

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 6:12-20**.
- B. The Bible has all the answers to life's questions. Sometimes these answers are easy to find, sometimes they are not.
- C. There are black and white areas in the Bible, and there are gray areas in the Bible.
- D. It is my belief that the black and white things help explain the gray areas. The Bible (esp. the NT) is a book not of rules but of principles that need to be "interpreted" and lived by. For example;
 - 1. Going the second mile.
 - 2. Turning the other cheek.
 - 3. Loving your neighbor.
- E. There are some absolutes, and there are some non-absolutes. Tonight, I want to help you answer some of the questions concerning areas of life not specifically dealt with in the Scriptures.

I. ABSOLUTES.

- A. Many, many places in the Bible God lists exactly how He wants to be worshipped and served. They are absolutes, and there is no changing them.
- B. The same is true with sin. Several places we find certain acts to be wrong in God's eyes. We cannot change them.
- C. Four such places of a listing of absolutes;
 - 1. Colossians 3:5.
 - 2. 1Corinthians 6:9,10.
 - 3. Galatians 5:19,20.
 - 4. Revelation 21:8.
- D. All of the above will be true until the end of time.

II. THE KEY QUESTION.

- A. But some will say, "Jesus didn't talk about movies, swimming and dancing. What do I do about this?"
- B. In hopes of giving some help in dealing with some of these "gray areas" we need to look at a very important passage of scripture. See 1Corinthians 10:23.
- C. The absolutes answer the lawful part of this verse. If you answer "no" then the activity is sinful and cannot be participated in.
- D. But if the absolutes do not deal with the activity, then we must look at whether or not it is profitable.
- E. To answer that question, let's ask 5 more which is the balance of the lesson tonight. If we can't answer the "profitable question" in the affirmative we must not engage in the activity.

III. FIVE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS.

- A. First, where does it lead?
 - 1. Proverbs 14:12 says that a way that seems right to man is the way of death. What ultimate value will I receive from watching a movie rated R? Where will it lead me?
 - 2. If some say I watch for the entertainment value, then watch naked people, commit fornication, cuss and take the Lord's name in vain you need to redefine what is entertainment in your life!
- B. Second, does it place you in a compromising situation?
 - 1. I can see the beauty and grace and art in ballet. I can see the fun in country and square dancing... I can also see the sexual arousal of other dances as seen on Soul Train and American Bandstand and on MTV.
 - 2. Take note: 1Corinthians 15:33.

- C. Third, does it harm your body?
1. The body is important (1Cor. 6:19,20).
 2. Think about it:
 - a. Smoking -- Rebecca did not smoke in Gen. 24:64 when the KJV says that she lit off her camel. Ha! The facts are in, and it is habit forming and leads to cancer.
 - b. Chewing -- the facts are also in, a clone of a tobacco chewer is called a spitting image. Don't do it!,
 - c. Drinking -- when you take one drink you are one drink drunk, etc. You are either under the influence of alcohol or you are not.
 - d. Drugs -- this is an absolute according to sorcery in Gal. 5:19.
 - e. Fornication -- another absolute which is harmful to the body.

And many times with all of this we try to justify our habits by giving the exception and not the rule.
- D. Fourth, does it dim your spiritual light?
1. Matthew 5:16 says our life is to glorify God, not self. Those who go swimming in attire that will cause others to lust and draw attention to self is not glorifying God.
 2. The people knew that Peter and John had been with Jesus... by looking at your life, who have you been with?
- E. Fifth, does it put the kingdom and God's righteousness first?
1. The emphasis here is on righteousness. We are to make a complete change from the old life to the new when we become a Xian (Rom. 12:1,2).
 2. The body is sacrificed and the mind is transformed.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. May we return to our original question, "Is it profitable?" There are many activities that come to mind that may not be specifically condemned in the Scriptures, yet are not profitable to godliness. Therefore, they must be discarded.
- B. Too many times we want to live just above the snake line spiritually.
- C. When in doubt, throw it out!
- D. Don't rationalize certain activities, but do as the Hebrew writer said, "let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles us, and run with endurance the race set before us" (Heb. 12:1).
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.