

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

April 20, 2008

Living Soberly, Righteously and Godly in This Present World?

Titus 2: 11 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world:”

Ungodliness and worldly lusts is what the world is all about. The world thoughtfully and carefully designs for ungodliness and worldly lusts because, that is what the world loves, and that is what the world is willing to pay big money for. The world does not love sober, righteous godliness so the world does not plan for sober, righteous godliness.

Suppose that someone proposed to you that the way to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world was to hang out in dancehalls, gambling joints, bars, strip clubs, porno bookstores, X-rated movies and other situations designed by the world for the enjoyment of the ungodly, indulging in ungodly activities. Would you believe for a second that immersing yourself in an environment designed by the ungodly for the practice of ungodliness was the way to promote sober, righteous godliness in yourself? Would you encourage your children to spend their time in such activities in order to help them live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world? Would you encourage your children to spend their time with and be influenced by people whose major occupation is to indulge the desires of their flesh in ballroom dancing, drinking, wagering, fornication and whatever other forms of ungodliness appeal to them?

The world begins early in the life of children to promote indulgence in ungodliness and worldly lusts. Ballroom dances promoted by schools are not examples of denying ungodliness and worldly lusts. They are opportunities to participate in ungodliness and worldly lusts. They are opportunities to learn the skills of ungodliness and worldly lusts. They are opportunities to develop an appetite for ungodliness and worldly lusts that will find its major adult outlet in dancehalls and bars. Let none of us be so blind to the real world as to imagine that engaging with the world in the activities that the world has designed to promote and gratify ungodliness and worldly lusts is any part of living soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.

The godly are forbidden to conform to this world. It is required of us that our minds be guided by the will of God not by the designs of the world.

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

It is a given that God, God’s people and the world do not see things alike. As God’s people we are to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of both flesh and spirit.

2Corinthians 6: 14 “Be you not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what concord has Christ with Belial? or what part has he that believes with an infidel? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? for you are the temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be you separate, says the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Filthiness of flesh and spirit is being promoted, encouraged, and flaunted flagrantly at every level of the society in which we live. Ballroom dancing is promoted beginning early and strongly in schools. Government regulated wagering is incorporated into the funding of certain school activities and promoted constantly with expensive advertisements everywhere. Alcohol is presented as a legitimate and desirable product for human consumption. Fornication is not only accepted it is encouraged. It is the design of the world to engage in filthiness of the flesh and spirit. It is the design of God that His people cleanse themselves from all of it and have nothing to do with it.

It is the desire of the world, that each successive generation acquire, the tastes, desires and the skills necessary for indulging in the filthiness of the flesh. Among other things the world wants your child to develop a desire for ballroom dancing, wagering, alcohol and sinful sexual activities. It is the desire of God for your child to avoid all of those things. The earlier in life your child knows that the better off he or she will be. Activities like school dances are designed by the world to gratify the world’s appetite for sin. They are not designed to conform to the will of God. Their intent and purpose is not to do God’s will their intent and purpose is to gratify the desires of the flesh. They are not paths by which to perfect holiness in the fear of God. They are situations for godly people to stay out of because they are not any part of godliness and they do not promote godliness, they promote sin.

Here is what someone recently wrote in a university newspaper in support of ballroom dancing. “All you need is your body (well, and maybe a couple of drinks for some). Dancing also allows for a healthy expression of sexuality. On a more fundamental level, dancing allows men and women to communicate nonverbally in a way that is more passionate in a pair than in a group. Ballroom dancing especially reminds me of courtship, the way a man takes the lead and sweeps a woman off her feet... In my view, sex itself is a dance, as it were, which can be mirrored with tasteful movements just as much as the more primal hedonistic ones.” These statements were made without self-consciousness or embarrassment as honest and accurate observations regarding ballroom dancing. They demonstrate that the world knows all about what ballroom dancing is all about and what the world knows is that ballroom dancing is all about gratifying the desires of the flesh. In the world ballroom dancing is part of a package that includes alcohol and fornication. In the world ballroom dancing is associated with dancehalls, nightclubs, bars, casinos, and roadhouses. The entertainment, the décor and everything else about those places is carefully designed to appeal to and gratify every form of ungodliness and worldly lusts. They are temples dedicated to the glorification of every form of filthiness of flesh and spirit. None of that is any part of living soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. **Romans 12:2** “And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Christians must learn early that they cannot be conformed to this world and still please God.

Remember to Pray For

Janie Smith
Shirley Lewis
Brady Gibbons
Carla Ward
Gail Hunter
Larry Flannery
Donnie Joseph
Lewis Harrod
Dan Moody
Alexa Anne Harper
Cheryl Spear
Lanny Hiller
Roselyn Agyare
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox
Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their baby
Helen Stephens
Brayden Grushon
The mother of Lori Dailey
Chris Handshoe
Chris and Jen Dooley
Jeffrey Howerton
Ruel Baker
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Sybil Jamison
Blanch Thompson
Karen Handshoe continues to be very, very ill.
Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey
James Stauffer

Amos 3: 3 "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

We can only walk **with God** if we walk according to the New Testament. If we walk **with** people who are not walking according to the New Testament we cannot possibly be walking **with God** **because those people are walking in a way that God has not agreed to**, and so are we if we are walking **with them**.

"I went and washed and I received sight," (John 9:11) is a very joyful statement. What would the man have received if he had refused to obey the words of Jesus? "I refused to wash and I received nothing"? What a waste that would have been. What a waste it is when we refuse to obey the words of Jesus.

Suffering is a necessary part of growing. **James 1:2-4** "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith works patience. 4 But let patience have [her] perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

IF IT IS NOT TRUE IT CANNOT BE EITHER GREAT OR GOOD

Thoughts

The Apostle's Doctrine

Acts 2: 40 "And **with many other words did he testify and exhort**, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then **they that gladly received his word** were baptized: and the same day there were added [to them] about three thousand souls. 42 And **they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**"

The faithful have always, since the events related in this passage, been those who continue steadfastly in the apostles doctrine. Today, the faithful are those who continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine.

The apostles' doctrine is what is preserved in the New Testament. The New Testament contains the teachings of the inspired apostles of Jesus Christ. Those inspired writings that are preserved in the New Testament are our only avenue by which to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine.

In order to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine we must continue steadfastly in the teachings of the New Testament. Only by obeying the New Testament may we continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine.

All who steadfastly obey the New Testament have fellowship in faith and practice, not only with the faithful of the first century AD but also with all throughout the ages that have steadfastly obeyed the New Testament.

Today all that steadfastly obey the New Testament have fellowship in faith and practice with each other and also with all of the faithful dating back to the days of the apostles of Jesus Christ.

Jesus prayed that the disciples all be one as He and the Father are one.

John 17: 20 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 **That they all may be one; as you, Father, [are] in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that you have sent me.**"

The thing that allows the faithful of all ages to fulfil the prayer of Jesus that we all be one as He and the Father are one is the New Testament.

To the extent that each believer continues steadfastly only in the apostles' doctrine that is preserved in the New Testament each of us fulfills the prayer of Jesus that we all be one as He and the Father are one.

**OPPORTUNITY IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT
WHAT AM I MAKING MINE?
TEMPTATION IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT
WHAT AM I MAKING MINE?
TESTS COME AND A TEST MAY BE A
THREAT OR A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY**

Notes

Men's business meeting today at 3:00PM

Informational meeting next Sunday, April 27 at 4:00PM

**LOVE DETERMINES OUR TASKS
LOVE OF GOD WINS BECAUSE GOD WINS
WHEN GOD WINS LOVE WINS**

Love

From God:

Love of God and Love of Neighbor

From the Devil:

Love of Self and Love of the World

Love and God's will, are not different.

1John 4: 7 "Beloved, **let us love one another: for love is of God;** and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God. 8 He that loves not knows not God; for **God is love.**"

1John 5: 2 "By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God, and keep his commandments.** 3 For **this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:** and his commandments are not grievous."

1John 4: 10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that **he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins.** 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another.** 12 No man has seen God at any time. **If we love one another, God dwells in us, and his love is perfected in us.**"

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

University Heights

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AND WORSHIP WITH US