

“X-Rated for Christians”

There are some things a Baptist ought NOT do.

As this world staggers toward the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, things are going to get WORSE, not better.

- II Timothy 3:1-8 ¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. These last days will be characterized by perilous times.
- Matthew 24:12 ¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

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 and lawlessness. 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 and nature toward sin.

This study will examine some of the current “sociological” sins facing you today. They are widespread and generally acceptable in the community today. That does not make them right – it’s what the Bible says that counts.

1. Preparation for this study.

A. Review Lesson 19 – Separation

1) What are the two aspects of separation?

Positional separation – I Christ, I HAVE been set apart unto God. Read Hebrews 10:10 ¹⁰By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Practical separation – As a Christian, I AM TO LIVE as set apart unto God. I Peter 1:15 (from verse 14) ¹⁴As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: ¹⁵But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation [conduct];

2) What is our liberty in Christ restricted to?

I have liberty in Christ (because I am saved...)

- Christian liberty is NOT license. Liberty is the freedom to do right – never the freedom to do anything!
- We are NOT to use our liberty as an occasion to the flesh. Galatians 5:13 ¹³For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
- Our liberty is not to be used as an excuse for enslaving habits. We should be brought under the **POWER** of any habit.
Read: I Corinthians 6:12 ¹²All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient:
- Our liberty is restricted to the things that edify. I Corinthians 10:23 ²³All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.
- Liberty is not an excuse for hiding sin. It is not to be a cloke of maliciousness (covering up evil).
- Our Christian liberty must never be a stumbling block.

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B. Review Lesson 22 – Victory

- 1) What does the “world: seek from you? **Loss of the love of the Father ... transferred to the “world.”!** Read I John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- 2) According to Colossians 3:1-2, where are you to place your affections? ¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

2. Why Baptists don’t drink alcohol (includes all substance abuse).

There is an important correlation to all present day substance abuse.

- A. Drinking is a real problem in this country – thousands of lives and 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) national pastimes.
- B. The Bible has much to say concerning liquor, and is very clear in its teaching on the subject.
- C. Before studying scripture, it is vital to keep in mind that the word “wine” in the Bible is a generic word which is applied 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) Wine is a mocker. Proverbs 20:1 ¹ Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.
 - 2) Drunkenness brings poverty. Proverbs 23:20-21 ²⁰ Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: ²¹ For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

- 3) The Bible pronounces woe upon drunks. Isaiah 5:11 ¹¹ Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!
- 4) Drinking brings nakedness and shame. Genesis 9:20-23 ²⁰ And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: ²¹ And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. ²³ And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.
- 5) God hates us giving our neighbor a drink. Habakkuk 2:15 ¹⁵ Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!
- 6) Liquor perverts justice. Proverbs 31:4-5 ⁴ It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: ⁵ Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.
- 7) Drink is a sure path to HELL. Isaiah 5:12, 14 ¹² And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands. ... ¹⁴ Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.
- 8) Drink causes us to err. Isaiah 28:7 ⁷ But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.
- 9) Jesus refused a stupefying drink while on the cross. Mark 15:23 ²³ And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.

D. The temptation for the Christian is to drink socially.

- 1) Every drunkard began with just one drink.
- 2) First man takes the drink – then the drink takes the man.
- 3) Liquor is deceiving. Proverbs 20:1 says so! ¹ Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

E. Keep in mind that alcoholic beverages are a man-made product. The process of fermentation requires special conditions and human intervention.

F. Many argue for drink by citing the first miracle of Jesus Christ where he turned water into wine. But these weddings were religious in nature NOT festive. God never contradicts His Word. This wine was grape juice.

3. Why Baptists don't gamble.

America is a nation of gamblers. From raffles, bingo, lotto, racing, and casinos, many alluring gambling opportunities are offered to the Christian.

A popular slogan reads, “Millions won weekly.” But this fails to mention the other side of the story – “Countless millions lost weekly” not to mention the ruined lives, broken homes, hungry children, and increased crime to support gambling habits!

What does the Bible have to say about gambling?

A. Gambling is an insult to God

- 1) Philippians 4:19 ¹⁹ But my God shall **supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- 2) II Corinthians 9:8 ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having **all sufficiency in all things**, may abound to every good work:

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. It is a sin that has drowned many a man in destruction and perdition (Hell).

Read I Timothy 6:9 (from verses 6 – 9) ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. ⁹ **But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. To those that will (want above all else) to be rich, the danger is that they will experience temptation, snares, and foolish and hurtful lusts.**

C. Gambling is basically selfish – Gambling seeks prosperity at the expense of others.

Read:

- 1) Exodus 20:17¹⁷ Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. 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 6:10¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
- 3) Genesis 3:19¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.
God intends for man to live by the sweat of his face, i.e., to work for a living..

It is a principle of God that:

- **Work Before Wealth**
- **Sowing Before Reaping**

D. Gambling is poor stewardship

- 1) Nobody really wins by indulging in gambling...
- 2) According to I Corinthians 4:2² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. God requires each Christian to be a good steward over all he has been given.

E. Gambling is often plain superstition. It often involves “lucky” numbers, systems, and techniques. Read what God has to say about such things.

- 1) Isaiah 47:12-13 (A challenge to the stargazers and sorcerers of Babylon.)¹² Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.¹³ Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.¹⁴ Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame...

- 2) Romans 8:28 ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- 3) I Peter 5:7 ⁷ **Casting all your care upon him**; for he careth for you.

One word that needs to disappear from a Christian’s vocabulary is “LUCK.” Luck plays no part in God’s care for His own followers.

More generally “luck” denies the existence of God.

F. Gambling makes one insensitive to God’s will.

According to John 19:23-24 ²³ Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. ²⁴ They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled (Psalms 22:18), which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. When anyone is consumed with self interest (as these soldiers were), they are most insensitive to the things of the Lord.

Resist ant temptation to win something. Avoid gambling as an enemy of your soul.

Lean wholly upon the Lord for every GOOD THING.

4. Why Baptists don’t smoke.

Smoking like many other drugs is addictive. That’s why so many Christians have a real problem smoking. Smoking (and all addictive substances) should be absent from your life for the following reasons:

A. For physical reasons: It is common knowledge that smoking is deadly. Read:

- 1) I Corinthians 6:19-20 ¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- 2) I Corinthians 9:27 ²⁷ But I *keep under my body* [pinned – a wrestling term], and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. Paul never was going to allow his body (flesh) dictate what he could do,

or not do, for the Lord. 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 an underlying emotional causes – insecurity, anxiety, etc. Smoking can become (a deadly) crutch.
- 2) Read Philippians 4:6 ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. The believer is to NOT TO WORRY!
- 3) Experience Philippians 4:7 ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. By applying Philippians 4:6,8,9 and doing away the need for any addictive substances.

In its entirety Philippians 4:5 – 9 ⁵ **Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. ⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.**

C. For spiritual reasons:

- 1) A smoking Christian is a poor testimony because, right or wrong, the world believes is supposed to be clean in his/her habits.
- 2) One of the great obstacles to winning a soul for Christ is a witnesses' stale tobacco breath (or any bad breath for that matter).

5. Why Baptists don't dance.

- A. Dancing is a practice with strong sexual overtones – be it ballroom dancing with its intimate embrace or the latest body-shaking gyrations which flaunt the flesh and God

given inhibitions. If dancing has any place whatsoever in the life of Christians, it should only be between husband and wife in the privacy of their own marriage relationship.

B. The Bible associates dancing with evil.

1) Read Exodus 32:1-29 ¹ And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. ² And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. ³ And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. ⁴ And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. ⁵ And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. ⁶ And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. ⁷ And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: ⁸ They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. ⁹ And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: ¹⁰ Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. ¹¹ And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? ¹² Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. ¹⁴ And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people. ¹⁵ And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. ¹⁶ And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables. ¹⁷ And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. ¹⁸ And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for

being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear. ¹⁹ And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. ²⁰ And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it. ²¹ And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them? ²² And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. ²³ For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. ²⁴ And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf. ²⁵ And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:) ²⁶ Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. ²⁷ And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. ²⁸ And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. ²⁹ For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

- a) Verse 4: Golden calf (idol) made
 - b) Verse 6: Offered burn offerings to the idol, drinking
 - c) Verse 25: Nakedness
- 2) Read Matthew 14:1-12 ¹ At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus, ² And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. ³ For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. ⁴ For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. ⁵ And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. ⁶ But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. ⁷ Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. ⁸ And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. ⁹ And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. ¹⁰ And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. ¹¹ And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother. ¹² And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus. **Dancing was the**

means off getting the adulterous Herod to put John the Baptist to death. Who danced here? - the daughter of Herodias

C. Some Point to King David's dancing before the Lord recorded in II Samuel 6:12-21 ¹²

And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obededom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness. ¹³ And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. ¹⁴ And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. ¹⁶ And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, **and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD**; and she despised him in her heart. ¹⁷ And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. ¹⁸ And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. ¹⁹ And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house. ²⁰ Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, **who uncovered himself** to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! ²¹ And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.

Some facts relating to David's dancing:

- David danced alone.
- David danced out of extreme joy before the Lord.
- Even so, it seems this kind of dancing led David to uncover himself – verse 20.
- David's dance was nothing like the dancing seen in contemporary society!

6. 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 seek rock and roll.

There is more to rock & roll than meets the ear, as a careful study of the subject will reveal. Rock & roll is an especially 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, [from verse 1 through 12] ¹ Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; ² And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. ³ But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; ⁴ Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶ Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. ⁷ Be not ye therefore partakers with them. ⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: ⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) ¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. ¹² For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

Believers are to prove what is acceptable to the LORD.

A. God standards for music:

- 1) Read Ephesians 5:19-20 ¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 - a) Psalm = scripture set to music
 - b) Hymn = songs based upon scripture
 - c) Spiritual Songs = music that is Christ exalting, speaking to the spirit of man, not the old nature.

- 2) Read Colossians 3:16 ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Christian songs should teach and admonish

B. Music profoundly affects us.

- 1) Think how a stirring march picks us up – how soft organ music make you feel “religious” – how a love ballad can make you feel melancholy. Music can give men courage in battle, etc.

The table below explains the effect of music upon a man.

Part	Music		Man
1	Melody	Affects the	Spirit
2	Harmony	Affects the	Soul
3	Rhythm	Affects the	Flesh

- 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 any attention to the melody. Ergo, rock and roll (is designed to) appeals to and arouses the flesh.**

C. Why Rock and Roll music is harmful:

- 1) It emphasis is on the beat, appealing to the flesh and arousing impure thoughts and actions. Sacred music should move the spirit... not the feet!
- 2) The lyrics of rock and roll music are usually wicked, perverse, impure, immoral, and just plain ungodly. Sometimes even occult!
- 3) Some music conveys subliminal messages.
- 4) The Rock Culture is not a model for Christian life.

4. Why Baptists don't smoke.

5. Why Baptists don't dance.

6. Why Baptists don't listen to rock and roll music.