MORAL ISSUES AFFECTING MEMBERS OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

BY

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REFERENCE MATERIAL:

“MORAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE CHURCH”,
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What is morality?

- “A particular system of values and principles of conduct, especially one held by a specified person or society.”

- Times change, society changes with it. This doesn’t mean the change is acceptable in God’s sight.
  - Jer. 10:23 - O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

- If we think that morality is determined by the times we live in, then the devil has blinded us to the truth. One of the ways the devil gets us is 2 Cor. 4:3-4. The devil masks the truth behind confusing questions, situations which hide real motives. Just as we sometimes try to force something that doesn’t fit right into, say, a hole, we try to skew the truth to fit the situation we are in, convincing ourselves that it is truth. Just on Friday, someone said on TV as it related to the shootings in Charleston, that our society is so morally bankrupt that we will do anything and justify it with an excuse.

  - Examples:
    - I will do me. It’s all about self these days. Phil. 2:3-4 - Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
    - We even have a song which ends, “None of self, and all of thee”

- Times may change, society may change but the Bible does not change. As Christians, we must refer to the Bible for where we should stand on all moral issues. 1 Cor. 10:23 - All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.
SOME MORAL ISSUES:

- **ABORTION** – What does the Bible say? The Bible doesn’t specifically address it though it is clear how important God deems life
  - **Definition:** “The deliberate termination of a human pregnancy, most often performed during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy.”
  - The debate arises relative to when life starts: Pro-life says it starts at conception. Pro-choice says it starts with the fetus and a woman has a right to choose what she wants to do with her body
  - Strongest argument against abortion: Far more abortions are carried out of convenience.
    - What happens in cases where the woman was raped or incest? Do 2 wrongs make a right? Is murdering a baby the answer? What of adoption? The baby is innocent and shouldn’t be punished for the crime of the father.
      - **Jer 1:5** - Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.
      - **Exodus 21:22-25, Gen. 1:26-27**
    - What happens if the mother's life is at risk?
      - This is a tough one. This should be between the woman, the husband and God.
      - **James 1:5** - If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
  - How to avoid:
    - For those who are considering abortion – Pray for them
    - Prevention is better than cure (Gal. 5:19-21)
**ABUSE**

- Definition: “Treat (a person or an animal) with cruelty or violence, especially regularly or repeatedly”.
  - 2 Tim. 3:2-4 - For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God

- What is at the root of abuse? Selfishness – we lash out when things don’t go our way.

- **Who suffers the most?** Both parties. Where children are involved, the children. When 2 elephants are fighting in the forest, the grass suffers...

- **Types of abuse** – verbal, emotional, physical, financial, spiritual. An more?

- **If we know or suspect abuse, though it is a private issue b/w the 2 individuals, should we be mute about it?**
  - Gal 6:1 - Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

- **How can abuse happen?** Romans 1:28-32

- **What are common excuses for abuse?** The devil made me do it, I couldn’t help myself, I don’t know what came over me, etc

- **Why is abuse bad?**
  - We are commanded to love –
    - Jn 13:34 - A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. Abuse is the opposite of this command
  - Bible condemns abusing others:
    - Exodus 22:22 - Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.
    - Isaiah 10:1-2 - Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!
- **1 Thess 4:6** - That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

  - **Where in the Bible can we point to, for people with abusive tendencies**
    - **Phil 4:13** – I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
    - **1 Cor. 10:13** - There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

- **DANCING**

  - **Romans 13:13-14** - Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

    - **Is dancing inherently evil?** Is a knife evil? A gun?
      People dance in the shower, dance when they get a promotion, etc.

    - Dancing is the vertical expression of a horizontal intent

    - Different types of dancing. Remember that back in the day, TV audiences were not allowed to see Elvis gyrating with his hips. Now, that is commonplace.

    - **Reasons to justify dancing**
      - It is fun, good exercise, dancing is mentioned in the Bible – David danced. **Ps. 150:4** - Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
      - I can dance without having evil thoughts forgetting. If you are married and you walked in on your spouse dancing with someone of the opposite sex, and she told you that she had no evil intention, would you believe it?
**Matt. 5:27-28:** Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

- You can control the thoughts of others. They also forget the dance of Herodias daughter, the wife of Herod’s brother, who Herod married, whose dance pleased him so much that it caused him to make a promise to give the girl whatever she wanted…and she wanted the head of John the Baptist

- When Moses came down from obtaining the 10 commandments, he met the people dancing (Ex 32:19-25)

- **1 Peter 2:11** - Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

- **1 Thess. 5:22** – Abstain from all appearances of evil

**Questions**

- Is it possible that with music, certain things could be done b/w 2 people that normally wouldn’t be tolerated in the absence of the music?

- Is it sinful for a Christian teenager to attend the prom? Wedding reception? Should we watch certain music videos?

- We must be careful in that though as a strong Christian, we are able to not dance in a lewd or lascivious manner, we, in our dancing, might cause the weak to stumble (**1 Cor. 8:1-13**
**DRINKING**

- **Eph. 5:18** - And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

- **Statistics**
  - Excessive alcohol consumption kills 88,000 people each year in the US and in 2006 cost $223B, about $2 a drink (CDC, 2014)
  - **USA Today, 2014** – on average, Americans spend $1 out of every $100 on alcohol
  - **National institute on alcoholism and alcohol abuse:** In 2013, about 87% of americans b/w 18 and above said they drank alcohol at some point in their life.
  - **Worldwide:** WHO reported in January, 2015 that about 6% of deaths in the world (3.3M) are alcohol-related.

- **Is there a difference b/w alcoholism and drunkenness?**

- When you drink, are you the only one affected?

- **Justifications for drinking based on the Bible**
  - **1 Timothy 5:23** - Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.
  - **Eccl. 10:19** - A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.

- **Advantages of drinking:**
  - Relieve stress, prevent heart attacks

- **Disadvantages of drinking:**
  - Disease, alcoholism, violence, death
  - **Proverbs 31: 4-7**
  - **Proverbs 23: 30 – 34**
What does Bible say about drunkenness?

- **I Corinthians 6:9-10** – list drunkards as those who won’t inherit God’s kingdom

Who are some people mentioned in the Bible who got drunk? Did it end up well for them?

- **Noah – Gen. 9:20-27** – got drunk, Ham, father of Canaan, saw him but did nothing. Shem and Japheth covered him. Noah woke up, found out what happened and cursed Ham

- **Lot – Gen. 19:30-38** – Daughters got him drunk so they could sleep with him and get children by him so that they could carry his seed

- **Belshazzar – Daniel 5:1-6** – Son of Nebuchadnezzar. Got drunk and asked that the vessels that were in God’s temple be brought out for him. Then the hand came out and wrote on the wall - God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it, Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting., hy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians

Questions

- Should we indulge in an occasional glass of beer or wine?
- Have you found yourself in a situation where you felt pressured to have a drink?

IMMODESTY

- **1 Tim. 2:9-10** - 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 with good works.
- **Definition:** “Not modest in conduct, utterance. Not conforming to the sexual mores of a particular time or place.”
Is what society deems modest the model that Christians should follow?

- **Romans 12:2** - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Is it possible for a Christian’s manner of dressing to set him/her apart from others?

- How you dress determines how you are addressed? You never get a 2nd chance to make a 1st impression.

How does any kind of dressing reflect one’s attitude?

- **Gen. 41:14** - Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.
- **Matt 22:11-13** – Rich man with a wedding

Is it possible to be covered up but still be considered naked?

- Swimsuits – what’s your opinion – Someone said, “a swimsuit is like a barbed-wire fence – it doesn’t hide anything. It only covers the territory

Reasons to justify immodesty

- It is too hot, no one is noticing, people are going to lust after me no matter what I wear, ignorance.

What does the Bible say?

- **Gen. 3:7** – Adam and Eve - And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Is it possible or God not to be pleased with what we are wearing? **Gen 3:21** - Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Can how we dress, carry ourselves influence the thoughts of others? **Matt 5:28**
- **RACISM**
  - Acts 10:34-35 - Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. Concentrate on 10:28

- **NEgro meetings for white people, by FoY e. wallace Jr.** *Editor of Gospel Advocate in 1909 to just before his death in 1975, Bible banner (March 1941)*

  "The manner in which the brethren in some quarters are going in for the negro meetings leads one to wonder whether they are trying to make white folks out of the negroes or negroes out of the white folks. The trend of the general mix-up seems to be toward the latter. Reliable reports have come to me of white women, members of the church, becoming so animated over a certain colored preacher as to go up to him after a sermon and shake hands with him holding his hand in both of theirs. That kind of thing will turn the head of most white preachers, and sometimes affect their conduct, and anybody ought to know that it will make fools out of the negroes. For any woman in the church to so far forget her dignity, and lower herself so, just because a negro has learned enough about the gospel to preach it to his race, is pitiable indeed. Her husband should take her in charge unless he has gone crazy, too. In that case somebody ought to take both of them in charge.

  - **What is racism?** the belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races.

  - **What is race?** A group of people descended from the same ancestor. A group of people sharing the same culture, language, etc.

  - **What is prejudice?** preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.

  - **What is bigotry?** intolerance toward those who hold different opinions from oneself.
Biblical Justification of racism? Curse of Canaan, some of Ham (Gen. 9:20-25). Cushites (son of Ham) thought to have lived where Ethiopia is today.
- Race never mentioned
- Matthew 1: Trace the genealogy of Christ by looking at some of the women mentioned (Rahab the harlot, Ruth the Moabitess). Jesus descended from Shem but he had Canaanite (Gentile) blood in him. What does that make Jesus? What does that say about God and who he chooses to do his will?
- Is there or should there be one race superior over the other?
  - Gen 1:26-27 – Let us make man in our own image
  - Acts 17:26 – Paul addresses the man of Athens - And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

What does the Bible say about those who consider themselves better than others?
- Galatians 6:3 - For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.
- This is how we should see others Phil 2:3-5

Argument – But even God commanded Israel to be a pure and separate race. That means they were superior (Deut. 7:6). Read down to 8 for the actual reason.

Is it possible for a non-white person to be racist?

What are some statements we make or hear, or that others make that could be considered racist, bigoted or prejudiced?
- My personal experiences at work with the name of my child, being laid off, walking past elevator with the CEO
- Women grasping a wallet in an elevator
Suddenly locking a car in the parking lot

- What are some examples of racial prejudice in the Bible?
  - **John 1:46** - And Nathanael said unto him (Philip), Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.
  - **John 4:9** – Woman at Jacob’s well – The Samaritans had intermarried with Gentiles. Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him (Jesus), How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

- What does the Bible say about judging based on outward appearance?
  - **John 7:24** – Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgement
  - **1 Samuel 16:7** – God instructs Samuel to go to the house of Jesse to choose another king after Saul

- Are there churches that are still segregated along racial lines? If so, will the members of such a church go to heaven?
  - **Galatians 3:28** - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
  - **Acts 2:21** – And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

- Can a Christian be a member of the KKK or Black Panthers?
  - 1 Jn 2:9-11, 4:20-21

- Is interracial marriage okay? For those who use the Bible to say it isn’t right, are they justified?
  - Deut 7:1-4
  - **Ezra 9:12** - Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace
or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.

- Moses married a Cushite (Ehtiopian) – Aaron and Miriam used this as an excuse to complain about Moses being the sole mediator b/w Israel and God. Obviously God wasn’t against the marriage. The Bible doesn’t mention anywhere that God was displeased because of it.

- How to overcome racist attitudes:
  - **Matt 7:12** - Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.
  - 2 Cor. 5:16-17

- **OBSCENITY**
  - **Matt. 12:36-37** - But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

  - **Definition:** “Offensive or disgusting by accepted standards of morality and decency.”
  - Profanity: “blasphemous or obscene language”
    - Where does obscenity occur? Language, pornography, music, television, movies, dirty jokes, gestures
    - Profanity and the Bible
      - **Ex 20:7** - Thou shalt not take the name of the L ORD thy God in vain; for the L ORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
      - **Lev 18:21** - And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the L ORD.
o How shd u react around obscenity? Like Lot. Flee. Don’t be comfortable around it
  - **2 Pet 2:7-8** - And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

o Why must we keep our speech from being obscene?
  - Matt: 12:36-37
  - **Eph 4:29** - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

o Why is cursing and swearing inconsistent with the Christian life?
  - **Col 4:6** - Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.
  - James 3:8-12

o Why do people swear? Who’s to say a word is bad or good?

o What does the Bible say about Pornography?
  - **Definition** – “printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic or emotional feelings.”
  - What does it say about sexual behavior?
    - **Eph 5:3-4** - But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.
    - Though we are not physically partaking, does the Bible look at it any differently?
      - **Matt 5:28** - But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust
after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

- What of obscene entertainment (music, TV, videos)?
  - Can one be influenced?
  - Can it affect our Christianity?
    - **Matt 5:14** - Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.
    - **Phil 2:5** - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

- Dirty Jokes – are they okay?
  - **Eph 5:3-4** - But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.
  - **Col 3:8** - But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

- How do we overcome obscenity?
  - **Ps 39:1** - I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.
  - Change starts from the heart –
    - **Prov 4:23** - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
  - **Eph 4:17-29, Col 3:1-11**
Closing – Phil 4:8-9 - 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. 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.

### SUICIDE

#### Facts/Statistics (CDC 2013 Report)
- 10th leading cause of death in the US
- Number of deaths: about 41,000. About 113/year…2/state
- 13 deaths / 100,000
- Firearms (about 21,000), Suffocation (10,000), Poisoning (7,000)
- Male deaths represent 79% of all suicides. Highest in 75+
- Female suicide is highest in 45-54
- Whites have highest
- Highest increase is in males 50+
- Ages 20-24 have the highest suicide rates

#### Is suicide a sin?
- What is suicide? The act or an instance of taking one’s own life voluntarily and intentionally especially by a person of years of discretion and of sound mind.
- Thou shalt not kill (Ex 20:13)

#### What can cause suicide
- Stress, depression, escape life’s problems, they don’t belong, no vision of a brighter future, cry for help
- Does it actually increase or decrease pain?

#### How do you see physician assisted suicide?

#### Is it possible to justify suicide as dying with dignity (like in the army)?
• Bible characters that committed suicide
  o Judas (Matt 27:3-5), Saul (1 Sam 31:4-5), Samson (Judges 16:29-30), Abimelech (Judges 9:52-54)

• Bible characters that contemplated suicide (begged God to kill them)
  o Elijah (1 Kings 19:4-5), Jonah (Jonah 4:3)

• What does the Bible say about suicide?
  o God gives us life –
    ▪ **Acts 17:25** - Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

  o We belong to God – 1 Cor 6:19-20
  o We are commanded not to kill –
    ▪ **Rom 13:9** - For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

• How to overcome suicide and suicidal thoughts?
  o Lean on God – 2 Cor 12:9-10,
  o **Phil 4:13** - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**HOMOSEXUALITY:**

• **1 Cor 6:9** - Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind

• **Definition:** “sexual desire or behavior directed toward a person or persons of one's own sex”

• Is it new? Homosexuality is not new. It is as old as the bible. One of the sins that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13:13, 19:5-11). What's new is the popularity, publicity and political clout. The latest is the supreme court decision on gay marriage, saying that states must allow it.
In public schools, it is being introduced as "One in 10" or "Project 10". In the media, we are exposed continuously. Latest popular show is Empire taking it to another level on regular TV.

- **Statistics:**
  - Based on 2010 census, 3.5% of the population is Christian and gay. That is 8.5 million people. Perspective: COC (wiki): 2M.

- **Justifications:**
  - Homosexuals have stable, loving families, like heterosexuals
  - Homosexuals can’t help being what they are. Masters and Johnson reported a 71.6% success rate in helping men discontinue
  - They were born that way

- **Myths:**
  - 10% of the population is gay
  - Homosexual movement similar to civil rights movement and are persecuted
  - Homosexuality may be a sin but shdnt b treated as a crime - Rape, incest, murder are both sins and crimes. It's already outlawed in 24 states. Even Thomas Jefferson said punishment for sodomy shd b the same as rape. Homosexual commit as many has half of child molestations, 79% of all recorded teacher/pupil sex involves homosexuals.

- **What does the Bible say:**
  - Gen. 19:4-11 - Sodom and Gomorrah
  - Lev 18:22 (Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.)
  - Lev 20:13 (If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.)
  - Rom 1:24-32 - Men left natural use of their bodies and women too. God gave them to a reprobate mind
1 Cor 6:9-11 - popular scripture. Sin listed that won’t inherit the kingdom of God

1 Tim 1:9-10 - Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

- Why are some people tempted with it and others aren’t? Beware of indoctrination and symbolism (Gay or alternate lifestyle)

Are feelings and temptations wrong or do they become wrong when we act upon them? James 1:12-15

- Is there a limit to the power of temptation?
  - 1 Cor 10:13 - There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

How does this apply to you as a Christian?
- If you are having such thoughts or if you know of someone who is, how do you confront them? In a way that will scare them or make you seem like a homophone or gay basher? Or with compassion and love?

- Gal 6:1-2 - Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

- 2 Corinthians 2:3-11

- 1 Cor 13:4-7: Charity = love

- Learn from Jesus and his temptations – Matt 4:1-11
• Turn to God for help:
  o **Phil 4:13** – I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. **1 Jn 4:4** - Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

• Prayer –
  o **Phil 4:6-7** - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

• Change the way we think –
  o **Phil 4:8** - 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.

  o **1 Tim 5:22** - Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

• **James 1:27** - Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

• For someone who is no longer in that lifestyle, let him take heed, lest he fall. We should also help make the person increase in faith and strength in God’s word. **Matt 12:43-45**

**Final Words of Encouragement**

**Mark 10:27** - And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.