

INFLUENCE

Be ye holy, even as your Heavenly Father Is holy

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IT USED TO be that the people immediately around us provided us our example of how to live. We chose our friends, people who shared our values, and who reinforced our personal standards. We and the people around us, Christian and nonChristian, knew what was right, and lived by those values. The groups within which we socialized protected us from the sin and evil of those we chose to avoid, those individuals and groups who would bring us down from Godly values.

Those values were based on what Scripture and conscience dictated. And, for those individuals not strong enough in Godly devotion or personal character to act Godly without social reinforcement, their social circle buttressed their commitment and devotion to doing what is right. Or else just dictated what they did when not under pressure to sin.

Mass media such as TV and Internet have changed that. Now, one no longer has merely a small, personal social circle. One is now enveloped by a, "Global Village." EVERYONE's personal values are on display for EVERYONE else. Everyone may be confronted about their personal values. And the most prominent of those individuals, and the most prominent set of social values, are the individuals and values that set the standard for EVERYONE. There is now a, "Global Value System," and, because sin is most natural for man, the Global Value System is based on, "the lowest common denominator," the most base of human desires.

The Bible tells us:

- 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
- 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
- 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.
- 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:
- 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:
- 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:
- 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:
- 17 And the way of peace have they not known:
- 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Romans 3:10-18 THE BIBLE

Sin wins by democratic principle: majority rules. And it always will. Sin is the easiest and most popular option. It goes with the flow; all one need do is nothing: just sit back, and let it flow over you, and take you with it. It is the lazy man's value system. It exalts the individual so it is the most glamorous and self-satisfying lifestyle. The ONLY thing that defeats sin is JESUS. It is only by standing for what Jesus and His writers of Scripture instruct us, that we will overcome sin.

Jesus said that when He returns there will be extremely little faith left on the earth:

- 18 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?

Luke 18:8 THE BIBLE

- 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Matthew 24:12-13 THE BIBLE

Sin will continue to increase, and to become predominant and guide the actions of mankind. And the Godly will come under the increasingly strident and strong influence and opposition of the unGodly. And will follow those around them into sin. If they allow the world to be their circle of influence. It is now high time that the Godly stand up and say, "THIS is what Scripture says, and THIS is what I will follow! I don't care what the world does, I will do what GOD says!"

- There is only ONE God, and JESUS is the ONLY way to Him;
- Premarital sex, in all its forms, is sin;
- Divorce for ANY reason other than THEIR infidelity is sin;
- Homosexuality, in all its forms, is sin;
- God and the man are the head of the household and the church;
- We do not tolerate sin; it must be rebuked and rejected;

If you do not agree with all this list you have allowed the sin of the world to influence your commitment to Christ.

It is time the followers of God PULLED AWAY from the influence of the world, DECLARED our commitment to the righteousness of THE BIBLE, and proudly and confidently WITH- STOOD the onslaught that the world will throw at us because of it! It is time the Godly quit being ashamed of doing what THE BIBLE says. It is time the Godly stood up again for the principles that GOD established!

Attempt to find a church and a social group who stand for Godliness, despite all the difficulty that brings against them. Let THEM be your influence and your support. If they don't completely follow Godliness make sure that YOU do. Be the Godly influence that others need.

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their

17 God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

II Corinthians 6:14-18 THE BIBLE

Few will go with you; God will deal with only the sincere. Regardless of those around you, be one of the sincere.

14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:14-15 THE BIBLE