

Moral Guidelines (5)

Galatians 5:16-21Intro—Flesh is corrupt in nature. Romans 13:13

I. Dissensions--Seditions

In the context: Gr-Disunion. **Animosities** between individuals and groups that sometimes continue to fester and grow long after the original cause of conflict has passed. Can last for years. Refusing to let something go. Pride.

Side effects of disunity:

A) It distracts us.

Takes our focus off the main thing. Are they listening. I hope they heard that!

B) It weakens us.

Weakens us in number, and in Spirit.
Causes division. Eph. 4:30 "Grieves, robes you of your joy."

C) It burdens us.

Weights us down/Holds us back.

Paul's statement: **Philippians 2:2** "Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

Psalms 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Story: Abram & Lot Genesis 13:1-8

Romans 12:18 "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

(Key Point) When Christians fight, God is not glorified. Peacemaker/ troublemaker.

II. Heresies (factions)

In the Context: Gr—choice, disunion, a sect. Cliques caused by a party split.

Can be good, too often bad.

Especially among girls, cliques are a way of life, as are "mean" girls—and the teen years comprise the thick of it. When the cliques are all about who has more money or better clothes, and when they start influencing in a negative way, teen[agers] may feel ostracized and terribly uncomfortable. Such unfair behaviors add pressure to an already stressful time, sometimes causing teens to make risky or unwise decisions about their own behavior.

These cliques will normally have a leader who is popular and beautiful. She is the boss. The clique hinges on what she says and does. Clothing style, hair style, and language.

Queen bee/ Bullies If you have to pick on someone else to make yourself feel better you are a pretty shallow person. I know what it is like being picked on by a bully.

Outcast—There are no strangers

There are no outcasts

There are no orphans of God

So many fallen, but hallelujah

There are no orphans of God

This group is to be a sanctuary, a safety zone, all are welcome.

Few points:

A) Cliques can create emotional damage that lasts for years.

- B) Cliques can lead to desperate measures to be accepted.
- C) Cliques can lead to moral compromise.

If the clique identifies it as popular and accepted it becomes the norm. Hazing/ gang initiation.

So what do we do? I have been asked...

James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and **purify** your hearts, you double-minded. **Illustration:** Tom’s rescue of Jim.

Ephesians 4:3 “Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

I Corinthians 1:10 “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

(Key Point) If your heart is right, then your actions will follow.

III. Envy, Murder

In the context: Names, reputations, physical life. Stems from unaddressed anger.

IV. Drunkenness

In the context: In a general sense, refers to becoming drunk under any circumstance.

Likely referring to drunken orgies that were commonly associated with the worship of ancient Greek & Roman gods.

Drunken orgies often were characterized by wild dancing, singing, and drinking. Enhance.

Today—lot of confusion/ Social drinking/ After all Jesus turned the water to wine, right?/ The bible doesn’t specifically condemn alcoholic drinks right as long as it is in moderation?

(Key Point) The bible speaks on numerous occasions about the damage and danger of being drunk.

A few things to remember:

1. When a Christian defends “drinking in moderation” they are typically taking the Scriptures out of context.

Few examples of alcoholic drinks:

Lets study the words used:

- A) **Strong drink** -- refers to a drink that has been distilled from fermented dates, grain, apples, and honeycomb. Universally condemned everywhere it is used.

Prov. 31:6, “Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that are of heavy hearts.” (time of extreme sorrow, or extreme pain) –last resort.

- B) **Wine**—standard word.

Proverbs 20:1 “**Wine** is a mocker, **strong drink** is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”

I Timothy 5:23 “No longer drink only water, but use a **little** wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities.”

Timothy wasn’t a social drinker. Water

Refer to notes:

2. The bible strongly condemns drinking to get drunk.

Ex. Social, recreational, casual

Proverbs 23:29, 30 “Who has woe, sorrow, contentions, complaints, wounds without cause, and redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.

Romans 14:21 “It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which you brother stumbles or is offended or made weak.”

Stats: Thomas Seessel, executive director of the National Council on Alcoholism said, “adolescent alcohol abuse has become a devastating epidemic. “

90% of high school seniors say they have drunk alcohol sometime in their life.

67% say they have had alcohol in the last month.

75% of all high schoolers drink, and 50% of junior highers drink.

One-fourth of all active Southern Baptist church teenagers have used alcohol in the past 12 months.

Youth who drink alcohol are 7 1/2 times more likely to use an illicit drug, and 50 times more likely to use cocaine than young people who never drink alcohol.

Side effects of alcohol abuse:

- A) Physical dysfunction—Alcohol is a downer that reduces activity in the central nervous system.

Decreases your heart rate and lowers your blood pressure.

What our nation considers drunk (or 0.08) causes slight impairment of balance, speech, vision, reaction time, and hearing. Judgment and self-control are reduced, and caution, reason, and memory are impaired.

- B) Loss of control, Depression, Stunted Maturity, Despair, Guilt, Personality distortion, & Remorse.

3. The bible promotes total abstinence.

Dr. Gary Collins, Many Christians would say that moderation is good, but abstinence is better, especially in the view of clear dangers inherent in drinking.” Timothy, my stance

I Thess. 5:22 “Abstain from every form of evil.”

Billy Sunday—“Liquor is the devil in liquid form.”