

LESSON 13



ADVERSARIES OF THE HOME

Scripture Texts: *Isaiah 33:14-16; John 8:1-11; 1 John 3:15; John 17:6-15; 1 John 2:15-17*

It is important for Christians to be pure in thought and deed. It is not enough to believe in high principles alone; it is necessary to live by them also. We must not judge others by a standard which we are not willing to accept for ourselves.

The old concern was with fruits. The new concern is with roots. Jesus did not destroy the legalism and positive demand of the Mosaic Law; He breathes life and power upon it. Evil acts stand condemned and no excuse can be made for them. They will meet judgment and suffer the consequence. The eye and the heart are the brokers of sin.

MEMORY VERSE: *"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."*

1 John 2:15

The Evil of Adultery

Since Jesus came into the world, women have enjoyed a freedom they never had before. But with new freedom comes new responsibilities and new dangers. Civilizations have risen and fallen on the moral purity or impurity of their women. In our day of loose morals, we see a civilization deteriorating and our institutions filling with those who have broken themselves upon the Seventh Commandment.

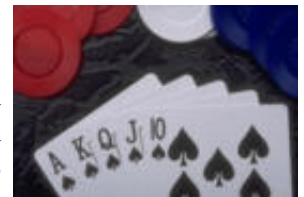
The sanctity of marriage is the cornerstone of our civilization. Whatever the specific form it may involve, the "want to" stamps guilt upon the soul. The seventh commandment seems to prohibit only the act of adultery. Christ teaches a higher standard in John 8:3-11.

Is it possible to forgive sin without condoning it? Did not Christ forgive adultery here, without minimizing the heinousness of the sin? The sin of adultery leads to a number of sins. God only knows how many have been led to the sin of murder, resulting from adultery. Abortion in all cases is murder. It only adds sin to sin. To hate a fetus enough to desire to terminate pregnancy is murder in the sight of God. First John 3:15 deals with this principle. The Sixth Commandment recognizes the value of a life and makes a man or a woman answerable to God for taking the life of another.

To kill fellowship and cut one off from his fellows through wrong attitudes is as evil in the sight of God as is outright murder. The alternative is love which gives life.

The Evils of Gambling and Dancing

In the service of Christ the lusts of the flesh have no part. The Christian has the mind of Christ and has ceased from his sins and worldly lusts to serve God. Gambling and dancing bring a life of frivolity, self-gratification, and vice. They also cause a pull back to former associates and worldly-minded friends. God's Word states in Titus 2:12 and Romans 13:14 that we should deny worldly and ungodly lusts and make no provision for the flesh. These vices carry with them a sort of intoxication that cause men to throw caution to the wind. Once into this whirlpool, one is at the mercy of the spirit of the age. They are morally injurious. Dancing thrives on sensual pleasure. Would dancing survive without the mixture of the sexes? The obvious answer is, "No."



Gambling causes one to depend on luck and fraud. They become his god. No one expects to find honesty in a gambler. Dancing and gambling become uncontrollable habits. They become as binding on the lives of men and women as does tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

The Evils of the Theater and Television

The theater and the television are commercial, worldly institutions that are not subject to reform. They use methods that bring in money. Little do they care for the morals or the spiritual life of the people. Their success is measured only by the dollars they bring in. The nature of the theater and TV industry is carnal. Paul wrote in Romans 8:7 that the carnal mind is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

One might as well think of reforming the saloons, dance halls, or the brothels as to expect the theater and television to reform. They make sin a thing to laugh at. They destroy the moral code. They depreciate virtue. They teach crime. They present exaggerated views of real life, rendering life to be unreal. Indecency degenerates the audience. Immodest dress, indecent conduct, and the breaking down of moral barriers weaken the will of those that watch.

Christian men in all ages have persistently opposed the theater. Can we not see the danger of these worldly channels in the weakening of the Christian home?

There are many more vices that endanger the foundation of the home than can be mentioned at this time. The Holy Spirit will give us warning of them if we sincerely desire to know what He has to say to us.



JUST A THOUGHT

**If you don't want the fruits of sin,
stay out of the orchard.**