

# **ANTI ABORTION CAMPAIGNS**

## **THE SANCTITY OF LIFE & IT'S COMMENCEMENT**

### **LESSONS FROM THE HISTORY OF SODOM.**

*(And the sanctity of sexual Love, and Family Life.)*

What are our responsibilities as Christians?

**\*\* NOTE \*\*** In order to get the real benefit of these studies it is essential for the reader to look up all the Scripture references, and to give their full attention to what they find the Lord saying in those verses. Then, instead of listening to what I've written, they will be able to ignore me and listen with me to what the Lord Himself has to say.

E. Read.

go against the tide of our age and let God's word guide us in what we do. We must take up the task the Lord has given, rely on His presence with us, Matt 28:16-20 and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8.

#### THE TESTIMONY OF THE BIBLE:

The Lord did not say "Go into all the world and PREACH AGAINST INJUSTICES, WRONGS AND EVIL. The Lord's command was to concentrate on proclaiming the GOOD NEWS, making Disciples, Baptising them, and THEN teaching them all the things He had commanded.

The Apostles were careful to concentrate on doing this, 1 Cor 2:1-2 etc., and are never recorded as campaigning against the evils of the world around, even such obvious evils as Slavery, etc.

#### THE TESTIMONY OF HISTORY:

The Moody & Sankey type evangelistic campaigns in U.S.A. reaped a great harvest of conversions, until the church turned its attention to campaigning and political action against Alcohol production and use. The triumph of Prohibition brought problems, and only when the churches were disillusioned with the failure of the direct attack on social evils through political action, and realised that spiritual conversion was the key, did it become possible for Billy Graham to take up Campaign evangelism, again. Yet now once more the Church is turning its back on Evangelism, to concentrate on "Anti-evil," political, campaigns.

Whatever thought, energy, time, or money we devote to them are taken from what our Master has entrusted to us for the carrying out of His commission. Also, if we campaign publicly on these issues we will certainly antagonise many of those to whom we wish to witness.

Our task is, I believe, to IGNORE SATAN'S RED HERRINGS - Causes that may in themselves be in some sense worthwhile - *Anti-liquor, Anti-smoking, Anti-Evolution, Anti-Abortion, Anti-modern versions, Anti-Communism, Anti-Capitalism, Anti-Racism, Anti-New Age, Anti-Cult...* - but which distract us from the preaching and hearing of the Gospel.

All their teaching must be done KINDLY and GENTLY, realising that their opponents are caught in a snare of Satan, and, as with any trapped animal, upsetting or angering them will make their release more difficult, 2 Tim 2:24-26

C. It is NOT OUR BUSINESS AS CHRISTIANS TO JUDGE, CRITICISE, PASS VERDICTS ON THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH. That's God's business, not ours, 1 Cor 5:12-13.

It is a disgrace for us to be a MURDERER, a THIEF, or a MEDDLER/BUSY BODY - one who tells other people what to do and tries to run their lives for them, 1 Pet 4:15. (The word is literally OVERSEER/BISHOP of what belongs to another person.)

D. We must oppose Satan and all evil, but never with abusive language, leaving it to the Lord to do the rebuking, Jude 9

To accuse anyone of Murder is abusive language, unless God clearly says they are murderers.

E. We are called to SPIRITUAL warfare, and we must use spiritual weapons only, especially prayer, not carnal/ fleshly/ bodily ones of protest rallies, burning down abortion clinics, etc. 2 Cor 10:3-4. This is meddling in other people's affairs, as noted above.

F. Only what is done in LOVE, lovingly, is of any value, 1 Cor 13:1-7.

#### BUT AREN'T WE TO BE LIGHTS IN THIS WORLD?

Certainly our lives are to shine, quietly reflecting Christ to the World, in words and deeds of kindness that move the Godless world at large to Glorify God, Matt 5:16. We are not to light fires with our tongues, James 3:5-6. It's not our attacking evil, and antagonising evil-doers, but our ability to live without quarrelling and conflict that SHINES for our crucified Lord, as we HOLD FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE, Phil 2:15-16.

#### BUT AREN'T WE TO BE SALT IN THE WORLD?

Certainly, but that does not authorise us to rub salt into the wounds of individuals or the world at large. We are to have salt IN OURSELVES, and live at peace with one another, Matt 5:13, Mark 9:50 As beneficiaries of

Our Lord's attitude, and words, to obvious sinners and outcasts were marked by Compassion. They flocked to hear Him, and crowds of them became His disciples, Matt 9:10-13; 21:28-32. If our attitude towards those thinking of having an abortion, or those who have had one, is Christ-like, we may find too that those who have made a bad start, may repent, and become true children of God.

Our Lord's harsh statements were all directed at people who had the OUTWARD display of Godliness and Virtue, and who were quick to campaign against the sins of others on issues that they themselves did not have to face personally, Matt 23:1-4. It is the testimony to the truth of God, and the love of God, by those who have had to face the issue of abortion in their own life, that is appropriate, and effective. It is the love and helpfulness, shown by God's people, that will enable women to resist the temptation to take the abortion APPARENT easy way out.

## HISTORY CONFIRMS THE DANGER OF POLITICAL ACTION IN THE LORD'S NAME

It is said of the Crusaders who fought to keep the "Holy Land" Christian, that they were prepared to suffer great hardships and travel long distances to FIGHT AGAINST THE EVIL IN OTHERS, while ignoring the evil in their own lives and countries.

Murdering all Moslems and Jews to purify Jerusalem when they captured it, is typical of their "Crusading zeal," in Christ's Name. The memory of this has ever since bedevilled all attempts to win Moslems and Jews to Christ.

It is easy for us to attack the sins and follies that are no temptation to ourselves. Unless we are obviously and sacrificially caring about the children who have been born into situations where abortion was an alternative, professed concern for the unborn will register as hypocrisy.

DON'T ACCEPT THE ABOVE STATEMENTS WITHOUT CHECKING FOR YOURSELF. Read the N.T., marking any COMMAND to be involved in Political, Social, and Moral issues, or any EXAMPLES of those who did so.

## THE RECORD OF THE CHURCH 'S MINISTRY

After Pentecost, the public preaching of His servants is recorded as concentrating on demanding that the hearers face the fact that Jesus was the Christ, to repent, receive new life in Christ, and to live it out in fellowship with HIM.

Those who believed were taught that the whole of their moral and social life must now be wonderfully transformed- At home, and at work, as masters/slaves, Eph 5:18-6:9; Col 3:12-4:1; and as totally obedient citizens, Rom 13:1-10, etc.

Paul claimed his personal rights as a Roman Citizen, Acts 16:37; 22:25; 25:10-11; but there are no suggestions that Christians organise to use political action to achieve moral or spiritual results.

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** I'm unaware of abortion being an issue in N.T. times. The exposing of newborn infants to die, or be reared as slaves which WAS a current issue is not mentioned in the N.T. The early Christian writings I have read proclaim twice "We do not expose our children," but they do not condemn the Christless for so doing.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

The "INNOCENCE" of the unborn has an emotional appeal, but is irrelevant. If O.T. Law was applied illegitimate unborn would be killed with the parents for the sin which led to their conception, Deut 22:2-24.

CAMPAIGNING FOR RIGHT (I'm right!) AGAINST WRONG (Others are wrong!) offers much more to our FLESH/ HUMAN NATURES than does Gospel witness/Evangelism, so is the easy alternative.

No matter how righteous the CAUSE may be, SATAN IS ALWAYS AT WORK ON BOTH SIDES OF ANY CONTROVERSY. Among us who take a stand on the side of righteousness in the name of Christ, he acts as AN ANGEL OF LIGHT, 2 Cor 11:13-15, enlisting us for an inappropriate cause - promoting

Judging by the scarcity and vagueness of the references, we are apparently not expected to spend much time thinking about the subject, and are expected to avoid being dogmatic.

As in all issues not specifically detailed it is largely a matter between each servant of God and His Master, Rom 14:7-12. Nothing suggests that it is part of the Gospel we are commanded to proclaim to the world at large.

## WHAT IS THE NATURE AND STATUS OF THE UNBORN?

### AT WHAT MOMENT DOES LIFE BEGIN & A NEW SOUL EXIST?

God in His wisdom has chosen not to give us a clear answer to these questions. It is easy therefore for some of us to rush in and make it a matter of rational argument, or emotional judgment, and so find ourselves in conflict with those who differ from us in their judgment.

It is more honouring to God if we direct our attention first to what He has made clear- that He has granted to us the holy privilege of being stewards of God's purposes in procreation. We can then view all the stages- love/ sexual attraction and union/ conception/ carrying/ birth and caring- with non-controversial awe, joy, and responsibility.

It will then be obvious to us that any wilful, self-chosen, God-ignoring interference in the process, whether positively by being involved in forbidden unions etc. or negatively by selfish/self-pleasing celibacy, contraception, termination of pregnancy for any reason, etc. can never be a matter to be taken lightly. I'm not suggesting, that in this increasingly overcrowded world, God is against Christian parents limiting the size of their families. Rather, that such decisions are part of the whole round of life that is to be submitted to His counsel and care, and His will and glory sought first, so that what He grants may be enjoyed in fellowship with Him. (Incidentally the Father's role in begetting, and the Mother's role in bearing children are both covered by the same Hebrew word, Yalad, used of each equally often.)

### THE WITNESS OF PSALM 139

GOD's direct interest and involvement in the development of the unborn is clearly stated, as is the Psalmist's AWE as he contemplates God's total

COVERED/Knit me together- Sakak- To cover as the wings of the Cherubim covered the Mercy Seat, Ex 25:20 Or as the Lord shielded Moses with his hand until His Glory had passed, Ex 33:22 And the Lord COVERED/ Shielded David's head in battle, Ps 140:7. Sakak can mean an interwoven screen or covering so NIV translates the word as "Knit together." Handcraft enthusiasts note that what we call knitting was apparently not known until after New Testament times. The Psalmist would have weaving a pattern in mind. God's deliberate, purposeful involvement in the development of the unborn is clearly stated, and is followed by an outburst of Praise in verse 14, as David contemplates this.

139:14. I WILL PRAISE - Yadah- To give thanks, laud, praise. 1st Gen 29:35, Leah says "I will PRAISE - Yadah the Lord, so she called him JUDAH-Yudah." Such PRAISE is mentioned 120x, 70x being in the Psalms, It is a natural and essential part of public worship and of our personal response to God as we experience His goodness.

I AM FEARFULLY - Yare- Fear or awe-inspiring. 1st Gen 3:10, "I was AFRAID and hid." It involves submission to the will of God as Gen 22:12 where Abraham proved that he FEARED God by offering Isaac. The realised presence of God, made Bethel a DREA DFUL place to Jacob when he awoke. This FEAR - Yirah of the Lord is the beginning/basis of wise living, Prov 1:7.

WONDERFULLY - Palah- Unique, SPECIAL, individually crafted. Separated/ treated differently. Here is a list of all the times this word is used. It speaks to our hearts of God's loving care for us before our birth. Palah is used of God keeping SEPA RATE from the Judgments on Egypt, the land of Goshen, Ex 8:22, Israel's cattle, Ex 9:4; Israel's Firstborn, Ex 11:7. In Ex 33:16 Moses pleads for God's presence as the only way in which Israel could be SEPA RATED/Distinguished from the nations - seen to be special. "The Lord has SET APART the Godly for Himself," Ps 4:3. "Show Thy MARVE LLOUS loving kindness," OR "the WONDER of your great love," Ps 17:7. MADE - Asah- A general word indicating that someone MADE something.

MARVE LLOUS - Pala- Marvellous, extraordinary, beyond one's power. 1st used in Gen 18:14, "Is anything TOO HARD for the Lord to do?" It is primarily used of God and His actions as being beyond human power or expectation. When God asks His people to do the seemingly impossible- eg keeping the LAW Deut 30:11, it is not Pala- HIDDEN/ TOO DIFFICULT/ MIRACLE - REQUIRING because His MARVE LLOUS power would have enabled them if

WAS NOT HID FROM THEE /You WHEN I WAS MADE IN the SE CRET place- Sether- A covered, or secret hiding place, from Sathar= To conceal, hide, or shelter, often with the thought of separation. 1st used in Gen 4:14, Because of his sin Cain will be HIDDEN from the presence of God. When Israel's sin made God withdraw His favour He is said to have HIDDEN His face from Israel, Isa 8:17. Here it is referring to the womb, where the unborn remain hidden from human sight, but not from God's sight.

AND CURIOUSLY WROUGHT/Woven together- Raqam- Used elsewhere only as EMBROIDERER, Ex 35:35 38:23 The skill involved in the forming of an unborn child is compared to that of embroidering the beautiful materials of the Tabernacle in which God dwelt among His people, and manifested His Glory. See also 1 Cor 3:16.

IN THE LOWEST PARTS/Depths- Tachtî- 1st Gen 6:16 LOWER storey of ark. OF THE EARTH- Eretz- used in the expression Eretz Israel= Land, the earth, of Israel. Not Adamah= ground, soil, linked with the Creation of ADAM, Gen 2:7. Slavish LITERALISM might suggest a factory for souls, deep underground, or a pregnancy developing in the back-blocks, but it seems to be a typical Hebrew word picture- In the womb I was as unknown to everyone but God, as if I was in the depths of the earth. God knew me there when no one else did, except that my mother might have guessed at my vigour or lack of it.

139:16. THINE/Your EYES DID SEE /Saw MY SUBSTANCE YET BEING UNPERFECT/Unformed Body- Golem. As this is the only time the word is used the context has to determine the meaning.

AND IN THY/Your BOOK- Sepher- Book or scroll. ALL (MY MEMBERS) WERE WRITTEN- Kathab- To write, inscribe. (WHICH) IN CONTINUANCE/Days- Yom- A Day, or space of time. (The words in brackets were added by the translators so as to make sense in English.) WERE FASHIONED/Ordained- Yatsar- To mould our form as a Potter does, and as God FORMED Adam, Gen 27.

WHEN (AS YET THERE WAS) NONE OF THEM/Before one of them came to be- Lo- None, Echad- One, each, any.



or frustrating the purposes of God. Equally the conception and birth of children through forbidden sexual unions, in defiance of God's commandments, or failing to use contraception if it was His will to have done so, (as with any action outside the will of God,) would equally be sin.

It may seem smart to despise the poor - poor in money, culture, or intelligence, and speak of them as having no value, but to do so is to reproach their Maker, Prov 17:5. As God's children, in Christ, our attitude towards the wonder of human life, must reflect the value that the Lord himself set on all human life - child or adult, Jew or Gentile, rich and poor, good and bad not only in the O.T., but in His Incarnation, when the "Word became flesh and dwelt among us," Jn 1:14, and viewed all humanity with saving compassion, Mat 9:36

It is Blasphemy to use anything regarding our Lord for the purpose of winning an argument, scoring a point for our side against the opposition etc. In that regard nothing is more vulnerable to defilement, more carefully to be guarded, than the wonder of the Incarnation. We dare not express an opinion as to what it has to say concerning the status of the unborn, but we do well to meditate on Matt 1:20, Luke 1:35, in wonder and worship.

I understand that the language used there is that which was normally used in Greek- expressed in simple, natural terms. Baby- Brephos used in Lk 1:41, 44; 2:12, 15. and Teknon - Child, born one (From Tikto- to bear ) are both used in neuter form- after all male and female infants are equally BORN, and their SEX can be ignored until they are born. The unborn seem to have no status in Greek language. The Greek word Embryo is not used in Scripture except in two alternative readings in LXX, one being Job 31:6.

It seems to me that just as the Incarnation should give Believers a reverence/ respect/sense of responsibility for ALL human life, it should also give us a reverence/ respect/ sense of responsibility towards the unborn, and a willingness to offer kindly help to those who face difficult decisions in the matter.

If a despairing, starving mother in Bangladesh abandons her baby to die. I - by living in luxury - may be the murderer of that infant rather than she. OR her religion which condemns contraception on the grounds that procreation must not be taken out of the hands of God/ the Gods, may be the true murderer.

also,

Ecc 12:7 confirms this- At death, the body formed from the earth returns to it, the BREATH/SPIRIT, returns to God who gave it.

Unless this refers to the original giving of BREATH/ SPIRIT to Adam, it is saying that God gives each of us the BREATH OF LIFE/ HUMAN SPIRIT, when we are born and commence to breathe.

While the unborn child is referred to as Yeled (from Yalad= BEGOTTEN by a father, BORNE by a Mother) in Hebrew, as long as it is expected to live, just as a child is; those miscarried or stillborn are referred to by a different word, Nephel.

The O.T. seems to speak of the human tragedy of miscarriage or stillbirth as being a failing to come into existence, rather than as being a ceasing of existence.

Job 3. When Job in resentment and despair repudiates the idea that life for him is worth living, and curses the day of his birth he seems to express three distinct wishes:

1. 3:10. That he'd stayed in the womb unborn.
2. 3:11-12 That he'd been totally neglected from birth and left to die. In which case 3:13-15 he'd be lying at peace, asleep in the grave, as ancient rulers were.
3. 3:16. That he'd been miscarried/stillborn, and buried in the ground, and so spared the troubles experienced by the living.

The point being made is that PRESENTATION FROM THE CARES OF THIS LIFE THAT JOB LONGED FOR is what the Stillborn and the dead share in common, not the fact of having lived.

Job says that if only he had been a Nephel= miscarried or still born, "I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN" Hayah= To come into being, to exist, to occur. His birth would have been a non-event, and he would not have come into existence. If Job was not correct in this belief, it doesn't seem to be corrected elsewhere in Scripture. The only other references to Nephel are Ps 58:8, Ecc 6:3, and they confirm the view that the human tragedy of miscarriage or stillbirth is a

that must be paid for.

Ex 21:23 says that if the death of the mother follows, it is treated as murder, and the life of the murderer is owed as a debt for the loss of her life. That the verse then says "Tooth for tooth.." etc suggests that any injury the woman suffers, apart from the miscarriage, requires the exact and limited repayment of any injury. Some may possibly see 21:23 having some reference to the death of the infant following its premature birth, but "tooth for tooth" seem irrelevant to that.

Typically of the whole subject, God did not see fit to make the matter clear, which suggests that dogmatism is not appropriate/.

Translators, it seems, TRANSLATE the Hebrew of this passage in different terms, according to their assumptions. To be fair the range is given below,

Ex 21:22//21:23

KJV "Her fruit depart from her." // "If any mischief follow."

NIV "She gives birth prematurely," OR "She has a miscarriage." // "If there is serious injury,"

BERKELEY "She miscarries," // "But if there is further harm."

DOUAY "She miscarry indeed, but live herself." // "But if her death ensue."

GN. "A pregnant woman loses her child but she is not injured in any other way." // "But if the woman herself is injured"

GREEN, KJV II. "Her child goes forth," // "But if injury occurs."

JEWISH VERSION Friedlander, as for KJV. American Reformed Jewish, "Her fruit depart" // "But if any harm follow."

LIVING B. "She has a miscarriage," // "If any harm comes to the woman and she dies."

BEGGETTING, and the Mother's BEARING, or, less often, the BIRTH PROCESS. Yeled usually refers to children who live. Nephel related to Naphal- to fall, is used of "untimely births," after they are born and do not live. Before birth all unborn were referred to as Yeled- children- because they were expected to live. PUNISHED- Naqam- To avenge, take vengeance. PAY- Nathan- To give. MISCHIEF- Ason- Harm. Used elsewhere only in Gen 42:4, 38, 44:29, of Jacob's fear that something would happen to Benjamin as it had to Joseph.

### NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 1:39-45 can be taken as a more positive indication of life in the womb. The sudden vigorous movement of unborn John Baptist was interpreted by Elizabeth, under the Holy Spirit's guidance, as a joyful acknowledgment that Mary was pregnant with the Messiah. This MAY be intended to indicate that John was already a living soul, or merely be similar poetic imagery to the description of the responses by inanimate Nature to the coming of the Messiah, Ps 98:7-9, Is 55:12, etc.

### A MODERN FOLLY

Sadly, pre-occupation with this issue that looks beyond God's Word into superstition and spiritism, has spawned such aberrations as a book written by an Anglican/ Charismatic/ Psychiatrist in which he claims that the current human distress in the world is not the result of human sin and folly, but the loosing upon us of hordes of angry spirits of the aborted.

Following normal "Witchdoctor," beliefs he claims that the spirits of those who feel that they have been unfairly robbed of life are particularly malicious, and his suggested cure is for the Anglican church to devise a form of Christening for them, so as to "release them into the saving mercy of Christ," and so get them off our backs!

### CONCLUSION

Faced by the wonder of human life, and human responsibility in regard to it, we are committed to think soberly, and when called to, speak in love the truth as we understand it.

And, in a distressed and distressing world, live as commanded in Phil 4:4-9 - Concentrating our attention, thoughts, reading, watching, listening,

sin - the sin that brought them special destruction, because Scripture also says PRIDE was the sin of BABYLON, Isa 13:11, 19; Jer 50:31-32; EDOM Jer 49:16; Obad. 3. Other nations condemned for PRIDE, are ISRAEL, Isa 9:9; 28:1-3, Ezek 7:10, Hos 5:5, 7:10; MOAB Isa 16:6; 25:11, Jer 48:29; TYRE, Isa 23:8-9; JUDAH, Jer 13:9, Zeph 2:9-11; AMMON, Zeph 2:9-11; EGYPT, Ezek 30:6; PHILISTINES, Zech 9:6; and ASSYRIA, Zech 10:11.

PRIDE is the ROOT SIN which takes God's blessings, and instead of being thankful and obedient:

1. Steps outside of God's will in self sufficient independence, and idolatry of self, as did the King of Babylon, Isa 14:12-15; the Prince of Tyre, Ezek 28:1-19; (Both may symbolise Satan.) and Nebuchadnezzar, Dan 5:20
2. Persists in not learning from chastening, as Moses and Nehemiah confessed Israel/ Judah had done Ex 32:8-10; 33:3,5; 34:9 Deut 9:6-13. Neh 9:16, 9:29.
3. Brings God's judgment down upon them, often a final one.

### THE FACTS of SODOM'S HISTORY as RECORDED in GENESIS

Gen 10:19. In race they were Canaanites. In religion, worshippers of Baal and Asherah. This religion was sex-oriented, featuring male and female "Sacred Prostitutes," and ritual sacrificing of infants by burning. Excavation of the Tophet at Carthage, has uncovered thousands of jars containing the charred bones of infants, with many inscriptions which make it clear that this type of sacrifice was called a "Molech," but the sacrifice was made to "Baal and his Asherah," (known as Tanit locally,) as in Jer 19:5-6.

The nature of the sacred prostitution is unclear. Male prostitutes are referred to as "Sodomites" in KJV 1 Ki 14:24; 15:12; 22:46; 2 Ki 23:7, but whether their activities involved them with male or female worshippers, or both, is unclear. The word is used as a parallel to prostitute in Deut 23:17-18, so this suggests sodomy was involved.

Gen 13:10-13. The area was well watered by springs, a privileged locality not subject to seasonal/periodic drought as the surrounding lands were. But the Lord saw the inhabitants as outstanding sinners.

18:22-33 Instead of self-righteous pleasure in the prospect of Sodom being punished for their sin, Abraham used what he knew of the character of God, to plead that the city be spared for the sake of the righteous in it. Ten Righteous are accepted as a quorum to justify sparing the city. Abraham's character as "Friend of God," is shown by his use of information for intercession rather than condemnation.

Gen 19:1-5. God's angel messengers enter the city. They were sinless, innocent of provocation or desire to sin. They were holy. The ancient world had a tradition of hospitality, and responsibility for caring for and protecting visitors. Lot followed this. The men of Sodom showed their proud defiance of God's purposes in His gift of sexuality, and defiance of conventional obligation to visitors, by their determination to sodomise the angel-men.

19:11. Physical blindness is an appropriate symbol for the way pride and persistent sin blinds people to its consequences. 19:13-14. The intended sin of the Sodomites demonstrates to Lot, and all readers, what God knew them to be - it was essential that they be wiped out in a spectacular way as a warning to others.

19:24-25 Sudden, spectacular, total destruction, by God's direct action. Fire and sulphur rained down on the cities, becoming for all time a symbol of eternal punishment for sin.

The fertile oasis has regrown. It must have always attracted inhabitants, but no trace has been found of any city having been there, although there are burials in the surrounding hills. Some have suggested that the site of the cities is under the Dead Sea today, but claims to have found them have proved false.

(For minds with modern scientific curiosity. The tar pits likely to have high sulphur content, Gen 14:10 are no longer there. Perhaps God used their explosive combustion, as the agent of destruction.)

19:28 Abraham saw what had happened. The event and reason were preserved as known facts by his descendants, as God intended, Gen 18:19.

By merely BEING ALIVE, everyone, in all ages, is under some contractual obligation to their Creator, to use the gifts they have received for the purpose for which they were given. Apart from any traditional racial memory of creation/Creator, the existence of the Creator is obvious from the fact of creation around us, its complexity, beauty, ingenuity, etc. Rom 1:20-21.

Equally, apart from any racial memories of the purposes for which God gave such appetites, potentialities, and means of satisfaction as that for food, and sexual union, the structure of our bodies, the normality of desire for food, and for sexual union between male and female, and the outcome of the latter in the birth of children, give a clear testimony.

Because HUMAN activity is volitional, consciously planned and carried out, what is "NORMAL" for humans is not as obvious as it is in the animal world - or as it would be if they behaved consistently, or simply instinctively.

Our behaviour is subject to distortions inherent in our natures, conditioned by abnormalities in upbringing, and the perverse desire to do things differently for a change.

Man is in these things both HIGHER and LOWER than animals. Higher because he can, for good reasons, abstain from following his instincts in the normal manner. Lower, because he can deliberately seek abnormal and bizarre means of using them. Guests at a Roman feast, gorging themselves on luxuries, then inducing vomiting so that they could gorge themselves again, while the poor starved in the streets, is an example of this.

The NORMAL use of sex is obvious in the animal kingdom- males being attracted to females by odours resulting from the females coming into season. Distinctive physical features, courtship rituals, etc. often being required to trigger the actual mating so as to ensure breeding within the species or subspecies, etc.

Rarely, wrong signals, or ambiguous signals are given, by odd individual animals whose hormonal balance, and secretions are abnormal, or where

Gen 1:28 makes it clear that one purpose was that mankind should have children in sufficient numbers to occupy the world acceptably, and take a responsible role over the world of nature. As, in contrast with animals, God made it hard for humans to determine when fertile union was possible, it's obvious that His purposes for their sexual union were not limited to producing children. Another clear indication that sexuality for humans was intended to aim at total intimacy, and mutual pre-occupation and pleasure rather than mere reproduction, is that physical union for them is face to face, and so far more amenable to control for mutual enjoyment.

Gen 2:23-25, clarified by the Lord in Matt 19:1-9, adds to procreation that God intended one man, and one woman to set up home together in a permanent relationship that excluded all others. This exclusive relationship would be expressed in and fostered by sexual union between them. PHYSICAL intimacy, free from all shame and concealment between them, Gen 2:25 and the totality of physical pre-occupation with each other, proclaims, demonstrates, and fosters, a total openness and acceptance of mental, emotional, and spiritual one-ness.

The total openness, exclusiveness, delight, and spiritual joy of his union is also intended to symbolise that spiritual relationship with Mankind that God Himself seeks, Eph 5:23-33

THE IDEAL was obviously not going to be achieved always once man rebelled, as sin, unthinking or wilful, affects all aspects of life. Polygamy arose, especially among rulers and the wealthy, as did concubinage by purchase or capture. These are mentioned in Scripture as facts of life, without condemnation, but rules were given to protect the rights and dignity of the women concerned, Ex 21:7-11; Deut 21:10-17, etc. Such situations were less than ideal, but when God's laws were obeyed did ensure widows, orphan or slave girls etc had a secure home, sexual partner, and position, and were not left to starvation or prostitution.

Specific Bible laws protecting juveniles from sexual molestation, deal with the extended family unit which was usually their total environment. The long list in Lev 18 of relatives with whom indecent exposure, or sexual union was forbidden served to make the home and family unit a wholesome, sexually secure environment in which to grow up. Sodomy is listed among forbidden sexual behaviour there.



Lev 20 echoes this. While to a modern mind there was little of romance, or personal choice in all these arrangements, they would have limited the spread of sexually transmitted disease, and ensured a measure of respect and security for all women as compared with their situations in other nations at that time.

The ATTITUDE, ACTIONS,  
& CONSEQUENT JUDGMENT of SODOM  
(Used as an OBJECT LESS ON throughout Scripture.)

1. In Deut 29, God gave Israel a solemn warning to remember:
  - A. Responsibility to keep the Covenant was PERSONAL TO THEM, 29:9-14.
  - B. Having seen God destroy their predecessors and give them the land, they had no excuse for imagining that they could sin and get away with it, 29:15-18.
  - C. Therefore when/if they broke the covenant and lapsed into idolatry and sin, God would root them out of the land and make it a desert of brimstone, salt, and burning like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, 29:19-27.
2. Isa. 1:7-11, records that God was already in the process of doing that. The worship of the survivors was abominable to God as Sodom had been because they were persisting in sinful living. Rom 9:29 quotes verse 9.
3. Isa. 3:8-9. "They parade their sin like Sodom." Proud, brazen persistence in any sin amounted to defying God, and showing that they had every intention to continue doing so.
4. Isa. 13:19-20 Babylon's Pride would result in their being overthrown and left desolate like Sodom. The fact that the city of Babylon continued to exist for another thousand years may indicate that they in fact did repent.
5. Jer 23:13-18. The prophets prophesied by Baal, committed adultery, and lied, promising peace to those living in defiance of God's law - They were like Sodom and Gomorrah to the Lord, and so doomed.
6. Jer 49:16-18. Edom's Pride in its strong cliff city (Petra) would be humbled and it would be overthrown like Sodom and Gomorrah, and become an empty desolation. It has.

adulterous Samaria, already in exile, and Sodom, long destroyed, were sister cities," of Jerusalem in this behaviour. She was worse than either. Not in the details of sinning, but in despising her tremendously greater spiritual privileges, and knowledge of the Lord. Jerusalem's sin was stiffnecked pride in being thankful to God, and defying His known will, as Moses had warned them they would, Deut 29.

Sodom's sin hadn't been against such a covenant with a known LORD, but pride in their privileged well-fed position, carelessness about the poor, persisting in infant sacrifices, and sexual sins including Sodomy, even after the chastening warning when Abraham rescued them, but righteously would have no fellowship with them.

Ezek 16:53-63 Jerusalem SELF-RIGHTEOUSLY condemned Samaria and Sodom for their sin, and acknowledged that they'd deserved destruction. Yet, themselves persisted in their own covenant-breaking sins. God would in sovereign Grace bring blessing on communities that Jerusalem despised as being like Sodom and Samaria. Later, having themselves been sneered at by surrounding nations as having deserved God's punishment, Jerusalem would never boast self-righteously again.

10. Amos 4:11. Central verse of a lament over Samaria/Israel's stubborn refusal to respond to chastening in which some of their cities had been overthrown as He overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and the rest left as a stick snatched out of the fire of destruction.

11. Zeph 2:8-10. Moab and Ammon had proudly taunted Israel and Judah for their sufferings - God would make their lands a desolation like Sodom and Gomorrah.

12. Matt 10:14-15; (Mark 6:11 in some Mss. ;) Luke 10:10-15. It would be more bearable in the day of Judgment for Sodom and Gomorrah, than it would be for those towns who refused to receive the Disciple messengers the Lord sent out with His message.

13. Matt 11:23-24. It would be more bearable for Sodom in the day of Judgment than it would be for those in Capernaum who did not receive the Saviour, because if Sodom had seen miracles such as He had done in Capernaum it would have repented and still survived. (GOD alone has the knowledge to make such comparisons.)

There is no excuse for any of us to pollute our bodies by sexual activities that are forbidden by God in His Word, the Bible. A privileged position (Our being sexual beings), far from exempting anyone from righteous judgment, if used contrary to God's will, makes judgment certain, and terrible. Enjoyment of the good things God has provided with thankful hearts, preserves us from evil, Deut 8.

16 Rev 11:8. "Mystery Babylon," (picturing Rome, apparently, as ruling from seven hills, See Chap 17 and 18) is as Christ-rejecting as Jerusalem, and is said to be "Spiritually Sodom."

## SUMMARY & APPLICATION

The Christian Community has tended to view Homosexual activity as an unmentionable horror, uniquely sinful, shameful, and uniquely deserving God's Judgment. Supported by the Law of the Land in "Christian countries" until recently, this has ensured that such activities were generally clandestine, and rare.

(\* NOTE \*\* Strangely though, the Christian Community has often boasted as its glory a sin that God condemns in more severe terms than sodomy. The "Doctrine of demons, spoken by hypocritical liars with seared consciences" that demands celibacy, and abstinence from some foods as being essential for a holy life, 1 Tim 4:1-5. God has given some of us the gift of living to His glory in chaste celibacy. To others the gift of living to His Glory in holy matrimony, 1 Cor 7:1-7. The condemnation of enforced celibacy may be because it gives rise to sins such as adultery, and sodomy.)

Today, as the Western world has turned from an acknowledgment of God as Creator, and of any obligation to live according to His Laws, Romans 1:18-32 has been demonstrated as true. Homosexual activity is there stated to be THE indicator of apostasy. As proud men who feel too wise now to listen to the Bible and its God, have cut themselves off from belief in higher spiritual and moral values, and a purpose for life which required them, they have increasingly made a "god" of maximising sexual gratification.

- B. What ATTITUDE they should adopt/VIEWS they should express on the subject as LIGHT and SALT in society, Matt 5:13-16; when asked to justify their lifestyle, 1 Pet 3:15-17.
- C. More important still, what their ATTITUDE should be towards those professing and practising Homosexual activities and lifestyle, or other sexual activities God has forbidden. We need to be clear about what LOVE IN CHRIST has to say to such.

#### FACTS:

1. Sodom IS unique in the fact that God judged it to be worthy of total, spectacular, and instant destruction, which would remain for all time as a warning of the consequences of sin.
2. It was not unique in deserving destruction, others are said to be in God's sight equally deserving of destruction.
3. It was in fact not the most guilty city that ever existed, the guilt of Capernaum, and any cities who refused to welcome the Disciples when the Lord sent them out, would deserve and receive worse punishment than Sodom when the Day of Judgment came.
4. Sodomy, the sin which was the IMMEDIATE cause of Sodom's destruction, was not its only sin. In fact its ROOT, FOUNDATIONAL sin was PRIDE. Satan's pride seems to have been the first sin in the universe, 1 Tim 3:6; and the sin from which all sin has flowed. All PERSISTENCE IN SIN continues to flow from PRIDE. Pride is often mentioned as the common factor shared by Sodom with those other nations and cities with which its name is linked in condemnation.

SELF-INDULGENT PRIDE, SELF-RIGHTEOUS PRIDE, SELF-SUFFICIENT PRIDE, may all be intertwined. All alike are SIN, needing Judgment.

The fact that other cities or nations are said in Scripture to be as deserving of punishment as Sodom, or more so, does not excuse it or its sin. Quite on the contrary, the blackness of its guilt would be useless as a standard of reference if it wasn't BLACK.

homosexuals, and all laws and people who claim rights for them, and feels PROUD of his stand - and indifferent to those it condemns.

This is easy for those who have no temptations in that direction, who cheerfully bind heavy burdens on others they themselves won't take a little finger load of, Mt 23:4. By painting this particular sin as black as possible, they may excuse their own pet sins or indulgences.

Any harsh, self-righteous condemnation of any sin of others, is both Un-Christlike, and counter-productive. The God who condemns Sodomy, teaches that, for a Christian, Law-suits against other Christians, or Fornication, are equally unthinkable, 1 Cor 6. He proclaims He HATES both divorce, and violence within marriage, Malachi 2:16. To Him sexual immorality, and greed for gain are equally damnable, Col 3:5-6. (SOME who frantically condemn homosexual activity, or any other sin, may do so because in fact it is a temptation to them - and any easing of their views might result in their falling into that sin. This is less protection to them than God's will which is for them to acknowledge their temptations to Him grow into mature fellowship with Himself.)

## EASY OPTION 2. GOD-IGNORING TOLERANCE

(That claims for everyone the right to do whatever they feel like doing.)

This reflects the fact that God-ignoring "Informed opinion" has swung towards defence of the right for anyone to do anything that does not directly and immediately infringe the rights of others. And interprets any restriction on it as persecution - a personal attack on the personal rights of another. Although this is in fact taking a stand with Modern Society AGAINST God it tries to justify itself by claiming to be acting in "Christian LOVE." To call a statement an expression of "Christian Love," when it contradicts the statements of the God who defines that love, is presumptuous folly.

Christians are called to stand loyally with God who has stated plainly that the "Sexually immoral, idolators, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexual offenders, thieves, greedy, drunkards, slanderers, or swindlers, will not inherit the Kingdom of God," if they persist in those lifestyles, 1 Cor 6:9-11.

omniscient, omnipotent, uncompromising truth, righteousness, and holiness. We dare not condone anything which is contrary to His STATED will.

He is also sacrificial Love, and the grace that provides forgiveness, cleansing, and righteousness through the cross of Christ is the only thing that permits any of us to live. Pride, independence, self-indulgence, or self-righteousness can have no place in His presence. The Lord Jesus still says to all of us sinners "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more," Jn 8:11. Those who believe in Him, respond, and find that they are being set free from the chains of their sin.

"The world, the flesh, and the devil," each play their part in all sin. As to the FLESH- That all of us at times take the bait of one sin or another, and are hooked, is obvious. The degree of guilt incurred, the inborn bias towards any sin, the unwise and inadequate rearing that contributed to the wrong choice, the pressure that was applied by the current culture, the degree of wilfulness, the resistance each offered, and so on, are known only to God. Known only to God also is the clarity and nearness with which the Saviour was presented to any soul - the light against which they shut their eyes in order to sin. Capernaum WAS worse than Sodom. No Christian dare evaluate the sin of another as worse than his own - or be eager to put others right, Mt 7:1-5. Paul's view was a sound one 1 Tim 1:15.

Yet Sodomy is singled out as being the key indicator of national rejection of God, Rom 1:18-32. It's also the sin which was the distinctive feature of the cities whose punishment is used as an object lesson, and yardstick by which other sins are measured. Any attempt to ignore its sinfulness, or excuse it, or the other sins listed with it in 1 Cor 6:9-11, etc. is disloyalty to the Lord.

Rom 1:16-17. The Gospel GOOD NEWS is God's saving power to all who accept its offer by Faith. To ALL sinners, on the basis of Calvary, God pleads "Today if only you are willing to hear my voice, harden not your hearts against my loving offer of complete salvation, "Sabbath Rest," by resisting my call to you," Heb 4:8-13. We Christians must echo that, by proclaiming that there is a way forward for everyone, starting from right where they are at this moment.

The Cross of Christ is the answer to whatever state of sin has become natural to anyone- self-righteous pride, sexual promiscuity, greed, homosexuality, materialism, chronic worrying, lying, or hitting back at people ... "Christ Himself bore these our human sins, in His body, on the tree," 1 Pet 2:21-24. As a result even the worst and weakest of us can become dead to these sins, and alive to righteousness in the strength and joy of fellowship with God.

When we as sinners place ourselves in His hands, by trusting and receiving Christ as Saviour, the infinite Love, righteousness, wisdom, holiness, and power of God take responsibility for us as we are then "Born of God," "Born again," into "Eternal Life," Jn 1:12-13; 3:1-21. We're set free then to begin to act that way - indwelt, instructed, and empowered by God the Holy Spirit, Rom 8:1-17. In fact Christ Himself has begun to live in us, Col 1:27. And, as He lived on earth as man, in obedient loving fellowship with the Father, He desires that we should do so in obedience to his revealed will, Jn 15:9-12; Phil 2:1-16.

Our STATE of sin, and rebellious alienation from God is dealt with in a moment when we really take God at His Word - that "Christ died for our sins," 1 Cor 15:3, making it personal to us. And, a life of obedient fellowship with Him grows from that fact, Col 1:10-23

If He so chooses He may also protect us by taking away our sinful DESIRES - for material possessions, perverted sex, power over others, alcohol, or whatever has enslaved us.

More commonly, instead of protecting us as helpless infants, He allows us to continue to face the old temptations, but enables us to see them in a new light, and choose to resist them with a new power, a new confidence in God, and in His will. God's word calls all Christians

us to say NO to any or all temptation because He always makes a way for us to escape from sinning, 1 Cor 10:12-13.

The Name of the Lord IS a strong tower. Those made righteous can always find safety there, Prov 18:10. Then, standing with Him, we can face the temptation, see it through His eyes, unmask it and call the sin offered us what it is. And in fellowship with Him deny its deceitful charm, and reject it as destructive, befouling, folly.

Having trusted in the Son of God, we are no longer powerless against sin, Jn 8:31-35; Rom 8:1-16. We have His assurance "Sin will not have dominion over you, because you're not under Law (that condemns us the moment we fall back into sin,) but under Grace," Rom 6:14, that moves us to confess it, turn from it, and, forgiven and cleansed, set out again to walk in the Light with God and man, 1 Jn 1:1-2:2.

All of us Christians are to stand with God in Christ, and view the wandering confused mass of sinners with compassion, Matt 9:36 and be clear in our hearts and minds and message that God loves ALL sinners, including those who happen to be in some measure homosexual in orientation, desires, and actions. That He calls ALL sinners on equal terms, that of Grace offered freely, and totally unearned, and undeserved. And that when they turn from self, and ignore the sins of others, and any relative social acceptability or excuse for their own sin - and pour out their desire for fellowship with God as the Tax-collector did - "God be merciful to me, THE sinner," they - through the cleansing blood of Christ His Son - will be made right with God Luke 18:9-14.

They'll be made new and clean, a new creation, 2 Cor 5:17. They will be able to be "Dead" to their old sins, Rom 6:5-14 - homosexual activity, or any other sinful action. Secure in Christ, Col 3:3, they will find shelter and strength to resist any desires to sin, and recognising the hook in temptation's bait, reject it.

All their worries and distresses are now provided for in Christ. They can rest themselves safe within the Fortress of His care, Phil 4:6-7. And positively - as they direct their attention and thinking to the honourable, clean and good things in this earthly life, their minds, and even their instincts will be re-programmed so that they can find expression in fellowship with the God of Peace, Phil 4:8-9.



Rom 1:18. Their UNGODLINESS /Godlessness- shutting God/ consideration of Him, their Creator and Sustainer, out of their lives.

And their UNRIGHTEOUSNESS /Wickedness- unjust, cruel, exploitive treatment of their fellows in ways offensive to God's Righteousness, Holiness, and Love. To be true to Himself God must enforce just punishment, as their action is a deliberate suppression of truth.

Rom 1:19-20 While God Himself is invisible, the obvious order, complexity, and beauty of Creation makes it clear to an unbiased mind that He exists. And that He is an ETERNAL Being who is not part of it, wonderful and powerful beyond our imagination. (A few years ago a Panel of Staff at the local University Physics Dept. was asked whether as scientists they believed Science could explain everything, or whether there must be something beyond Science. All four agreed that their studies convinced them there must be a Mind and a purpose to produce such complex order. Three were happy to use the word "God," the fourth said he didn't like the word "God," preferring "Nature" with a capital "N.")

Rom 1:21-22 If people admit there's a Creator they're obliged to look for and attempt to fulfil the purpose for which He created them.

Refusing to admit that there's a Creator, seemed very "WISE," to them as it set them free to ignore His existence, and the "Manufacturer's Instructions" for their life, given in the Bible. (Some years ago, two local University students who'd had the Gospel shared with them were heard to say this - "Do you reckon you can admit there's a God without becoming a Christian?" Reply, "No way man, once you admit that there's a God you've had it! That's why I'll never admit it."

Such people fend off the knowledge of God with an endless succession of moral and rational questions - "If there's a God, and He is good why do bad things happen?" etc. While this seems smart and sophisticated to them, verse 27 says it is folly-rather like the folly of someone who finds valuable property with no owner visibly present, and argues against his existence so they can convert it to their own use! (The world tends to call disasters "Acts of God," and pleasant surprises "A bit of luck." Christians don't expect to understand the "Why," of everything that happens. The Bible makes it clear that we live in a world disordered by man's rebellion "The whole of creation

personifying their own instincts/desires as Gods/Goddesses of violence/war, sex, art, business shrewdness, etc. OR as in Egypt by animals they envisaged as portraying those instincts/desires more dramatically - Bull Gods, Lions, Jackals, etc.

Men inspired by the predatory arrogance and skill of the Lion, or the sexual drive of the Bull, or the male and female Gods of their imaginations, automatically debased themselves and the instincts which they exercised. They, in fact, simply became slaves of their own passions. Little in their "Gods" lifted their eyes above animality.

Rom 1:26-27. The gifts God gives aren't taken back when they're misused, Rom 11:29. Mankind were given freedom and responsibility to choose what they will do, within a "Moral Universe" that operates by cause and effect, sowing actions, and reaping the appropriate rewards, Gal 6:3-10. When men persist in turning their backs on God they're allowed to. The spiritual result is like the severing of nerve contact between the head and a limb - injury to the limb causes no pain - it's free to remain unaware as it destroys itself.

As God is ignored, naturally His purposes in Creation are ignored. Sex comes to be viewed as a pleasure to be enjoyed in its own right, detached from any ethical or rational higher purpose. The individual feels free to experiment with all the possible forms he can imagine with little concern as to what his activities do to himself, or others involved. The right to do what's POSSIBLE, and DESIRED, is claimed to be "What I was built for." As God is being ignored, God's obvious purpose that sexual activity, reproduction, and family life should be linked, is equally ignored. Promiscuous and perverse exploitation of sex for selfish gratification leads to sexual boredom in much the same way as enjoyment of over-amplified music leads to deafness.

It is POSSIBLE to use a Violin as a guitar, money box, or tennis racquet, but the variety is more destructive than beautiful, or fulfilling. That is equally true of promiscuous or perverted sexual activity. Its unsatisfactoriness is then used as an excuse to look for increasingly bizarre sexual experiences - homosexual activity, paedophilia, rape, incest, bestiality, and even necrophilia are either added to personal experience, or viewed as entertainment that people can take pleasure in watching. (Sadly those who think of normal male-female sex as unclean/to be avoided also risk the diversion of their instincts into unnatural channels.)

value, pleasures/pains and responsibilities. Their enjoyment of fellowship with their opposite sex parent laid the foundation for their future satisfactory/satisfying relationship with their future marriage partner.

Good relationships with a parent of each sex also laid a foundation for good relationships with their children, and for whatever relationships with adults at large were approved in their culture.

OBVIOUSLY NO HOME WAS EVER PERFECT. Folk-tales in all cultures tell of the sufferings of children caused by unsatisfactory parents, step-parents, absent parents, polygamy, etc. History records the violent, vicious, promiscuous, anti-social, psychopathic etc. behaviour of adults resulting from disastrous home circumstances.

IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR A CHILD REARED WITHOUT EXPERIENCING CONSISTENT LOVE/LOVING CARE, EXAMPLE/DISCIPLINE, AND PROTECTION FROM ABUSE, TO LEARN WHAT IS NORMAL HUMAN BEHAVIOUR, HOW TO ENJOY IT, OR EVEN HOW TO WANT IT. "I don't know how to show love to God or man. How can I, when I've never experienced it!" a prisoner wrote on a Bible Study he'd sent to me to mark.

Rom 1:28-32 Describes the lifestyle of those whose activities increasingly feature as "NEWS." Those of us from traditional good homes, find it impossible to understand how people can proudly boast of their sexual immorality, violence, commercial dishonesty, etc. before the eyes of a public greedy for such material.

The GENERAL answer is that when society at large deliberately turns its back on the Creator, as the Western World has done increasingly in recent years, God permits them to do so, and experience the consequences. Presumably the rapid rise of Homosexuality in practice, and in public approval is referred to in verses 26-27 because it is the most visible indicator of that breakdown in male/female roles that shatters the secure home life needed by children and so leaves them to grow up rootless, amoral, anti-social, self-destructive, and psychopathic as described in these verses.

Influenced by Scriptures such as Ephesians 5:21- 6:9 most of my generation grew up with firm basic assumptions that a man, to be a MAN, worked hard, took risks, and endured hardship to win a wife, provide a home. He was head

the Father, who had been with his wife out on a drinking spree, escaped being beaten up by his neighbours only by proving a car break-down had prevented them from coming home.)

The rapid occupational and social changes of these last 50 years, although bringing many wonderful physical and material advantages, have made it neither desirable or possible for many children to take up the occupation, or lifestyle of their parents. At the same time the traditional roles of Husband and Wife became increasingly hard to maintain. The war brought disillusionment with the existing order, and shattered it. The post-war boom set young people free to move out from living at home under parental guidance and control to live where and how they pleased, with more money to spend than their parents had. Eager to build a new world, freed from the dullness of the established order, they sang "The times they are a-changing."

Constant ridiculing of ANY male Headship or parental or governmental authority became popular. Role Stereotyping, was attacked with reformist zeal. It was made very difficult for boys or girls to grow up with any confidence that there were patterns and standards which they could aim at, and expect to achieve with personal satisfaction. To make it even harder to maintain the traditional family unit, a family unit of father/ mother/children were referred to as a NUCLEAR family, in the same tone as Nuclear war!

Much genuine idealism went into these endeavours to break out of the restrictions of the old order and create a "New World," but the result has been as in the fable of the kite breaking away from the string that it felt was holding it down. The old order IS shattered, but instead of establishing a new order, the old disorderly and destructive lifestyle that cared for nothing beyond doing what it felt like, which under restrictive morality had been reduced to a small section of our population, has so expanded that it threatens to take over modern western society. When censorship is lifted, Artists, Writers, etc find it easiest to become famous, make money, etc by exercising their talents in portraying confused / sick / destructive to human dignity situations.

Specific to our subject, repression on homosexual tendencies has now been replaced by publicity pressure in favour of homosexual practices so that the number affected has expanded probably from 5% of the population to 20%.

The personal damage to the individuals who have grown up loveless and lawless, and those who suffer from their actions, cannot be measured, and is difficult to remedy.

TV, by the assumptions that lie behind most of its programmes, has played a major part in determining the new "morality." About 1965 an American University Professor addressed the local Primary School Principals' association. He told us that he'd been happy to accept a drop in salary to come here because we were 20 years behind USA in TV coverage. He assured us that while adults could view TV programmes with little harm because they had values built in already, those children reared on them would gain their values from what they watched. Programmes would become increasingly explicit in depicting variations of violence and sex in order to keep them enthusiastic viewers. By their late teens merely WATCHING such things would not be exciting enough. They would "go out in the streets and make it happen."

Humanism has replaced God. TV has taken over from the Bible. Those who have campaigned against the boredom of living in a self-consciously virtuous, conformist society have succeeded in greatly increasing the proportion of self-centred, lawless and deviant individuals who feel free to do anything for money or pleasure. Romans 1:18-32 has been proved true.

Nationally, God and His purposes for human life, were tossed aside as irrelevant. Man has tried to be his own God, and create a personal life style of doing what he feels like. God has allowed us as a nation to do this, and we're beginning to experience the breakdown of natural relationships and virtues that make social order/relationships enjoyable.

The HUMAN solution seems to be to de-criminalise or ignore many destructive activities, and perhaps replace prison sentences by electronic surveillance. Also to cut costs by moving towards increasing state control by central, computer record of every monetary action of every individual - and so prevent benefit fraud, tax evasion, etc. Altogether a cold, dark, and dehumanising prospect.

GOD's solution is given in Romans 1:16-17. Those who welcome the Lord Jesus Christ into their lives, turning to Him from their sin, find their lives are then transformed by His power as they allow Christ to control them. God makes His light shine into our hearts with the light of the knowledge of the

## Appendix - Canaanite Religion

Leviticus 18 describes their religious customs which were the reason God replaced the Canaanites by Israel.

Apostasy/Godliness in Israel were marked by their attitude to Canaanite religion, Jer 7:30-32 2 Ki 17:16-17.

The Canaanite Gods are referred to as Baal and Asherah (Astarte) or the Grove" KJV.

In the Canaanite/Phoenician Colony of Carthage Astarte was know as Tanit. Molech there is not the name of a god, but the name of the sacrifice.

When the Romans defeated Hannibal and conquered Carthage they banned these sacrifices.

These photos were taken at the excavated Tophet at Carthage. It contained about 20 000 jars holding the bones of infants burned as sacrifices to Baal and Tanit.

## Memorial Stones from the Carthage Tophet

On the left- Inscriptions like this read "To our Lady, to Tanit and to our Lord Baal Hamon, that which was vowed by....., Son of....., because his prayers were answered.

On the right  
A priest  
carrying  
an infant to  
sacrifice.

A lamb is pictured on this memorial stone. Some of the jars in the Tophet contain the bones of lambs or kids that had been sacrificed instead of the child.

This memorial stone from another Tophet carries the inscription in latin, 'Life for life,

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