

**LESSONS # 35 & 36**  
**“THE CHURCH AND WORLDLINESS”**

**TEXTS: 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 John 2:15-17; James 1:27; 2 Corinthians 6:17**

**INTRODCTION:**

There is a story of a county school superintendent who had to fill a vacancy among the school bus drivers.

1. He had three applications.
2. Took them one by one to a sharp curve on a hill and asked, “How close can you get to that edge, while driving the bus, without falling off?”
3. One driver said, “two inches.” The second driver said, “one inch.”
4. The third driver said, “Do you think I’m crazy? I’m not interested in how close I can get to the edge. I’m more interested in how far from it I can get.

One who seeks to stay just as near the world of sin as possible and still follow Christ is playing with his own soul. 1 Corinthians 10:12

We as Christians should be like the third driver and stay as far away from the edge as we possibly can.

Many Christians, who should be the light of the world, are living their lives with one foot in the world and one foot in the church.

A better world begins with a better me. If Christians do not support the truth on moral issues, who will?

In our efforts to support the truth on moral issues, we must constantly remember that the ethical code of Christianity came from God.

All moral questions must be tested by the Bible. John 12:48

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**1 John 2:15-17**

**James 1:27**

**1 Peter 2:11,12**

**1 Thessalonians 5:22**

**Romans 12:2**

**Romans 12:9**

**Titus 2:11-15**

**Ephesians 5:11**

**The child of God is a new creature.**

**Love not the world.**

**Keep himself unspotted from the world.**

**Abstain from fleshly lusts.**

**Be not conformed to this world.**

**Be not conformed to this world.**

**Abhor that which is evil.**

**Denying ungodliness and worldly lust.**

**Have no fellowship with works of darkness**

**GALATIANS 5:19-22; 1 CORINTHIANS 5:9-11**

## **LET'S LOOK AT A SAMPLING OF THE MANY MORAL ISSUES CHRISTIANS FACE TODAY.**

**1. PROFANITY:** Vulgar language is a great problem in our society. It is a degrading sin against God. Those who swear bring contempt upon God, offend others, and belittle themselves. Ephesians 4:29; Romans 12:14; Matthew 5:34; Exodus 20:7; Exodus 21:17

**2. SOCIAL DRINKING:** One of the greatest problems in the war with alcohol is the failure of all Christians to abstain and to boldly oppose it, in all of its forms and ways. Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 23:31,32; John 2:1-10; Habakkuk 2:15; Matthew 24:44-51; Matthew 5:13-16.

**3. ABORTION:** Today 4,000 lives will be taken. The victims will die without benefit of trial or counsel. They will be executed in abortion clinics around our county. The Bible makes no distinction between a fetus of two weeks or twenty weeks, but only refers to a child in the mother's womb. The Bible does not distinguish between prenatal and postnatal life. Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41-44; Psalms 139:13-16

**4. DANCING:** Dancing amounts to lasciviousness and is a work of the flesh. (Galatians 5:19-21) Anything that has the tendency to arouse unlawful desires in an individual is lasciviousness. (The word means "wanton acts or manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females.) 2 Corinthians 12:21; "such like" Galatians 5:21

**5. TOBACCO:** Quite frankly when you smoke you are committing suicide. If you begin smoking when you are 18 and smoke 30 years, by the time you are 48 years old your heart will have beat the same as a man 56.5 years old. Psalms 100:3; 1 Corinthians 6:19

**6. INMODEST APPAREL:** God's standard concerning modest apparel applies to both men and women- there is no double standard (1 Timothy 2:9). This means to be well arranged, modest, respectable, honorable 1 Corinthians 10:31.

**7. GAMBLING:** Exhibits desire to take what belongs to another without giving a fair return. The word is covetousness. Thayer defines the coveteous person as one "eager to have more, especially what belongs to another." Ephesians 5:5

**8. MARRIAGE, DIVORCE and REMARRIAGE (Adultery):** Unscriptural marriages are a great problem in society and in the church. Such marriages cannot be continued in with God's approval.

**a. MARRIAGE** was established by God in the very beginning for the happiness and well being of mankind. Genesis 2:23,24

1. This is more than a civil contract.
2. This is a lifetime contract between a man, woman and God. Matthew 19:5,6
3. Marriage makes "we" out of "I".
4. Father and mother take a secondary position.
5. Two minds with but a single thought.
6. Two hearts that beat as one.

For a lifetime contract much prayer and planning must go into it based upon as many mutual qualities as possible such as economic, social, education, and religious background.

**b. DIVORCE** is the cancer of marriage. It cannot take place without sin – often times by both parties. Divorce has been granted for every cause, but Jesus gives only one.

(Mat 19:9 ) And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

**c. REMARRIAGE** following a divorce can only be scriptural on ONE basis, and that is when the divorce is for the grounds of adultery.

1. The guilty party is never free to marry again.
2. The innocent party must not have contributed to the adultery.

Genesis 2:23,24; Matthew 5:31,32; Matthew 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; 1 Corinthians 7:39.

#### **WHAT ARE THE CHOICES BEFORE US?**

1. We can ignore the issues.
2. We could simply surrender.
3. We could stand and fight. ( 1 Timothy 6:12)