rebellion against parents, government, etc. is bad, but not bad enough to send one to hell.

THINK ABOUT IT.

1. Find a suitable definition for "Witchcraft."
2. After reading through the entire lesson, Can you name three sources from which a child might learn rebellion.
3. If you disagree with your parents command, does this give you the right to disobey them in this matter?
4. If you rebel against any of those to whom God has delegated authority (ex. Parents, Employers, Government), do you think this is the same thing as rebelling against God?
5. What do you think the "Perfect law of liberty" refers to in James 1:25?

SPEECH

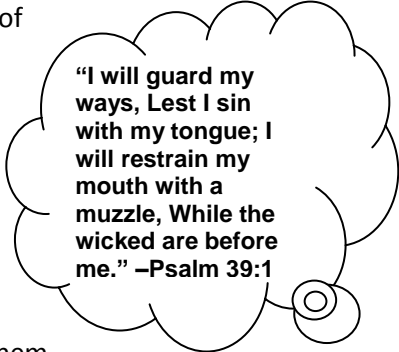
Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson Three

Such a small, seemingly insignificant part of the body is the tongue. Yet it can do so much. This was James' point in James 3:4-5. James also argued that it is very difficult to control the tongue. In fact, except through the strength of Christ, it is impossible to do (James 3:8). No man by his own strength can tame his own tongue, but by applying and living the teachings of Christ, one can win this battle (Philippians 4:13); and it is essential that we do so.

JESUS SAID... "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:36-37). This places a great deal of responsibility upon us for the things we say. Souls are in torment because of their speech, even though they may have had commendable characteristics in other areas of life. Also, if it comes out of the mouth, it ultimately came from the heart (Mark 7:21-23). So keep your heart pure, and you won't have to worry about what comes out of your mouth.



"I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me." -Psalm 39:1

VARIOUS TONGUES: There are many ways by which we might sin with our speech. 1) Lying tongue. We dealt with honesty in a previous chapter. Let us never forget to be honest. 2) Swearing Tongue. Jesus teaches that casual, frivolous swearing is forbidden (Matthew 5:33-37). Some people say things like "I swear" all the time. 3) Blasphemous Tongue. It is a sin to take the Lord's name in vain. This is often done in very frivolous ways. For example, the initials "OMG" are often used in conversation on the internet. For most, the phrase means "O my God." Others claim to mean "O My Goodness" when using them. But this is merely another means of blaspheming God. After all, Who is the source of ALL goodness? (See James 1:17; Matthew 19:17). 4) Gossiping Tongue. Gossip is idle talk or rumors, especially about the personal or private affairs of others. The Bible condemns "Whisperers" (Romans 1:29; See also 1 Timothy 5:13). 5) Slandering Tongue. To slander someone is to say anything (true or false) that could harm someone's character. We often try to justify Gossip or slander by saying things like "I've spoken to them about it," or "I can say this because it's true," or, "He's kin to me, so I can say this." This does not justify it! 6) Negative Tongue. As Christians, we should be positive, cheerful people (Philippians 4:4). Let's not be the type of person who always spews forth negative thoughts. 7) Complaining Tongue. God often punished Israel for complaining. Paul admonishes us not to be like them (1 Corinthians 10:1-12). God has blessed us so richly, how dare we be such complainers. 8) Filthy Tongue. Whether it's filthy jokes, "Cuss" words, or suggestive (Lewd) conversation, Paul said for us to put filthy language out of our mouths! (Read Colossians 3:8. Read It!).

EUPHEMISMS: A Euphemism is "the substitution of a mild, indirect, or vague expression for one thought to be offensive, harsh, or blunt" (Dictionary.com). There are harmless euphemisms such as "He passed away" instead of "He died." But "Bad" words also have their substitutions. For example, in taking the Lord's name in vain there are countless euphemistic expressions in use that mean the same thing as "God" or "Jesus." Words like "Golly, Gosh, Gee, Jeez, Goodness," etc. should be avoided by all who don't want to be guilty of using God's name flippantly. Remember, it may be a euphemism, but it means the same thing; and it certainly would fall under the "Idle" words that Jesus condemned (Matthew 12:36-37).

JUSTIFICATION?: Some "cuss" because they think it makes them look "big" or mature. It doesn't. Some use filthy language when they think it's necessary to emphasize a point. It isn't. Some feel they are justified in using filthy language when they are angry. They aren't. When one uses filthy language to any degree, he offends any decent person within earshot, lowers his reputation, taints his character, and sins against his Creator. Again, Jesus said, "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:37).

DID YOU KNOW?

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:6). Not only should we avoid using our tongues in forbidden ways, but we should be active in using our tongues for good, productive purposes. Instead of tearing people down with discouraging comments, we should build them up with encouraging words. It is always appropriate to say "Thank you" for a kind deed done for you. Instead of taking God's name in vain, we should praise His name, and hold it in reverence. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Proverbs 25:11). With a kind word, you can strengthen a weak soul (Hebrews 3:13), bring cheer to someone who is having a bad day, comfort those who are sick or bereaved, or even change someone's entire attitude towards life into a positive one. The tongue is powerful, use it for much good!



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. 2 Corinthians 12:20
 - A. This passage doesn't speak highly of "Whisperings" and "Backbitings." There are more common words we use today in place of these. Can you guess what they are?
 1. Backbitings: S L N E R
 2. Whisperings: G S I P
2. Proverbs 16:28
 - A. What does gossip often do to a friendship?
3. Proverbs 26:20
 - A. What does gossip and slander lead to?
4. Proverbs 11:13
 - A. Look up the definition for "Secret" in a dictionary?
 - B. Is gossip always false information, or can the information be true?
 - C. How does this passage address the often used "justification:" "This is true, so I can tell you?"
5. 1 Timothy 5:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:11
 - A. Using a Dictionary, find a definition for "Busybody."
6. Proverbs 12:18
 - A. Depending on the Bible Version you use, what is the tongue of the wise said to be (or do)?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. By our words, Jesus said we would be _____ or _____.
2. Name at least four types of tongues and give a brief description of each.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
3. Define a euphemism and give a harmless example of one.
4. Why do you think some people use filthy language?
5. Name some positive ways in which we should use our tongues.

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ It is impossible to tame the tongue.
2. _____ One can swear by heaven as long as he doesn't swear by God.
3. _____ One can use a substitute for a "cuss" word without actually saying the word and this is acceptable.
4. _____ Even if what I say is true it can still be gossip.

THINK ABOUT IT (For Class Discussion).

1. Some think "Cussing" makes them look mature. What do you think about this? Could it actually make one look immature?
2. How can we keep our mouth from uttering "Cuss" words even when we're extremely angry?

PEER PRESSURE

Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson Four

A Peer is “a person who has equal standing with another or others, as in rank, class, or age” (Dictionary.com). All of us have peers. Peer pressure is when we feel compelled to act a certain way because we want to fit in and be accepted by certain people. Nobody wants to be the person who gets talked about or laughed at. But, unfortunately, sometimes we lose focus of who we really are because it becomes more important to us to just fit in.

INFLUENCE: Unless one locks himself up in a small room alone without ever coming out, he will have peers. We must, however, understand the potential dangers of negative influences from our peers. The phrase “Peer Pressure” addresses the negative influences our peers have upon us. That is, our peers often pressure to do things we may not otherwise do; things which are wrong and sinful. There are many adults who struggle with problems like smoking, drinking, drugs, pornography, cheating, lying, etc. because in their youth, their peers influenced them to partake in these things.

OUR FRIENDS: Friendships will inevitably occur between peers. While we don’t really get to choose who our peers will be, it is crucial for us to be careful about those we choose to be our friends. There is a difference in a peer and a friend. All those in our class are our peers, but not all are necessarily our friends. This does not mean they are our enemies; they simply aren’t the ones we choose to develop that special relationship with. When choosing our friends, it is important to understand what friends do. First, *friends help each other.*

“A friend loves at all times...” (Proverbs 17:17; 27). Those in your age group who encourage you to break the rules, or do other harmful things, are not your friends. *Friends share.* Being “Stingy” with our possessions does not appeal to man or God (Philippians 2:4). *Friends are loyal.* They don’t go behind your back and criticize your weaknesses and faults to others (Proverbs 17:13). Also, they stick with us through good times and bad, through “Thick and thin.” “A friend loves at all times...” (Proverbs 17:17). *Friends offer comfort.* “To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend...” (Job 6:14). It is a terrible thing when your friend turns his back on you (Job 16:20; Psalm 38:11). *A friend offers counsel* (advice). Good advice! “Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel” (Proverbs 27:9). It is important for us to learn these godly characteristics and put them in practice in all our friendships. “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24). If we act properly, chances are, we will influence our friends to act the same.

DEALING WITH PEER PRESSURE: While one of our best defenses against peer pressure is choosing wisely who our friends will be, there are other important ways to overcome peer pressure. Understanding why people give in to peer pressure will help tremendously. Some give in so they will feel accepted. They don’t want others to think they’re strange or weird because they will not smoke, use bad language, etc. Some give in because they want to appear “Cool.” They want to do what the “Cool” guy is doing. Listen, doing the right thing is the truly “Cool” thing to do always! Being “Cool” is based on perception. Who do you want to appear “Cool” to? Good people or bad people? We are here to please God, not man (Galatians 1:10). “Everyone else is doing it” is another reason we give in. First, this is not true! Many good people are not doing bad things. Even if it were true, it would not make it right. We should not pattern our lives after the world (Romans 12:1-2). “It seems harmless” is another reason people give in. Bad things are never harmless. Some may give in because of “Bullying.” They are afraid if they don’t do the bad thing they will be made fun of, ridiculed, laughed at, or even beat up. Bullying is unacceptable and dangerous behavior. Try to avoid bullies at all cost! Overcome Peer pressure by avoiding situations in which it is likely to happen. At times, this may also include avoiding certain people whom we know are not good people and are prone to try and influence us for evil (Read Matthew 6:13 & Proverbs 4:14-15).

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”
—Matthew 6:13

DID YOU KNOW?

While trying to keep evil influences from affecting us, we should actively try to influence others to do good things. For example, let others know that you read your Bible, pray, attend church services, etc. And try to influence them to do the same. When your friends are being faced with peer pressure, (being urged by peers to do bad things), be there for them, and encourage them to walk away from the temptation. Let them know that you are there for them and will be their friend as they avoid giving in to peer pressure. Discuss peer pressure with your friends, talk to one another about possible situations that might arise and strengthen one another against the danger.



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Ephesians 5:11-12
 - A. What are we to avoid having fellowship with?
2. Psalm 1:1-2
 - A. Who is the blessed man?
 - B. What is his delight?
3. Proverbs 1:10, 15
 - A. Using a dictionary, find a definition for "Entice" that you think fits here.
 - B. What should we do when a sinner entices us?
4. Proverbs 4:14-15
 - A. What should we NOT enter?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. What is a "Peer."
2. Give a definition for "Peer Pressure."
3. Name a couple of reasons why people give in to Peer Pressure.
 - 1)
 - 2)
4. Name at least four things a friend does.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
5. When someone says "Everyone else is doing it," is this really true?

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ A "Peer" is the same thing as a "Friend."
2. _____ Being wise in our friend selection is one of our best defenses against "Peer Pressure."
3. _____ We are "Cool" when we give in to "Peer Pressure" and do something bad.
4. _____ Our ultimate purpose in life is to seek to please others.
5. _____ Being an unpleasant subject, we should avoid discussing the issue of "Peer Pressure" with our friends.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

1. What do you think Paul meant by "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (1 Corinthians 5:6)? How is this principle important when choosing our friends?
2. Do you think it is wrong to develop friendships with people in the world?
3. Do you think folks are pressured into doing bad things because they don't want to be perceived as being "afraid" or a "Coward?" What is the truly courageous thing to do in these situations?

DRINKING

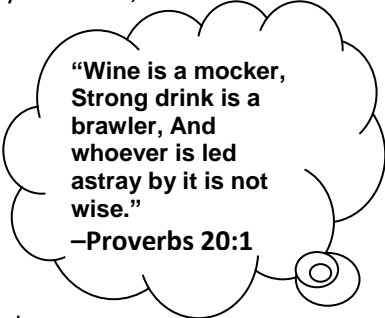
Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson Five

Drinking is a tragic thing at any age. Unfortunately, it strongly affects those who are young. Each year approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking (www.theantidrug.com). Drinking affects your motor control. Drinking lowers inhibitions and increases the chances that a person will do something they will regret when they are sober. Drinking impairs memory and even blackouts can occur when too much alcohol has been consumed. Drinking leads people to engage in risky behaviors that can result in illness, injury and even death. But far worse, drinking is condemned by God and will cause one to lose his eternal soul (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

THE CONDEMNATION OF DRINKING: While the Proverbs give a great deal of instruction regarding the negative effects of drinking, the New Testament strongly and clearly condemns it. In the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) we find "Drunkenness" listed. Remember, those who partake in the works of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:21). This means they will not be going to heaven. Jesus said "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness..." (Luke 21:34). Paul wrote "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation..." (Ephesians 5:18). To this, Peter adds "For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties..." (1 Peter 4:3). Add to all this the reference given above (1 Corinthians 6:9-10) and you have a clear picture of how the Lord views drinking.



**"Wine is a mocker,
Strong drink is a
brawler, And
whoever is led
astray by it is not
wise."
–Proverbs 20:1**

THE DANGERS: In addition to losing one's soul, drinking presents many dangers while still in this life. Most Adults with drinking problems began when they were in their teens. According to the web-site mentioned above, more than 67 percent of young people who start drinking before the age of 15 will try an illicit drug. Sex, including unprotected sex, is common among young people who drink. This naturally leads to other problems in life such as Sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies. Statistically, those who drink, especially among young people, are more apt to be given to violence, and to be injured in a fight. Student drinking precedes (and is a risk factor for) academic problems, such as lower grades, absenteeism and high dropout rates. Alcohol can interfere with a student's ability to think, making learning and concentration more difficult and ultimately impeding academic performance. When young people drink and get into a car, they tend to make poor decisions that impact their safety. Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens and over one-third of teen traffic deaths are alcohol-related. Of course, all of this is backed up by scripture as well. "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed drink" (Proverbs 23:29-30).

THE APPEAL: So if drinking causes so many problems in this life, and condemns one's soul to eternal punishment in hell, what is the appeal? Why do so many get involved with it? The Bible says "Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper" (Proverbs 23:31). While this verse mentions the devastating results of drinking, it also alludes to the appeal of alcohol. It "Sparkles," "swirls" and is "smooth." Some try their first drink due to curiosity and end up falling in love with the "Good feeling" they get from it. Some drink because it seems to be the "Cool" thing to do. Their peers pressure them into it. Some begin drinking because their parents drink. Also, when the parents drink, the opportunity for children to "sneak a drink" is present. Many are influenced to drink because of advertisement. After all, this is the point of advertisement. Beer commercials, billboards and magazine ads usually associate drinking with beautiful people having a wonderful time enjoying life "All because they drink our beer." If they showed those who have been killed and beaten, those who have been mangled in a car accident, pictures of diseased livers, etc., I wonder how many would drink their poison.

DID YOU KNOW?

A friend of mine likes to say "If you drink one beer you are one beer drunk." The laws of our land are not far from agreeing with him. Some people under certain circumstances can drink only one beer and exceed the legal limit for driving. What does God say? The Bible condemns all stages of drinking, including that first drink. In 1 Peter 4:3 these stages are translated "drunkenness, revelries, and drinking parties" (NKJV). The definitions of these three Greek words condemn that first drink, moderate drunkenness, and the "Slobbering drunk" stage. And yes "Drinking Parties" could be accurately translated "Social drinking."



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 - A. What is the ultimate result of being a “Drunkard?”

2. Galatians 5:19-21
 - A. What is the ultimate result for one guilty of “Drunkenness?”

3. Proverbs 23:29-30
 - A. What does drinking lead to?

4. Isaiah 28:7
 - A. Intoxicating drinks causes one to err in _____ and stumble in _____.

5. Proverbs 23:21
 - A. What can drinking lead to?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. Approximately how many people under the age of 21 die each year as a result of drinking?

2. What does the Bible mean when it says someone will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21)?

3. List at least four dangers of drinking.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____

4. In light of the dangers of drinking, why do some people drink anyway?

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ It is ok to drink if you only have one beer, or one drink.
2. _____ The Bible condemns what is commonly referred to as “Social Drinking.”
3. _____ It is uncommon for those who drink and drive to be involved in a vehicle accident.
4. _____ It is ok to drink a little bit around your peers as long as you don’t “Get drunk.”
5. _____ There is great appeal and pleasure involved with drinking.
6. _____ If you drink one beer you are one beer drunk.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

1. In light of 1 Peter 4:3, do you think Jesus turned water into intoxicating wine (John 2:1-12)?

2. Try and list some things that might be part of the “Woe...sorrow... contentions...complaints” in Proverbs 23:29?

3. Using a dictionary, find a definition for the word “Dissipation” (Ephesians 5:18).

FORNICATION

Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson Six

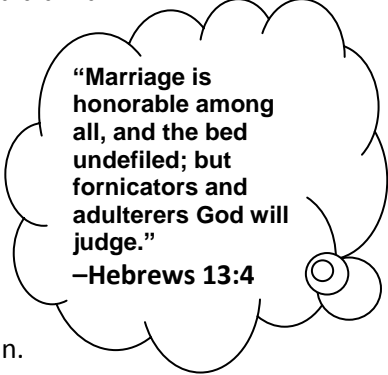
The United States has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and births in the western industrialized world. Thirty-four percent of young women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20 -- about 820,000 a year. Eight in ten of these teen pregnancies are unintended and 79 percent are to unmarried teens. According the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the number of sexually transmitted diseases among teens is alarming. "The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that 19 million new STD infections occur every year. And, even more alarming, is that nearly 50 percent of these new cases happen to young people between the ages of 15 and 24" (familyfirstaid.org). What's the problem? Well, many believe the problem is a lack of education about the facts. So, let's educate ourselves...

A DEFINITION: The English word "Fornication" comes from a Greek word that is defined "Porneia- fornication, illicit sexual intercourse in general" –Thayer. Note the "Sexual intercourse in general." In other words, committing a sex act with someone of the opposite sex, committing a homosexual sex act, bestiality, adultery, etc. would all fall under this category.

CONDEMNATION: The Bible clearly and boldly forbids fornication. Hebrews 13:4 says "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." The judgment here is the condemnation aspect of judgment. Today, we sometimes hear terms like "Pre-marital sex." This refers to two people who are not married committing fornication. Paul condemned this sin in 1 Corinthians 7:1-9. "Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband" (1 Corinthians 7:2). "Sexual immorality" comes from the Greek word defined above and is translated "Fornication" in some translations. Paul clearly states that sexual relations with someone other than your own wife or husband is fornication. Remember, God will judge those guilty of this sin (Hebrews 13:4).

PREVENTION: It is very important to abstain from sexual relations before we are married. Not just because of losing our eternal souls, but also to avoid unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Sex is a beautiful thing created by God and given as a special gift for those who are married to each other. It is man who has perverted this gift. Remember, the marriage bed is undefiled (Hebrews 13:4). In 1 Corinthians 6:18, Paul taught that to commit the sin of fornication is to sin against one's own body. He also said "Flee fornication." We should avoid any situation where we might be tempted to commit this sin (Romans 13:14). Joseph set a fine example of this principle. When tempted by Potipher's wife to commit fornication with her, he said "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9). He then fled from the house! If you find yourself alone with someone of the opposite sex, and this temptation and opportunity arises, Flee! You should avoid situations like this in the first place! Paul told young Timothy "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22). Even though fornication may be practiced by many among our peers, and even perceived as "Cool," it is really a great wickedness against God and our own bodies; and the results could be tragic in this life, and will be tragic in eternity.

JUSTIFICATIONS?: As with many other sins, folks try to justify their practice of fornication. For example, some say if you're "In love" with someone, it's ok to have sexual relations with them, even if not married to them. Many schools promote something called "Safe sex." In our society, pre-marital sex is often justified just so long as one uses protection. But God says not to commit fornication at all! There is no justification for this or any other sin. Beware of "Situation Ethics" which states that things which are wrong under normal circumstances are acceptable under certain circumstances. Keep Yourself Pure! (1 Timothy 5:22)



"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."
–Hebrews 13:4

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus taught that "fornications" proceed from the heart (Matthew 15:19-20) and that they defile a man. Keeping this in mind, we realize that avoiding fornication and a host of other sins begins by keeping our hearts and minds pure. Don't do things that put lewd sexual thoughts in your mind. Avoid TV programs or movies that depict such. Avoid certain pictures in magazines or on the internet. Avoid suggestive language or jokes. Avoid songs which have lyrics which describe sexual behavior. Avoid stories, books, or articles which bring to mind a mental image of sexual behavior. Fill your heart with the word of God on a daily basis. Memorize passages that condemn the sin of fornication. Remember, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Romans 1:28-29
 - A. "Sexual immorality" (Fornication) is found in a list of things which are _____.
 - B. God gave them over to a _____.
2. Galatians 5:16
 - A. How does this passage say we can keep from committing fornication?
3. 1 John 2:16
 - A. The lust of the flesh is of the _____.
4. Hebrews 13:4
 - A. There is a place for sexual relations. Where?
5. Galatians 3:5-6
 - A. What is coming upon those guilty of fornication?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. According to the CDC, how many new cases of sexually transmitted diseases occur each year?
2. What is the definition for the Greek word for "Fornication?"
3. List four things that would qualify as fornication.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
4. What will happen to fornicators and adulterers?
5. What did Joseph say when tempted to commit fornication?

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ The number of sexually transmitted diseases among teens is alarming.
2. _____ What is modernly termed "Pre-marital sex" is specifically condemned in the Bible.
3. _____ It's ok to have sex before marriage as long as you practice "Safe sex."
4. _____ If you're "In love" with someone, it's ok to have sexual relations with them although not married.
5. _____ If fornication occurs, it started with a thought in the heart.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

1. How do we "Walk in the Spirit?" (Galatians 5:16) (Hint: 1 Corinthians 2:10; 2 Peter 1:21)
2. Where do you think sexual desires came from? Do you think they are sinful in and of themselves?
3. Using a dictionary, find a definition for the word "Debased" (Romans 1:28).
4. In what ways could the results of fornication be tragic in this life?

HOMOSEXUALITY

Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson Seven

Twenty years ago the idea of a special lesson on homosexuality for a young teen study might not have immediately leaped to my mind. But things have changed significantly in this country in the last couple of decades in relation to homosexuality. There are movies and TV programs which seek to normalize it. We've had and have political leaders who seek to promote it, and "Gay Marriage" has been legalized in some states. In some instances (in some parts of the country) homosexual themes have promoted the sin in certain text-books in the school system. As a result, many young people are being indoctrinated from youth that homosexuality is simply an "Alternate Lifestyle" and thereby perfectly normal, natural and acceptable. What does God say?...

IN THE BEGINNING: In Matthew 19, some religious leaders asked Jesus a question in relation to marriage. In His answer, Jesus reminded them that God in the beginning made them "Male and female," and said for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife..." (Matthew 19:4-5). Notice God made them "Male"

and "Female." It's true! When we go back to Genesis; we find that for Adam, God did not make "Steve." He made Eve (Genesis 2:20-22). He made a woman for man! Marriage is for one man and one woman for life. This is what God intended from the very beginning.

THE OLD TESTAMENT: It is certainly clear that in Old Testament times God did not condone the sin of homosexuality. God utterly destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and surrounding cities for their extreme wickedness, including homosexuality. In fact, when the angels (appearing as men) were staying with Lot, the men of the city gathered around his house and said "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally" (Genesis 19:5). The word "Carnal" simply means "Fleshly" or "Fleshly." They wanted to commit homosexuality with those "Men!" Remember, God destroyed them for this sin (Genesis 18:20-21; 19:23-25). Jude reminds us that they were destroyed because they had given themselves over to "Fornication" and had "Gone after strange flesh" (Jude 1:7). Later, in the Law of Moses, God said about homosexuality..."You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). The phrase "Lie with" was simply a figure of speech used in Old Testament times which meant "Have sexual relations with" (i.e. commit a sex act). This verse makes it clear that God views homosexuality as an "Abomination" (See also Leviticus 20:13).

THE NEW TESTAMENT: In the New Testament also there is an abundance of passages which condemn homosexuality. For example, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 teach us that neither "Homosexuals" (Greek def. "Those submitting to homosexuals") nor "Sodomites" (Greek def. Male homosexuals) will inherit the kingdom of heaven. Paul used clear and descriptive language in Romans 1:26-27 to condemn homosexuality. Read these verses and compare what Paul says to the modern arguments used to "Justify" homosexuality. Many argue that homosexuality is "Natural." God says it is "Against nature" (Romans 1:26). Because it is "Against nature," people are clearly not born this way. People are born with the natural sex drive put there by God. Just as with "Pre-marital sex," prostitution, bestiality, adultery, and pedophilia, homosexuality is just another way man has perverted this sex drive. Many argue that homosexuality is something to be proud of. Thus we have folks advocating "Gay Pride" and "Coming out of the closet" (revealing their homosexuality). But God says it is "Shameful" (Romans 1:27). Again, some argue that it is "Normal" and "Natural," but God refers to it as "Vile passions" (Romans 1:26). Some argue that only forced homosexuality (Rape) is sinful, but God said these men "burned in their lust for one another" (Romans 1:27). Some argue that only male homosexuality is wrong, But God condemned the practice in women as well (Romans 1:26). Again, some argue that people are "Born gay," and therefore cannot change. But about homosexuals and sodomites, God said "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified..." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Don't let a downgrade society deceive you. No matter what some may say and teach, homosexuality is a shameful sin which is strongly and clearly condemned by God.

"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination."
—Leviticus 18:22

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible says that homosexuals receive "In themselves the penalty for their error which was due" (Romans 1:27). The human anatomy shows us that homosexuality is not natural. The anatomy of a male shows us that two males were not meant to be involved with one another sexually. The same is true with females. According to the statement above, not only will homosexuals face eternal punishment for their sin, but there may be physical problems as well. Today, the disease called AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is linked directly to homosexuality.



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Leviticus 18:22; 20:13
 - A. God views homosexuality as an _____.
 - B. Under the Old Law, what was the penalty for homosexuality?
2. Genesis 18:20-21; 19:5-7; 19:24-25
 - A. What was one of the reasons God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah?
 - B. Regarding homosexuality, Lot pleaded with the men not to do so _____.
3. Jude 1:7
 - A. Jude said Sodom and Gomorrah had gone after _____ flesh.
4. Romans 1:26-27
 - A. Is homosexuality "Natural?"
 - B. Is homosexuality something to be proud of?
5. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
 - A. What will be the eternal penalty for homosexuality?
 - B. Can a homosexual change and be forgiven?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. Name at least three avenues in society in which homosexuality is promoted and normalized.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
2. When God made a perfect "Helper comparable" for man (Genesis 1:20-22), did He make another man or did He make a woman?
3. What was one of the primary sins that caused God to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?
4. What did the phrase "Lie with" mean in Old Testament times?
5. If someone told you that homosexuality is "Natural," how would you answer this scripturally?

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ One could not tell that homosexuality is not natural by simply considering the human anatomy.
2. _____ Instead of something to be proud of, God specifically said that homosexuality is shameful.
3. _____ Some people are born "Gay."
4. _____ It is possible for a homosexual to change.
5. _____ The disease of AIDS has been directly linked to homosexuality.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

1. While God condemns homosexuality, has He given us the right to commit "Hate crimes" against those guilty of the sin?
2. Do you think homosexuality is acceptable as long as the people who practice it do so willingly, or is only forced homosexuality sinful?
3. Define "Abomination?"
4. Do you know anyone who openly admits to being a homosexual?

DANCING

Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson Eight

There is a lot of confusion and debate over the practice of dancing. Dancing enjoys as much or more prominence in our society than ever. TV programs such as "Dancing with the stars," exercise programs involving dancing, and certain types of dancing in the winter Olympics (Dancing on ice) has catapulted the popularity of dancing.

WHEN IS DANCING SINFUL?: Some believe dancing is a sin simply because it is dancing. But the Bible does not condemn dancing per se. It never says, "Thou shalt not dance." On the contrary, the Bible says that there is "a time to dance." (Ecclesiastes 3:4). We can even read about how Moses' sister Miriam led all the women out with dances before the Lord to help celebrate Israel's escape from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 15:20). The problem comes when the type of dance being done involves indecent bodily movements. God does condemn certain types of dancing by way of principle. Many years ago, an article appeared in the paper about rules and regulations which certain schools had imposed on their proms. Some of the rules were printed in the article and the wording was rather descriptive. The reality, however, was that the rules were only describing exactly what was already taking place on the dance floor. Any dance in which the "sex act" was simulated was forbidden. The fact is, most of our modern dances involve movements of the body which can serve to trigger sexual thoughts in the minds of the viewers and the participants. The multi-million dollar business of strippers, lap dancers, private dancers etc. is based solely on this premise. Any dance in which two people closely move their bodies against one another, especially in which the hands are used to caress and "pet," is forbidden. These school rules would never have become so explicit if these types of things weren't already going on.

"You shall not follow a crowd to do evil..."
-Leviticus 23:2

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS: The Bible is even more restrictive than the rules imposed by the above mentioned school. One of the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19 is "lewdness." This Greek word is actually translated into several different English words. KJV: "lasciviousness." NKJV: "lewdness." NIV: "debauchery." NRSV: "licentiousness." The Greek word is *aselgeia* which Thayer defines as "wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females." Notice the mention of "indecent bodily movements" and "unchaste handling of males and females." This is exactly what takes place on the dance floors of our modern day proms and other public dances. It's the same kind of ungodly activity which precedes fornication in the back seats of our teen's cars. Putting this sin to music on a dance floor under the supervision of "chaperones" does not make it acceptable. Whether there is music and organization or not it is still lewdness, lasciviousness, debauchery and licentiousness. It is still sin and those who practice it will still "not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal. 5:21). Young people, stay away from modern dances.

JUSTIFICATIONS: Many parents argue that they would be robbing their children of the "right to be young" by forbidding them from going to these dances, and young people feel as if they're being robbed of an important part of their youth if they do not participate in the prom and other organized dances. But by avoiding these dances you're avoiding activity which the Bible would describe as a work of the flesh. Remember "Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts" (Romans 13:14). Just because everyone else is doing it doesn't make it alright. "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil" (Exodus 23:2). Some justify dancing because it's part of an exercise class. There are plenty of decent types of exercise one can participate in without committing a work of the flesh. Whatever type of dancing under consideration in Genesis 15:20 and Ecclesiastes 3:4 was not dancing which involved indecent bodily movements and these passages do not justify one in participating in modern dances which involve lasciviousness.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible gives an example in which dancing led to a grievous sin. In Matthew 14:1-12, the Bible relates the story of how on Herod's birthday "The daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod" (Verse 6). This led to a rash promise made by Herod which resulted in the beheading of John the Baptist. Today, dancing is often used as a method to please others and arouse within them lewd thoughts which often lead to acts of fornication. Let's learn from the lesson of Herod and Herodias and avoid this sin.



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Exodus 15:20-21
 - A. What was the purpose for dancing in these verses?
2. Galatians 5:19-21
 - A. Lewdness is listed among the _____
 - B. Those guilty of lewdness will not what?
3. Exodus 23:2
 - A. We should not follow a crowd to do what?
4. Matthew 14:1-12
 - A. How did Herodias get Herod to behead John the Baptist?
5. Romans 13:14
 - A. What should we make no provisions for?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. Is dancing a popular activity in our society?
2. What makes certain types of dancing sinful?
3. Define "Lewdness" (Aselgeia)?
4. What two aspects of aselgeia are often involved in dancing?
 - 1)
 - 2)
5. What was the ultimate result of the dancing Herodias' daughter did before Herod?

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ Dancing at the prom is ok as long as it is chaperoned.
2. _____ The Bible specifically uses the phrase "Thou shalt not dance."
3. _____ All dancing is "Lewdness."
4. _____ Unchaste handling of males and females and indecent bodily movements are acceptable activities for Christians to participate in.
5. _____ We should avoid any activity or event that might cause others to lust.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

1. When do you think dancing would not be sinful?
2. Would you agree that most modern dances involve indecent bodily movements?
3. What if the movements you make while dancing causes someone to lust? (Matthew 18:6)
4. Do you feel like you would be "Missing out on being young" if you did not attend your prom?

GAMBLING

Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson Nine

Gambling is an often discussed topic, both in churches and the political arena. I am under the impression, however, that more discussion is needed on the topic; more preaching, more teaching, and more warning. This is an issue that particularly affects young people, as opportunities to gamble often present themselves among friends and peers. While these opportunities may be small and seemingly insignificant, such as matching quarters, they lay the basis for the spirit of gambling, and are indeed gambling themselves. Even buying a simple lottery ticket has introduced many to a devastating life of gambling.

GAMBLING DEFINED: In order for gambling to be present, there must be a combination of factors involved. This is important to recognize, as many will try to justify gambling by comparing it to things which really do not constitute gambling. Webster's Dictionary defines gambling in this way: "To play games of chance for money or some other stake; to take a risk in order to gain some advantage." A more descriptive way to put this: "Gambling is a wager or a bet in which two or more people mutually agree in advance that each player will risk losing some material possession to other players, in exchange for the chance to win the material possessions placed at risk by the other players; the winner(s) or loser(s) to be determined by the outcome of some game of chance, with nothing of fair value being given the loser to compensate him for his lose." Notice some elements necessary for something to constitute gambling. (1) A game of chance (Risk), (2) The Stakes, (3) The agreement (wager), (4) Lack of fair compensation.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS: While the Bible does not give us a specific statement which says "Thou shalt not gamble," it does give us certain principles we are to live by which contradict the concept of gambling. For example, Ephesians 4:28 tells us we should do honest work in order to have something to give those in need. Gambling violates both these concepts. Gambling does not constitute honest work. Through gambling, one's hope is to get something for nothing (Lack of fair compensation). The way money is acquired is not through work, but through risk. The Christian ethic demands that we make our money by labor, not by luck, by work, not by wagering. But notice (Ephesians 4:28) we are to work so that we may have something to give those who are in need. Gambling, by contrast, is a means of taking something (Money) from those who have need in order to fill our own pockets, without giving them something fair in exchange. In addition to all this, gambling also violates the "Golden Rule." Jesus said "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them..." (Matthew 7:12). The one who loses at gambling is never happy about it. No one ever pays a gambling debt with a smile on his face. Further, the basis of gambling is covetousness and greed (The love of Money). Consider 1 Timothy 6:6-10 on this note.

OTHER PROBLEMS: Being sinful, gambling will cause one to lose his soul. But even before this, there are many problems gamblers face in this life because of their gambling. Gambling has been described as the springboard for other crimes. J Edgar Hoover once said, "Gambling is a vicious evil, it corrupts our youth and blights the lives of adults. It becomes the springboard for other crimes – embezzlement, robbery, even murder." Statistically, any state that legalizes gambling records a dramatic rise in stealing, drinking, suicides, domestic violence, and even murder. As people try to find ways to pay off their gambling debt, their frustration and desperation leads them to many of these crimes. It's true when Paul said that because of the love of money many, in their greediness, have "Pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:10).

**"Let him who stole steal no more, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need."
–Ephesians 4:28**

DID YOU KNOW?

Just because something is risky does not by necessity make it gambling. Some try to justify gambling by saying things like "Life is a risk," or "It's risky to cross the street." It is risky to cross the street, but when one does so, there is no wager, no stakes, and no lack of fair compensation. So this is not gambling and the idea of crossing the street does not justify gambling. Some try and justify "Legal" gambling. In other words, if it's legal, it's ok. "Since the State Lottery is legal, it's ok." Keep in mind that drinking, murder (Abortion) and a host of other things which we know to be wrong are legal. If it's sin it's sin! Legalizing gambling does not make it acceptable to God.



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Ephesians 4:28
 - A. One is to work with his hands what is _____.
 - B. What reason is given here for one to do good work?
2. Matthew 7:12
 - A. What should we do to others?
3. 2 Thessalonians 3:10
 - A. In order to eat, one must do what?
4. 1 Timothy 6:6-10
 - A. Godliness with _____ is what?
 - B. With what should we be content?
 - C. The desire to be rich can drown men in what?
 - D. What is the root of all kinds of evil?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. What has buying a simple lottery introduced many to?
2. List four components necessary to make a thing gambling.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
3. How is gambling a contrast to the last phrase in Ephesians 4:28?
4. List some crimes that gambling often leads one to commit?
5. Name two things that the love of money causes many to do?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ Gambling is something that only affects the lives of older people.
2. _____ Some people try to justify gambling by comparing it to things which really aren't gambling.
3. _____ While gambling is sinful, there's nothing wrong with buying a simple lottery ticket.
4. _____ Gambling is still sinful even if it has been legalized.
5. _____ While gambling causes a lot of problems in this life, it will not actually cause one to lose his soul.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

1. Knowing what we now know about gambling, indicate which of the following are gambling and which are not with a "Yes" or "No."
 1. _____ Walking across the street.
 2. _____ Casino Games and race track betting.
 3. _____ Playing games where there is no wager (Bet) and no money or property involved.
 4. _____ Farming or owning a business.
 5. _____ Online video, lottery and casino games.
 6. _____ State operated lotteries.
2. We know betting money is wrong, but what about using other things as stakes. For example, if I said to my friend, "If the Reds win I'll buy you lunch, but if the Cardinals win, you buy me lunch." Is this gambling?

EMPLOYMENT

Michael Pickford

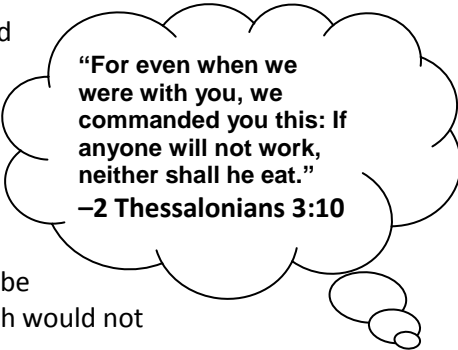
Study Sheet

Lesson Ten

Getting a job is something we begin preparing for early in life. Education is something we need in order to learn how to properly and adequately function in all aspects of society. But later education focuses much on what we will do for a living. The Bible places a high premium on employment and work, and often condemns being lazy. "Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger" (Proverbs 14:15). Sadly, there are many people in life who try to avoid work. This leads to many problems in their lives and causes problems for others close to them. As God's children, we should develop a good work ethic.

THE NECESSITY OF WORK: Many passages emphasize the necessity of work. Paul wrote "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). There are several reasons for us to work. First, we should work so we can supply for our needs, and for the needs of our family (2 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 Timothy 5:8). Second, we should work so we might have something to give those who are in need (Ephesians 4:28). Third, we should work so we might have something to give back to the Lord (1 Corinthians 16:1-3).

THE TYPE OF WORK WE DO: Not only should we be careful to avoid laziness, we should also avoid jobs which are dishonest and dishonorable. In Ephesians 4:28, Paul commands us to do work with our hands what is "Good." "Good" as opposed to evil or bad. The Greek word *agathos* is translated "Honest" in the RSV and other reliable translations. It could also be translated with words such as virtuous, fair and worthy. When searching for employment, we should be careful to avoid jobs which would cause us to compromise our good moral values. Jobs which require us to sell and/or serve alcohol for example should be avoided. Other jobs may call for us to be deceitful, dress immodestly, or even dance. There are plenty of jobs we could do which would not compromise our moral values.



"For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."
-2 Thessalonians 3:10

ON THE JOB: The Bible also addresses the kinds of workers we should be when employed. In the work force, there are those who are lazy, unreliable, dishonest, and often absent. There's the employee that the boss is constantly having to tell to "Get to work." This should not be us! In New Testament times, there were servants and bond servants. Some were servants against their will (Slaves) while others sold themselves into slavery. Within certain limits, comparisons can be made to the present day employer/employee relationship. We are given principles which should guide us in these relationships. On the job, we should be obedient to our superiors. Even if they are harsh or unfair, it is our responsibility to do as we're told without complaining (We should not answer back [Titus 2:9]). We should work as if Jesus Himself were there as our boss (Ephesians 6:5-6, 1 Peter 2:18). We should not pilfer as employees. To pilfer is to steal. We should not skim from the products we are producing or selling. The fast-food worker who munches on the fries while working is guilty of stealing (Titus 2:10). We should show all good fidelity (Titus 2:10). We should be honest and loyal employees. When our work schedule does not suit us, it is dishonest and disloyal to "Call in sick" when we really aren't sick. A lack of fidelity is also shown when we are constantly late for work. Employers need their workers to be dependable. Basically, we should be the type of worker that would cause our boss(es) to wish all his employees were like us. This will speak well of our faith, of the Lord, and the Lord's church. We would be adorning the doctrine of God (Titus 2:10) instead of blaspheming his name and doctrine (1 Timothy 6:1).

DID YOU KNOW?

While hard honest work is commended and commanded by God, it is possible to overwork. Often, the reason people overwork is because of covetousness (The love of money). The Bible says "Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease!" (Proverbs 23:4). When one overworks, he neglects other important aspects of life, such as spending time with his wife and tending to her needs (Ephesians 5:22-33). He also becomes negligent when it comes to the emotional needs of his children, as well as their proper training (Ephesians 6:1-4). He also has less time to study God's word, pray, and be actively involved in the work of the church of which he is a member. Again, we must learn the lesson of contentment (1 Timothy 6:6-10).



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Ephesians 4:28
 - A. One is to work with his hands what is _____.
 - B. What reason is given here for one to do good work?
2. Proverbs 12:27
 - A. What is man's precious possession?
3. 2 Thessalonians 3:10
 - A. In order to eat, one must do what?
4. Titus 2:9, 10
 - A. List some things the bondservant should be/do.
 - B. List some things he should not be/do.
4. Proverbs 23:4
 - A. If one is overworking, what should he do?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. Name a passage of scripture which commands us to work.
2. Name at least three reasons why we should work.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
3. Name at least four English words that could properly translate the Greek word *agathos*.
4. What does the word "Pilfer" mean?
5. Are there any jobs/careers which would not require us to compromise our moral values?

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ Laziness only affects the person who is lazy.
2. _____ The Master/ Servant relationship of Bible times is somewhat comparable to the Employer/Employee relationship of our time.
3. _____ Being a "Bad worker" in the workplace can give the church a bad name.
4. _____ It is possible to work too much.
5. _____ Wherever I work, it's ok for me to take some of the product I am making, since I'm the one making it.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

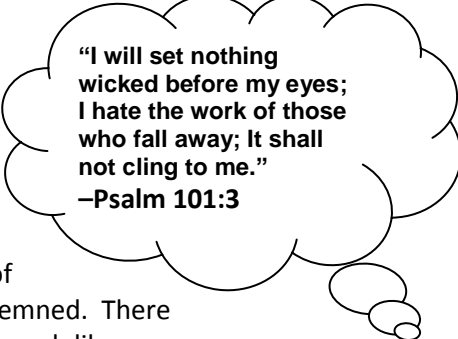
1. If the boss isn't around and I'm standing around not working while on the clock, would this be a form of stealing? What about dishonesty? (Consider the phrase "Not with eyeservice," Ephesians 6:10).
2. Can you think of some specific jobs that might be dishonest or dishonorable?
3. Read proverbs 6:6-11. Look up the word "Sluggard" in the dictionary. What is the lesson of these verses?

Study Sheet

Lesson Eleven

The purpose of this lesson is not to condemn going to all movies, but to warn about going to certain movies which seem to portray and promote just about everything a child of God should be taking a stand against. Most of what will be said can be equally applied to television. While some movies and programs would be acceptable to view, an honest heart must admit that most are not acceptable.

IMMORALITY AND MOVIES: The evidence of the immorality of most movies and TV programs is self-evident. All one needs to do is watch an advertisement to know that one cannot view such movies and programs and please God. Even the advertisements themselves should be avoided in most cases. Just because “Everybody does it,” or “Everybody has a TV” doesn’t justify us entertaining ourselves with such immoral filth (Romans 12:1-2). Movies contain filthy language (including four-letter words and taking God’s name in vain), Suggestive sexual statements, adultery and fornication (Actual scenes), and Lewdness. Murder is sometimes justified; lying is often the right thing to do, social drinking is portrayed as being “Cool” and “Grown-up” and homosexuality is both normalized and glorified, with those opposing it being portrayed as “Ignorant” and “Bigoted.” This is a small sample of the immortality that is often portrayed on the silver screen. Rather than flock to the theater to entertain ourselves with such sin, we should flee immorality and pursue righteousness (1 Timothy 6:11).



**“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.”
—Psalm 101:3**

MOVIES AND SCRIPTURE: No, one cannot read about movies in the Bible. However, one can find principles which would condemn us entertaining ourselves with the sins of others. Romans 1:25-32 speaks of a society that God has turned His back on and condemned. There is a long list of sins which caused this condemnation. Read the list and see if it sounds much like an advertisement for a recent movie or TV program. Verse 32 says “Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (NKJV). The ASV says “But also consent with them that practice them.” The words “Approve” and “Consent” come from the Greek word *suneudokeo* which is defined “to think well of in common, i.e. assent to, feel gratified with:--allow, assent, be pleased, have pleasure.” Do we feel gratified watching this filth on the screen? Do “Have pleasure” from them, that is, do we enjoy these movies? Christians should “Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good” (Romans 12:9). When we intentionally pay good money to be entertained with the sin of others, do we really abhor what is evil? Proverbs 14:9 says “Fools mock at sin, But among the upright there is favor.”

JUSTIFICATIONS?: As with any other sin, folks who want to partake often offer some “Excuse” in order to try and justify their behavior. When it comes to movies and TV programs, every excuse in the book has been summoned. “I don’t do those things.” This statement argues that since one does not actually practice the sins he entertains himself with, it is ok to watch them. Don’t forget that those were condemned who “Have pleasure” in the sins of others (Romans 1:32). Keep watching this stuff and don’t be surprised when you do start doing some of these things (1 Corinthians 15:33). Evil movies are “Evil company!” “I don’t go to see the bad parts.” This excuse strikes at motive. Since it is one’s intention to view only the good parts of the movie, then it’s ok to watch, even though the bad parts will be there as well. This is like saying one goes and hangs out at a bar because they serve great lemonade. You may not go to see them, but you see them just the same. This is partaking of sin that could be avoided. You will be corrupted anyway, whether consciously or unconsciously. “I turn my head when the bad parts come on.” Do you? Come on, be honest! Do you also plug your ears when the filthy language comes out? How do you know when the bad parts or the filthy language are going to occur? This excuse lacks honesty completely! When it comes down to it, there is no justification for sinful behavior! There are plenty of morally good ways to entertain ourselves without needing to have pleasure in the sins of others.

DID YOU KNOW?

One can actually make a covenant with his eyes. Job said thousands of years ago “I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?” (Job 31:1). We should determine that we are not going to view the wickedness of others. The people in the movies, although acting, are often really committing the sins as they portray them. We should not want to derive pleasure from things which put the Lord on the cross. David said “I will set nothing wicked before my eyes” (Psalm 101:3). Perhaps we should paste this verse on our TV sets. Jesus taught this concept when He said we should pluck out our eye if it causes us to sin (Matthew 5:29).



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Psalm 101:3
 - A. What did David say he would not set before his eyes?
 - B. What did he say he hated?
2. Romans 1:26-32
 - A. What did the sins in this passage cause God to do?
 - B. Do you have to actually practice these sins yourself to be guilty?
3. Romans 12:2
 - A. What does this verse say in regards to our relationship with the world?
4. Romans 12:9
 - A. What should we abhor?
 - B. What should we cling to?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. What do many movies often portray and promote?
2. What is an easy way to know that a movie or TV program is not fit to be viewed by a child of God.
3. List a few evil things often portrayed and promoted by movies and TV programs.
4. How is the Greek word *suneudokeo* defined?
5. Name three statements folks often make in order to “Justify” seeing immoral movies, and be ready to discuss why none of them excuse such behavior.

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ Movies often portray and promote evil behavior.
2. _____ Being anxious to go see the recent movie which contains some sort of evil behavior is an example of abhorring evil.
3. _____ There’s nothing wrong if a movie contains only one bad word, or only one scene of fornication.
4. _____ Even if I didn’t go to see the bad things in the movie, I still see them if I go, and they are still wrong.
5. _____ It is actually possible to turn your head and/or stop your ears during all the bad parts.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

1. Do you feel that one’s behavior in life can be influenced by what he/she sees at the movies? (Note 1 Corinthians 15:33)
2. Can you think of some morally good things one can do for entertainment other than going to see an immoral movie?
3. In the list of sins found in Romans 1:29-31 we find “Inventors of evil things.” Can you think of how this statement might relate to movies and TV programs that portray and/or promote sin?

MARRIAGE / DIVORCE

Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson Twelve

It is sad to consider that the institution of marriage has come to be viewed so lightly in our society. This downward trend has been in the works for many decades. In 1890, 1 out of every 16 marriages ended in divorce; 1920, 1 out of every 7; 1940, 1 out of every 6; 1960, 1 out of every 4; 1974, 1 out of every 2. The divorce rate today still continues to hover around the 1 out of every 2 mark. Think about this, 50% of all couples who get married in America ends up getting a divorce. The pain and suffering affects children, parents and society. These statistics alone should justify a study of marriage and divorce from God's word.

THE BIBLE AND MARRIAGE: The Bible has a great deal to say about marriage. First, marriage was not an invention of mankind. God Himself instituted marriage (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:1-12). Marriage is also for one man and one woman. In the beginning God created a **woman** for man, not another man (Genesis 2:18-24). We also learn that when a couple marries, it is God who joins them together (Matthew 19:6). Marriage is also designed to last until one or both of the spouses die (Romans 7:1-4; Matthew 19:6-8). Within the marriage, God has given the husband authority over the wife (Ephesians 5:22-33). Marriage is a covenant, not a contract (Malachi 2:14). In a contract, if one party fails to live up to a certain part of the contract, the other party is released. Marriage is not of this nature. In other words, if a husband does not act as God intends for husbands to act, this does not give the wife the right to disregard God's commandments for how a wife is to act. Nor does it give the wife the right to divorce her husband (see 1 Peter 3:1). It should also be noted that the marriage relationship is the only lawful place in which to fulfill one's sexual desires. Engaging in sexual activity with anyone other than your spouse is sin (Hebrews 13:4). Further, man and woman are not married until they satisfy the legal requirements of the government under which they live (Romans 13:1-2). These are just a few of the critical truths we should understand and respect about this divine institution of marriage, especially before we get married.

**"So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
—Matthew 19:6**

THE BIBLE AND DIVORCE: The word divorce means "put away." Divorce is always a tragedy. The bible is straight-forward about how God feels about divorce. "For the Lord God of Israel says the He hates divorce..." (Malachi 2:16). To divorce your spouse is to deal treacherously with them (Malachi 2:16). God hates divorce! In Jesus' day, the religious leaders asked Him a question about divorce. They said "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" (Matthew 19:3). Jesus spent some time on this question. His answer was an emphatic NO! In our society we have divorces for such things as irreconcilable differences etc. No-Fault divorces have also become very popular. God frowns on this sort of behavior; and He condemns it! Jesus said "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6). Matthew 19:9 is a critical verse when considering divorce. Jesus said "Whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." This passage teaches us many things, including the following: 1) Putting away one's mate for any cause other than fornication is a sin. 2) Putting your spouse away for fornication is permitted, but not commanded. 3) Committing fornication does not automatically end the marriage; the marriage does not end until the innocent party puts his/her guilty spouse away for fornication. 4) The one who is put away for any reason, including fornication, becomes an adulterer if they marry again. 5) The outside party who marries the one put away also becomes an adulterer. 6) The only person who is free to remarry is the one who put his/her mate away for fornication. 7) The person who puts his/her mate away for any cause other than fornication sins by doing so. 8) The person who put his/her mate away for any cause other than fornication does not have the right to remarry. Matthew 5:32 is also an important passage to consider. Jesus said that a man who puts away his wife, except for fornication, CAUSES her to commit adultery. She still has her womanhood intact with its desires and needs. She is likely to marry again, thus becoming an adulteress. All these passages and more show us that God takes both marriage and divorce very seriously, in spite of how loosely our society might view them.

DID YOU KNOW?

Biblically, there are only two lawful ways for a marriage to end. First, a marriage may end when one puts his/her spouse away for fornication (Matthew 19:9). The second way is death. When one spouse dies, the other spouse is freed from the marriage bond and is free to marry again if so desired. "For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband" (Romans 7:2).



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Ephesians 4:28
 - A. One is to work with his hands what is _____.
 - B. What reason is given here for one to do good work?

2. Proverbs 12:27
 - A. What is man's precious possession?

3. 2 Thessalonians 3:10
 - A. In order to eat, one must do what?

4. Titus 2:9, 10
 - A. List some things the bondservant should be/do.

 - B. List some things he should not be/do.

4. Proverbs 23:4
 - A. If one is overworking, what should he do?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. Name a passage of scripture which commands us to work.

2. Name at least three reasons why we should work.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

3. Name at least four English words that could properly translate the Greek word *agathos*.

4. What does the word "Pilfer" mean?

5. Are there any jobs/careers which would not require us to compromise our moral values?

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ Laziness only affects the person who is lazy.
2. _____ The Master/ Servant relationship of Bible times is somewhat comparable to the Employer/Employee relationship of our time.
3. _____ Being a "Bad worker" in the workplace gives the church a bad name.
4. _____ It is possible to work too much.
5. _____ Wherever I work, it's ok for me to take some of the product I am making, since I'm the one making it.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

1. If the boss isn't around and I'm standing around not working while on the clock, would this be a form of stealing? What about dishonesty? (Consider the phrase "Not with eyeservice," Ephesians 6:10).

2. Can you think of some specific jobs that might be dishonest or dishonorable?

3. Read proverbs 6:6-11. Look up the word "Sluggard" in the dictionary. What is the lesson of these verses?

MODEST APPAREL

Michael Pickford

Study Sheet

Lesson Thirteen

As Christians we are to dress ourselves, in ALL public situations, decently and modestly. Those in the world wear very immodest clothing. Short shorts which reveal the upper part of the leg (Thigh), bathing suits which leave almost nothing to the imagination, clothing so tight it looks like sausage casings, skirts and dresses so short that those wearing them look as if they've gone into the business of prostitution. This is how the world dresses! But remember what God said through Paul, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2). Sadly, Many of God's children have given in to the pressure to be "fashionable" and have joined the world in dressing immodestly.

GOD'S VIEW: We get an idea of what God feels is modest when we study certain words used in scripture. The eyes of Adam and Eve were opened when they ate of the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3). They realized they were naked (Vs. 7). We are also told in this verse that they made for themselves attire from fig leaves. But even with the fig leaf clothing, Adam still acknowledged that he was naked (vs. 10). The Hebrew word used (chagorah) indicates that the fig leaf aprons covered much more than some of our modern attire. It covered about the same as men's shorts. In our society, men can go around in just shorts and receive no negative reaction. God agreed that they were naked! He made for them tunics of skin with which to clothe them (Gen. 3:21). Hebrew scholars agree that the word for "Tunic" (The tunic God made for Adam and Eve) denotes something that covers the knees, and fully covers the upper body. This gives us an idea of what God thinks modest apparel is.

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Timothy 2:9 states, "*That the women adorn themselves in modest apparel.*" Now if there were no such thing as immodest apparel Paul could never have made this statement. What about the swim suits and short shorts and skimpy skirts? Are they modest? Remember, God was not pleased with the fig leaf aprons Adam and Eve wore.

Jesus said, as recorded in Matthew 5:28, that whoever looks on a woman to lust for her has sinned. Women, is your apparel making men lust? You can't just say it's their problem because you are commanded to wear modest apparel, and it is a deadly sin to cause another to stumble (1 Cor. 8:12, 13; Matt. 18:6). Maybe it's not your intention to cause others to lust, but if you do so you have sinned nonetheless. Men must be properly clothed as well. God made tunics of skin for Adam as well as for Eve. In Galatians 5:19, Lasciviousness (Lewdness) is classed as a work of the flesh which will keep men out of the kingdom of God. Webster, along with Greek scholars define this word as, "Tending to produce lewd emotions." I'm certain that the skimpy dresses and bathing suits worn today by the women, and the lack of upper dress and bathing suits worn by men (as well as shorts that are too short) are producing lewd emotions in someone. Don't chance it! It is a work of the flesh and those who practice such shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven! So, ladies, please put on your clothes when you leave the house, regardless of where you're going or what you are planning to do. Men, please put on your clothes when you work out in the yard, or when you are going anywhere at all in the public eye.

ASK YOURSELF WHILE DRESSING: 1. Is it too short? 2. Is it too tight? 3. Is it too thin? 4. Is it too short at the neck line? 5. Is it transparent? 6. Does the slit come up too high, exposing my upper thigh? 7. Is my upper womanhood revealed if I move a certain way? 8. Do these knee length shorts expose my upper thigh when I sit down? 9. Is it doubtful? 10. Could it be a stumbling block to others? 11. Will it hurt my influence upon others for godliness? Please dress as someone who is trying to profess godliness.

"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; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." -1 Timothy 2:9-10

DID YOU KNOW?

Have you ever seen talking clothes? I once saw a tie that talked if you pressed a button on the inside of it. In reality, our clothes do talk. Not audibly, but what we wear does reveal something about our character. Paul stated that women should dress themselves in such a way that their appearance would profess godliness (1 Timothy 2:10). Should this not be true for men as well? Proverbs 7:10 speaks of "a woman with the attire of a harlot." Her clothes professed to others her character and occupation. When we dress immodestly, what are our clothes telling others about our character?



YOUR TURN

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK.

(Read the passage and answer the question(s))

1. Genesis 3:21
 - A. What did God make for Adam and Eve?
 - B. Why?
2. Proverbs 7:10
 - A. What was significant about this woman's attire?
3. 1 Timothy 2:9-10
 - A. What were the women to adorn themselves in?
 - B. Women are to adorn themselves in such a way that is proper for women doing what?
4. Matthew 18:6
 - A. If we cause someone else to sin, it would be better if what happened to us?

QUESTIONS FROM THE LESSON.

1. We are not to be conformed to what?
2. Many Christians have joined the world in doing what?
3. What does the Hebrew word for "Tunic" denote?
4. What statement in the Bible proves there is such a thing as immodest apparel?
5. List at least four things we should ask ourselves while getting dressed.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)

TRUE OR FALSE.

1. _____ Women should dress modestly but it really doesn't matter how a man dresses.
2. _____ Adam proclaimed himself to be naked before they had made the fig leaf aprons.
3. _____ Women are to adorn themselves in immodest apparel.
4. _____ A man is at fault if he lusts for an immodestly dressed woman, but the woman is at fault too.
5. _____ The definition of "lewdness" (Galatians 5:19) includes "Tending to produce lewd emotions."
6. _____ Our clothes say nothing about our moral character.

THINK ABOUT IT. (For Class Discussion)

1. "What we wear should be determined by our moral character rather than the activity we're engaged in." Do you agree with this statement? Can you think of some activities that might call for immodest apparel?
2. Re-read 1 Timothy 2:9-10. Could elaborate clothing be a problem?