

Sexual Sins And Voting Morally

by Perry Sexton

“**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, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:9,10). Although any un-forgiven sin will keep one from Heaven, in this article we are dealing with sexual sins and voting. Following is a brief definition of those words I underlined:

- Fornicators – every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse.
- Adulterers – voluntary sexual intercourse between two of which one is married.
- Effeminate – homosexual relations with a man.
- Abusers of themselves with mankind – one who lies with a male as with a female, sodomite, homosexual.

Lesbianism is equally sinful. Please read the context of the following verses, but for now note the terms used by God to describe this perversion: “vile affections” (Rom.1:26); “unseemly” (v.27) “reprobate mind” (v.28); “without natural affection” (v.31).

The consequences of such immoralities: “they which commit such things are **worthy of death** [eternal hell cp. Rev. 21:8], **not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them**” (v.32). God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of this perverse wickedness (Gen. 19:24). God has not changed His mind on this depraved condition, nor will He ever!

God’s will on marriage is clearly one man for one woman for one lifetime (Gen. 2:18-24). The only exception for divorce and remarriage is found in Matthew 19:9. “Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4).

Sex is for marriage only, and marriage is only between a man and a woman who have the right for marriage. Man may call a union between same sexes a marriage, but it can never be. It is perversion in God’s eyes.

Will you stand with man in their degenerate state, or will YOU stand with God in His glorious virtue?

Election Time Is Coming: Will You Vote Morally?



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(II Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

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Evangelism: Converting The Congregation

(Your Influence Is Great)

by Perry Sexton

The Smiths were in their seventies when they were converted. Their conversion came about by signing up for a Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) offered at the end of an article in the newspaper. In process of taking the BCC they would almost always write a letter asking questions. Much time was spent in answering their questions in detail. When the time was right, they were put in contact with the local preacher of their area and filmstrips were shown and other studies. Eventually they both obeyed the gospel.

As soon as they obeyed the gospel they wanted help in learning how to offer the BCCs to others, since the church where they were attending did not offer any BCCs. They stated that they also wanted to help others learn and obey the truth. O, what the church would be like if every member had this attitude! With their limited income and poverty level, they took their own money and bought supplies (BCCs, envelopes, stamps, etc.). They also bought newspaper space and advertized the BCCs in their area. They soon got their own students. We supplied them with sample letters to the students and how to keep records of the grades, etc. In process of time, these two converts got the local church involved in the BCCs.

Brethren, this is the power of influence! And the beauty of it is everyone has influence. The ugliness of it is, not everyone is using their influence for good. When you are at services you are an influence to others to attend – you are encouraging them (Heb. 10:25). When you are forsaking the assembling and others know it then you are a discouragement and an evil influence to others.

When you are involved in good works you are an influence for good to others. As Paul said, “Know ye not that a little leaven

leaveneth the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6)? We can use this for good and not evil as Paul had to deal with in the Corinthian church. Jesus shows us this in Matthew 13:33. So let us let our light so shine before men that they may be encouraged to do likewise (cp. Matt. 5:16). In fact, invite another to go with you in door knocking or visiting the sick and needy (James 1:27). It is amazing how much good one or two can do in a congregation if they will. Not only have people like the Smiths gotten the church involved in good works, others have stopped unscriptural practices by speaking out. But it is certain that you will never get a good work started by being idle, and you will never correct error by keeping silent.

Paul said to Timothy “... be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). By doing good works you are a good example to others, but it might take more to get others involved. As mentioned above, invite someone to go with you or ask someone to help you get involved in the BCC program. Or if the church is not involved in a BCC program, help get it going and keep it going. Talk to the elders and preacher about getting some evangelistic program(s) going. And by the way, aren’t elders supposed to be examples in good works as well (1 Peter 5:3). And preachers, as seen in Titus 2:7, “In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *showing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, ⁸Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.” But even elders and preachers need encouraging in good works – you can be that example and encouragement.

Congregations can also be an encouragement to other congregations and of course to all their own members as well. What a great example the church at Thessalonica was then and still is to us all today: “So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing” (1 Thess. 1:7,8).

There are many problems and attitudes in the church which hinder good works of every kind. One problem is being in the money saving business instead of the soul saving business. I am not speaking of being wise in spending money; I am speaking of hoarding money and not using it properly in God’s work. Many forget that it is God’s money in the first place. The church is responsible for using it

in God’s work. It seems many are more interested in money than in souls. It is obvious that their trust is in money, not God. The evidence: many thousands of dollars in bank accounts and a refusal to use God’s money for God’s work. Some “elders” will not even let the church know how much money they have! As a member you have the right to know.

In many places it is a vicious circle of no good works because of lack of funds, and people not giving as they should because of no good works. I am not saying to proceed stupidly or without counting the cost, but proceed wisely and by faith. The fact is many good works cost nothing, or practically nothing at all. How much does it cost to invite someone to services? How about door knocking? How much does it cost to invite others to go with you?

I believe another problem is giving to a budget instead of giving to God. The membership must be taught that they are giving to God, not to the preacher and not to a budget. Giving is an individual responsibility. And the individual needs to be involved in good works as well as the congregation (Matt. 5:16; Acts 9:36; Eph. 2:10; 1 Tim. 2:10; 1 Tim. 6:18; Tit. 2:14; 3:8; Heb. 10:24; 1 Cor. 15:58).

Many congregations plan, but never do. Many individuals talk, but that is about it. They seem to be dead and proud of it. They don’t want to be bothered with the facts. We should have the mindset to just get the job done! Of course there will always be obstacles, but they can be overcome.

Many criticize, but do nothing themselves constructive. One brother said that what we do is not much good without follow up. He was ignorant of some facts. Maybe he thought he could justify himself by criticizing us. He was driving a new \$300,000 to \$500,000 motorhome, yet he did not offer to use his RV and his time to help follow up, or do any work whatsoever. Neither did he offer any money to help buy the material we pass out – no not one thin dime!!! He seemed satisfied in using his God given blessings on his selfishness. **Do not let the leaven of those who are doing nothing influence you,** rather be an example to them and the congregation (Heb. 10:24). Let us truly be doers of the Word and the work; not hearers only (James 1:22).

What is on our eternal record? Which do you want on your record in the Judgment: hoards of money and possessions, or a good record of using your money for good works such as evangelization? Do we want only personal (or selfish) activities or also good works? It is our day; let us make the best of it. ♥