



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 5 Number 45

October 29, 2017

They Think It Strange

Mike Thomas | Beaver Dam, Kentucky, USA

The apostle Peter warned: "For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles— when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries" (1 Peter 4:3). This is an excellent text to show why Christians should not engage in recreational drinking, from drunkenness to casual drinking parties. Peter said we have wasted enough time on such wickedness in the past, so now is the time to walk uprightly and soberly. Our new manner of life is that of putting away the lusts of the flesh.

For those who think it is okay for Christians to engage in social drinking (despite the clear warning against such in this text), Peter's further admonition should be considered. He added, "In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you" (verse 4). Who will the world consider strange: the person having a drink with them or the person who abstains? Any honest soul will see it is the abstainer who is going to be humiliated and belittled. The one who dabbles in it, even just a little, is not going to be criticized or condemned. It is the one who won't touch the stuff that will appear odd and absurd.

Furthermore, the Christian who drinks (even a little) will not only avoid the rejection Peter is referring to, his example will be used by many to justify drinking. "It must be okay to have a sip every now and then because Joe had a beer at dinner." Or, "I saw Mary buying a bottle of wine at the grocery store; I thought she was a Christian?" Yet if Joe and Mary were the disciples they should be, and actually applied Peter's instructions to abstain from recreational drinking, they would be considered weird and abnormal. The people who know them would have different things to say about them. "Can you believe Joe doesn't drink, not even a little?" Or, "How does Mary deal with life without having a glass of wine?"

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- April continues to improve. She is still experiencing seizures.
- We have a flurry of members traveling
- Porters are visiting family in Georgia, they plan to return next Saturday, 11/4.
- Mitchells will be hunting and fishing in central Idaho later this week.
- Ross will be traveling to SW Colorado to hunt later this week returning Saturday, 11/11.
- Tom & Kate will be traveling to the Truth Board meeting the Week of 11/5.
- Rody Gumpad, from the Philippines, is currently in the US. He will be with us and preach a gospel meeting for us from Wednesday 11/15- Sunday 11/19.
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- We have started a bible class on 6:00pm Monday nights at Chad's. All are welcome to join.

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<p>Today</p> <p>Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – Ross Ward Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Ross Ward Invitation – Ross Ward</p>
<p>Next Sunday</p> <p>Bible Study – Tom Mitchell Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell Sermon – Chad Mitchell</p>	<p>Next Wednesday</p> <p>Bible Study – TBD Song Leader – David Porter Invitation – TBD</p>

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



[www.facebook.com @blackfootchurch](https://www.facebook.com/blackfootchurch)

www.blackfootchurch.com

The fact is God has been telling people to avoid strong drink for a long time. He inspired Solomon to write, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). A quick glance at the police reports in the newspaper validates this warning. So many people are ruining their lives (and the lives of others) by the incidents caused by impaired judgment. Enough is enough, says Peter. Now is the time to live wisely, righteously, soberly and prudently. Now is the time to come out of the world and be separate in devotion to God and in living for an eternal reward.

Despite all this evidence against recreational drinking, some Christians will still imbibe. They will have their wine when dining out or their beer on the way home from work. At the golf course, on the lake, at the wedding, or just home watching television, they will find reasons to justify a drink or two (or more). Never mind their example, when people see them buying or consuming these things, which should alarm any honest soul (Romans 2:24). These Christians have a greater problem besides their ungodly influence and example. These Christians are deceived by sin. And until they realize that, they will continue to lie to themselves about the carnality that is in their heart.

Hence, as Jesus told the Ephesians who returned to worldliness, "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent"(Revelation 2:4-5).

Signals of Societies Moral

By Ross Ward

It would seem conservative Christian values have been under attack for decades and recent news events show just how perverted our society has become. A flurry of accusations and potential criminal charges against Harvey Weinstein have uncovered purely evil activities that apparently have been a part of the motion picture society for some time now. The accusations show how perverted the motion picture industry has been. But are we really surprised? For decades movies have been full of nudity and intimate interaction. I think the reason would lead us to realize this was not a coincidence and is a signal of the truly perverted culture that is entertaining us. These type of events continue to be exposed throughout our culture including news organizations. The revolution of the 60's has given birth to the pure evil that one should expect. With the recent passing of Hugh Hefner we are reminded of the objectification of women that has continued to bring about the culture we have with us today. This information should heighten our guard against this evil. I fully believe Satan is using the entertainment industry to propagate evil throughout our society. After all, we all

have access to the TV and internet, and intentional or not, we let this culture into our homes, even if it is just a trashy commercial that is run during a program we are watching.

The evil we see in our society shows how good God's plan truly is for mankind. Jesus conveyed God's intention for intimacy in I Cor 7:1-3.

"Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband."

Within this scripture we see that the intimate relationship is reserved for the marriage relationship. The common cultural idea of intimacy that we see is against scripture, but God expects two that are married, to join in this intimacy and that this relationship is to be permanent. But relationships in our culture have become purely self-fulfilling and even abusive.

Another effect of this revolution on our culture is the objectification of women. After all, a beautiful scantily clad woman sells, apparently. Paul warns the Corinthian church about this very problem. The Corinthian Christians had been converted from many different cultures that are probably not unlike ours today. They had previously been involved in intimacy that is not authorized in the Christian's life.

"... that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed." II Cor 12:21

Uncleanness, Fornication, and Lasciviousness are all sins associated with intimacy. The first two relate to inappropriate contact. The word Lasciviousness includes the idea of exciting inappropriate desires, sensual desires. An idea that includes any expressions or behaviors that promote lustful thoughts. This type of behavior portrays women as objects. It is designed to focus the viewer upon the physical appearance and attributes of the opposite sex. Clothing, or lack thereof, and dance both can both excite inappropriate desires, which is the definition of Lasciviousness. We see that God, through the writing of the Apostle Paul, does not approve of this type of behavior or activity. Anything that promotes or draws sensual attention to the appearance or attributes of another would be classified as Lascivious and is forbidden.

The entertainment industry has propagated these deviant behaviors throughout America for decades. The Christian is not immune to this influence. In recent news events we are seeing the pure evil that exist. We need to be aware of their influence and the perverted view of women that is being promoted. We should live our lives with our guard up and recognize the influence the entertainment industry has upon our moral compass and how it has infiltrated our society.