

PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 23

Lesson 23: Christian Standards – Behavior, Dress, Jewelry, Make-Up, and Tattoos

There are three major reforms that must take place in a Christians life that promote Christian principles that are only approved by God. That is character reform, health reform, and dress reform. All three of these areas are extremely important for Christian life. How should a Christian eat and treat his or her body? We studied this in detail already, but you should remember 1 Corinthians 10:31, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” In this study let's take a look at the other two character and dress reformation.

Does God have standards in which the way Christians should behave and dress? Does God really care what you watch, what you listen to, how you behave, how you dress, and what you put on your body? Are any of those things really God's business? Does the way you behave and/ or dress reflect your character? Tattoos, jewelry, saggy and tight “revealing” clothing have become very fashionable even among professed Christians. Does the Bible talk about any of these things? Are they acceptable unto God? Should a Christian be totally distinguishable from the world? If we love God, we will do what please Him. Amen. Let's see what the Bible says about the topic of christian standards.

1. What does God call His obedient children who truly love Him?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 7:6; 1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:12 - 14; 1 John 3:1, 2, 3

Write Bible Answer: _____

Peculiar in the original Hebrew or Greek does not mean weird or odd. It actually means jewel or treasure. Something very valuable. God calls you and I His valued treasure because He paid His life for you. As obedient children unto God we are not only His sons or daughters, but he calls us a holy people and priests unto to God.

2. What does the Bible say about being totally different from the sinful practices and customs of the world?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: John 17:3 – 22; John 15:19; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15; 1 Corinthians 10:20,21; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Write Bible Answer: _____

Even though with live here on earth, God calls us from the sinful customs and practices of the world. God expect us to be totally different from the world as His valued treasure. We can not drink from the tables of devils and call ourselves Christians. There should be a clear distinction between the things of God and the things of the world.

3. As God's loving people how should we conduct ourselves?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Numbers 15:37 – 41; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:13 - 16; 1 Peter 2:21; 2 Peter 3:11 - 14; Titus 2:1 – 8; 1 Timothy 6:6 – 12; Ephesians 2:1 – 5 and 10; 2 Corinthians 5:16, 17; Philippians 2:1 - 8

Write Bible Answer: _____

When you become a Christian your behavior should be totally different from your past worldly sinful self. You should now follow after the behavior and character of Christ. A priest, pastor, or bishop is NOT our example of Christian living. The Bible makes it clear that Christ is our only example.

4. What are some practical Biblical examples of contrast between worldly behavior and Christ-like behavior?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Galatians 5:16 – 26; Matthew 7:16 – 20; Matthew 12:33; Romans 6:22

Word definitions of Galatians 5:16 - 21

Lasciviousness: (Greek) Filthy; wantonness. (Dictionary.com) 1. arousing sexual desire: 2. indicating sexual interest or expressive of lust or lewdness.

Variance: (Greek) Quarrel, wrangling: contention, debate, strife.

Emulations: (Greek) properly heat, envy (-ing), fervent mind, indignation, jealousy, zeal (Dictionary.com) jealous rivalry.

Witchcraft: (Greek) pharmakeia - medication (“pharmacy”), that is, (by extension) magic . Root word: a druggist or poisoner.

Seditions: (Greek) Disunion, dissension, division (Dictionary.com) any action, especially in speech or writing, promoting such discontent or rebellion.

Heresies: (Greek) Disunion; sect

Revellings: (Greek) a carousal (as if a letting loose)

Write Bible Answer: _____

A Christian will bear Christian fruits of Christ. A worldly sinner will bear the fruits of corruption. A Christian will not do, say or wear anything that copies the works of the flesh. You must ALWAYS walk after the Spirit of God, not in the flesh.

5. What are the Bible principles that should guide what we do, say, watch, or listen to?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Philippians 4:8; Psalm 101:3; Psalm 26:1 – 5; Psalm 119:35 – 37; Ephesians 5:6 -11; 1 Corinthians 13:4 – 7; Ezekiel 16:49

Write Bible Answer: _____

Whatever you think, do, say, or listen should be in unity with the Bible standard. If it is not true, honest, just, pure, lovely, good report or have any virtue you need to cut it off! Whenever you deliberately watch or listen to sin on TV, ipod, or internet you not only approve of the sin, but you are also partaking in it. What about your time? Your time is actually God's. How does God feel when you watch things that are unfruitful for the kingdom of God. Matter of fact, according Ezekiel 16:49, one of the main reasons why Sodom was destroyed was because they wasted their time in idleness. Is God pleased when you sit in front of the TV or video screen for hours wasting God's time? When you give time in watching or listening to sinful things, the devil is gaining a strong foothold in your life. This is the reason why many can not gain victory over sin. You are constantly allowing Satan to implant his doctrines in your mind.

6. What are the three main things the world promotes, and seven things that God hates?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 John 2:15-17; Proverbs 6:16 -19; Proverbs 21:4

Write Bible Answer: _____

The three things that the world loves the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. God hates pride. It was pride that got Lucifer kick out of heaven. Anything that promotes any of these things that the world promotes, but God hates is a reproach to God. Matter of fact, most movies and worldly music such as rap, hip hop, rock, jazz and R&B promote all of this things God's hates.

7. What Bible principles should guide you in the way you dress? Does how you dress really matter?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 1 Timothy 2:9; Proverbs 7:10; Zephaniah 1:8; Deuteronomy 22:5;

Write Bible Answer: _____

The Bible principle guide for dress reform is modesty. In the Greek this means orderly that is, decorous: - of

good behavior. A Christian's clothing should be neat and orderly, not trying to bring unnecessary attention to self. Your clothing should not promote lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. ***Zephaniah 1:8*** reveals that strange apparel, is clothing like an adulterous woman or harlot. Women should not dress to advertise their sexual body parts. For women, tight revealing clothing that bring attention to her body for the lust of others is NOT of God. Dressing in this way is a work of the flesh, lasciviousness which means arousing sexual desire. The dress of the a Christian should be distinguishable from the dress of the worldly fashions. Christians should not try to keep up with the ever changing fashions of this world. Also ***Deuteronomy 22:5*** reveals that men should not dress like women and women like men. God calls this an abomination. Modesty starts with your character and should reflect the way you dress.

8. Should Christians adorn themselves with jewelry such as earrings, rings, necklaces, and alike? What are the origins of these things?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Genesis 35:1 – 4; Exodus 33:1 – 6; Hosea 2:13; Isaiah 3:16 – 21; 1 Peter 3:3, 4; 1 Timothy 2:9, 10

Write Bible Answer: _____

The Bible reveals that we were made in the image of God to reflect the character of God. It is clear that God from the beginning did not intend that we adorn ourselves with jewels. God's creation was perfect and there was no need to improve upon it. If God wanted us to be adorned with jewels He would have made us that way from the beginning like He made Lucifer in heaven. According ***Ezekiel 28:13***, God made Lucifer with precious jewels. Lucifer was God's top created angel, but Lucifer got puffed up with pride because of his beauty, according to ***Ezekiel 28:17***. Jewelry promotes the pride of life. For many jewelry is a way to flaunt their wealth and fortune. Matter of fact, the origin of jewelry such as earring, bracelets, and necklaces have there origin in pagan or false god worship. In many false religions jewelry serves as a instrument of worship towards their god, or a superstitious ornament to please their gods or to ward off “evil spirits”. You can see why He told Israel to take it off when that went before God. It was offensive to Him. Even the wedding ring is an invention of the pagans to please their false gods. You will find no where in the Bible that God ordains the wedding ring as a symbol of marriage.

Below is a MUST READ QUOTE from the Papal Rome who adapted the ring in marriage from the pagans in order to covert them to Christianity.

“Confiding then in the power of Christianity to resist the infection of evil and to transmute the very instruments and appendages of demon worship to an evangelical use, we are told by Eusebius that Constantine, in order to recommend the religion [Christianity] to the heathen, transferred into it the outward ornaments to which they had been accustomed in their own...The use of temples, and these dedicated to particular saints..., incense lamps, candles, votive offerings on recovery from illness, holy processions, blessings on the field, sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure, **the ring in marriage**, turning to the east, images at a later date, perhaps the ecclesiastical chant, all are of pagan origin, and sanctified by their adoption into the church.”

- Development of Christian Doctrine by J.H. Cardinal Newman, pp 272, 273

So if you know that jewelry is of pagan origin do you think that it is appropriate for Christians to wear jewelry? Matter of fact, many Christians in the early 19th and 20th centuries took a Biblical stand against jewelry, but over time it has become widely accepted in many Christian churches today. Many Christian feel that jewelry makes them feel pretty and attractive, but God reveals that He wants us to adorn ourselves with the character of Jesus Christ. The outward adorning does not make us precious jewels in His sight, it is the Christ-like character of Jesus on the inside that makes us His precious jewels. Matter of fact, in heaven Christ will crown you with precious jewels. **James 1:12**, says “Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” You are going to so humbled by the His sacrifice that you will cast your crown at His feet!

9. Is there any Biblical precedence about make-up? Should Christians paint their face or lips to make themselves more attractive? Who in the Bible was known to wear make-up?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: 2 Kings 9:30; Revelation 2:20; Jeremiah 4:1, 30; Ezekiel 23:35 - 40

Write Bible Answer: _____

Jezebel was the wife of King Ahab the king of Judah who turned their backs on the God. Jezebel was a heathen queen who promoted the pagan religion Baal worship. She was responsible for expanding Baal worship throughout Judah. In 2 Kings 9:30 it is clear that putting on make up was a common practice for this worshiper of Baal. Jezebel is a representation of the world. She is someone Christians should not imitate. You will also find in Jeremiah 4:30 and Ezekiel 23:40 that God mocks at his people for painting their faces during their apostasy. The putting on of make-up also promotes the pride of life. The purpose of it is try to attract others to your outward appearance. It is vanity.

When you research the history of the common use of makeup you will find that the origin of it comes from ancient Egypt. Ancient Egypt in which the people of Israel were slaves for 400 years worshiped many false gods. Ancient Egypt make up practices also influenced other pagan cultures such as the Romans and the Greeks. Matter of fact make up use in many of these pagan cultures were used for religious or sexual rituals. Ancient and modern prostitutes use bright colored make-up and red lipstick to seduce others into sexual sin. You will find no where in Bible or world history that the origin of make up came from the God of Heaven.

Make-up is also known as cosmetics. Did you know that the word cosmetics comes for the Greek root word, “kosmos” which means “worldly affairs”? Amazing, the origin of this face paint is in the meaning of the word, from the world. Also let's consider the cosmetic, mascara, used to make eye lashes appear to longer and thicker. Mascara comes from the word “mask.” So in essence to wear mascara is to wear a mask. Matter of fact, that is revealing about all make-up to cover up or to “mask up.” Do you think God's approves Christians wearing masks for the purpose of vanity and perceived beauty?

Do you know what's in make-up? In short, nasty and toxic stuff that is not healthy for the body and skin. One of ingredients in make up is tallow which is a fatty byproducts made from discarded animals from slaughterhouses and even road kill! (http://www.oddee.com/item_98322.aspx#JhSpsuqlGGRkjVOj.99) Do you really want to put road kill like a dead raccoon or possum on your face! Many chemicals and metals used to make make up is toxic and some cancer causing. “Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley’s School of Public Health detected lead, cadmium, chromium, aluminum and five other metals in 32 different lipsticks and lip

glosses commonly found in drugstores and department stores.”

(<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2013/05/02/break-up-with-your-toxic-make-up/#ixzz2bxNwZecf>) . Also make-up is known to clog the pores of the skin. The truth is if you want healthy skin keep make-up off your face. The best way for healthy radiant skin is a healthy lifestyle.

Tattoos have become very fashionable in recent years. Many in God's church have now adorned themselves with tattoos. Is this form of adornment acceptable to God? Do Christians know the origin of tattoos? Who is the inspiration behind tattoos? Is it just a form of art or a marking as a memorial to the person(s) you love?

10. What does the Bible say about tattoos?

Read ALL the following Bible texts: Leviticus 19:28

Write Bible Answer: _____

In Leviticus 19:28 God made very clear instructions for His people not “print any marks” on the body. “Marks” in the Hebrew means “mark branded on the skin” also “incision” or “gash” The modern term to describe this is “tattoo”. It is a process in which dyed ink is inserted in the skin to make permanent markings in form of letter, designs, or pictures. The origin of the practice of tattoos is found in Ancient Egypt. Matter of fact, there were many Egypt mummies of women from that ancient culture with tattoos. Some of this women had tattoos of their goddesses permanently marked on their body. God did not want His people to have anything to do with pagan worship. Tattoos were found to be a part of the religious and sacred rituals among the pagans. This practice of tattoos was also practiced in other pagan cultures such as the Greeks and the Romans.

Tattoos promote the pride of life and vanity. That vanity can pay a heavy price for the one getting marked. Did you know that there are many toxic chemicals associated with the dyes and inks of tattoos? This toxicity can cause allergic reactions, problems to the body's nervous and endocrine systems. Also tattoos can become infected and cause various health problems. Art enthusiast would be outraged if you sprayed painted your name on the Mona Lisa! Tattoos are like putting graffiti on a priceless work of art, the human body.

In conclusion, remember your body is a temple of the Holy Ghost and that Jesus owns your body. The human body has been beautifully designed by God. It should not be spoiled with holes, paint, and tattoos. The adornment of jewelry, make-up and tattoos, history reveals that they all have their origin in pagan practices that promoted false worship, the pride of life, and vanity. Do you think God is pleased when we put His money into adorning ourselves with vain things. God does not want any of His people associated in anyway to the practices and fashions of the pagan world. This principle is true for many worldly fashions. For example in Leviticus 19:27 God instructed His people “not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard.” At the time this was practiced among the pagan Egyptian men. This was probably a practice that was in dedication to their false gods. Even though the adornment of jewelry, make-up and tattoos have become acceptable in many Christian circles, the Bible clearly reveals that “Bible” Christians should have nothing to do with it. Who do you want to please? God loves you and He wants ALL to serve in Spirit and in truth. Are you willing to let these adornments go for the master?

Allow God to adorn you with the character traits of God that reflects the glory of God!