



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19
- Genesis 1:26-28
- I Corinthians 5:9-13

SEEKER FRIENDLY

- The Image of God
- Time to Clean House
- Weights and Measures

Look what the cat dragged in! Now, I don't have a cat and maybe you don't either, but we are all familiar with what that implies. Cats don't drag into the house anything desirable. Maybe it's a dead mangled mouse, or a decapitated lacerated lizard, or a limp bleeding bird. Either way it's a disgusting scene and somebody's got to clean up the bloody trail.

I guess the picture I wish to paint is that sometimes things are dragged into the house that simply shouldn't be there. In this case, although it's nasty, it's nothing that can't be remedied without a baby wipe and a little spray disinfectant. And if the bad habit prevails, a trip to the vet for some declawing action and your problem is likely resolved.

But, it gets much more complicated if the feline is instead a Christian, and the house is instead the house of the Lord, and the

refuse dragged in is not an unfortunate rodent, reptile, or feathered creature. Christians drag all sorts of nasty refuse into the house of God, His holy sanctuary. They do so and plop it down right under their seats, and it sits there—marinating, fulminating. Many times it goes unnoticed; the feline human has crafted all sorts of diversions from their bloodied dead animals. It's like someone spraying air freshener in a bathroom just after the most foul deposit. You can't quite smell the worst of it, but you know something went wrong in there, horribly wrong. Nevertheless, exactly what took place remains hidden, for now. Yes, there are diversions, but if you care to sniff around, you'll figure it out soon enough.

Other times it's not so well hidden; sometimes there's not even an attempt to hide the offending guest below the seat. Maybe this is the worst type of all. It's the obvious sexual immorality, the idolatry, the slander, the gossip, the greed, the physical and chemical abuse, the unchecked desires, the consumerism, and the preoccupation with selfish gain. Need I continue?

Neither the bearer of such carcasses, nor those sitting nearby, nor the orator in the pulpit cares enough to do anything about it, to even say a word. "They are here aren't they? And isn't that good enough; isn't that the goal; isn't that what's most important?" The seat is occupied and the more seats occupied the better job we're

doing filling seats! What does it matter what they dragged in and plopped down below the surface!

Look the other way; no empty seats is the objective here. It's all about the numbers. It's the seeker friendly church, and God needs us to compromise in order to find seekers. Evangelism is so much easier when you ignore the sin. So, don't say a word, the refuse under the seat is fine, as long as they keep coming.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God." Deuteronomy 22:5 NKJV

"For the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, **that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.**" Deuteronomy 23:14 NKJV

"You shall not bring **the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the Lord** your God for any vowed offering, for both of these **are an abomination** to the Lord your God."

Deuteronomy 23:18 NKJV

"You shall not have in your bag **differing weights**, a heavy and a light. **You shall not have in your house differing measures**, a large and a small." Deuteronomy 25:13-14 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“But now I have written to you **not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.** For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. **Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”** I Corinthians 5:11-13 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. In this portion of Scripture, we read Yahweh's instructions about how to behave as a Nation governed by a Higher Authority. These laws were given so they would flourish as the Covenant people. Many of these laws are meant to distinguish the culture of the Children of Israel from their neighboring nations.

Deuteronomy 21

2. **Female Captives:** If you capture a woman in battle, who you find beautiful, you may take her as your wife after she shaves her head, changes her clothes, and mourns her family for a month. If you find no delight in her you can release her after that, but you are not permitted to sell her.

3. **Firstborn Inheritance Rights:** A man with two wives must honor the firstborn son with a double portion inheritance, even if that firstborn son was born to the wife he prefers less.
4. **The Rebellious Son:** After repeated chastening, if a son still refuses to obey his parents, he shall be taken before the elders of the city and declared stubborn and rebellious, a glutton and a drunkard. He may be stoned to put away evil.
5. **Death on a Tree:** A body shall not remain overnight on the tree. Bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land ; for he who is hanged is accursed of God. (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)
What imagery for the crucifixion of Messiah!
 - (a) **It all pointed toward Messiah:** “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),”
Galatians 3:13 NKJV
 - (b) **Y’shua taken down from the cross before sundown:** “Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, **the day before the Sabbath**, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.” Mark 15:42-43 NKJV
 - (c) **Note John’s clarity about what Sabbath is being referred to here! It is not the weekly sabbath (Saturday), but the high**

Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread: “Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (**for that Sabbath was a high day**), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.” John 19:31
NKJV

Deuteronomy 22

6. **Your Brother’s Things:** If you see your brother’s lost or injured animal, you shall help restore them to your brother. You shall do the same with any lost thing of your brother’s.

7. **No Cross Dressing:** “A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.”
Deuteronomy 22:5

8. **Birds, Eggs and Young Ones:** You shall not take the mother with the young; you shall surely let the mother go.

9. Miscellaneous Laws:

(a) When you build a house, you shall make a railing for your roof so no one falls off and gets hurt.

(b) You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seed.

(c) You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.

(d) You shall not wear a garment of different sorts.

(e) You shall make tassels on the four corners of your clothing.

10. Laws of Sexual Morality

- (a) **Virgins:** If any man takes a wife who is presented as a virgin and he discovers she is not a virgin, then the parents of the young woman have the opportunity to bring the evidence of the young woman's virginity to the elders of the city. If she is proven to have been a virgin, the man shall be fined one hundred shekels of silver, which is given to her parents. The woman shall remain his wife all of his days. However, if the accusation is true, she shall be stoned because she has done a disgraceful thing and played the harlot in her father's house.
- (b) **Adultery:** If a man is found lying with a married woman, then both of them shall die. (Think about the woman accused of adultery in John 8:1-11 and how ONLY the woman was present for the accusation.)
- (c) **Rape:** If a betrothed woman is raped and she does not cry for help when others are around to hear, then both the man and woman shall die. (*It seems that this scripture points to the sexual relations being consensual, rather than rape, as she did not cry out to get help to stop it, and therefore is an adulterous encounter.*) If no one is around to hear, then just the man is put to death. If the woman is not betrothed, then the man shall marry her and pay her father fifty shekels of silver; he shall not be permitted to divorce her all his days.

- (d) **A Father's Bed:** A man shall not take his father's wife, nor uncover his father's nakedness.

Deuteronomy 23

11. Those Excluded from the Congregation

- (a) He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation.
- (b) One of illegitimate birth, even to the tenth generation of his descendants.
- (c) An Ammonite or Moabite, even to the tenth generation, because they did not offer Israel bread and water on the road when they came out of Egypt, and because they hired Balaam.
- (d) You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother, or an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land. Their children of the third generation may enter the assembly of the Lord.

12. Cleanliness of the Campsite

- (a) Keep yourself from every wicked thing. If a man among you becomes unclean, then he shall go outside the camp. When evening comes, he shall wash with water; and when the sun sets, he may come into the camp.
- (b) Also, dig a hole outside the camp for your personal elimination. After you finish your business, cover your refuse.

- (c) Your camp shall be holy. Yahweh shall see no unclean thing among you.

13. Miscellaneous Laws

- (a) **Slaves:** Escaped slaves may stay where they land and may not be oppressed.
- (b) **Harlotry:** No harlotry allowed nor will any part of the wages of a harlot be acceptable in the house of the Lord. It is an abomination.
- (c) **Interest:** You shall not charge interest to your brother—to a foreigner you may charge interest.
- (d) **Vows:** When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it. But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you. That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the Lord.
- (e) **Sharing:** When you come into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill, but you shall not put any in your container. When you come into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not use a sickle.

Deuteronomy 24

14. Miscellaneous Laws Cont.

- (a) **Divorce:** If a man divorces a woman and she remarries, and her second husband dies or divorces her, her first husband may not take her back.
- (b) **Year One of Marriage:** A man is exempt from war or any new business in the first year of marriage. He shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife.
- (c) **A Man's Living:** No man shall take the lower or the upper millstone in pledge, for it would be taking one's living in pledge.
- (d) **Kidnapping:** Kidnappers shall die. (*Note: Satan is the great kidnapper and is why Y'shua had to give His life as a "ransom" payment to "redeem" your life.*)
- (e) **Leprosy:** Carefully observe and do according to all that the priests, the Levites, shall teach you.
- (f) **Pledges:** When you lend to your brother, you shall not go into his house to get his pledge. The man shall bring the pledge out to you. If the man is poor, you shall not keep his pledge overnight.
- (g) **Wages:** You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy. Each day you shall give him his wages.
- (h) **The Wages of Sin:** Each person shall be put to death for his own sin, parents cannot cover their children, nor children their parents

- (i) **You shall not pervert justice:** due the stranger, the fatherless, or widow.
- (j) **Providing for those in Need:** When you reap your harvest; or beat your olive trees, or gather the grapes, leave some for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 25

15. **Settling Disputes:** The courts will settle a dispute between men. The judges may justify the righteous and condemn the wicked. If the wicked man deserves to be beaten, he will be beaten according to his guilt, with a certain number of blows, never more than forty.
16. **Worthy of Wages:** “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Deuteronomy 25:4

17. Marriage Duty of the Surviving Brother:

- (a) *“If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband’s brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.”*

Deuteronomy 25:5-6 NKJV (See: [Prophetic Implications](#))

- (b) If the man does not want to perform his duty, he is taken before the elders and called, “The house of him who had his sandal removed.”

18. Miscellaneous Laws

- (a) **Caution:** Women must be extra cautious when attempting to rescue their husband from an attacker, to not touch the attacker’s genitals.
- (b) **An Abomination:** Differing weights and measures
- (c) **Destroy the Amalekites:** Remember what Amalek did; blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

19. You can study last year’s teaching on this portion here:

[Prophetic Implications](#)

THE IMAGE OF GOD

1. Cross Pollination Pollution

A. What is a man or woman anyway, and why does knowing matter?

(1) Yahweh’s Definition

- (a) In His image He made THEM!

- 1. “Then God said, “**Let Us make man in Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every

creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply**; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

(2) Cross Dressing

(a) Since we have now clearly defined that there are two different genders...

1. **“A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment,** for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.” Deuteronomy 22:5 NKJV

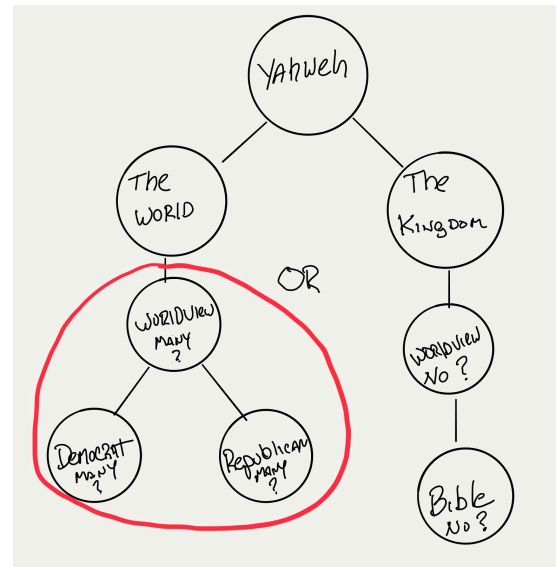
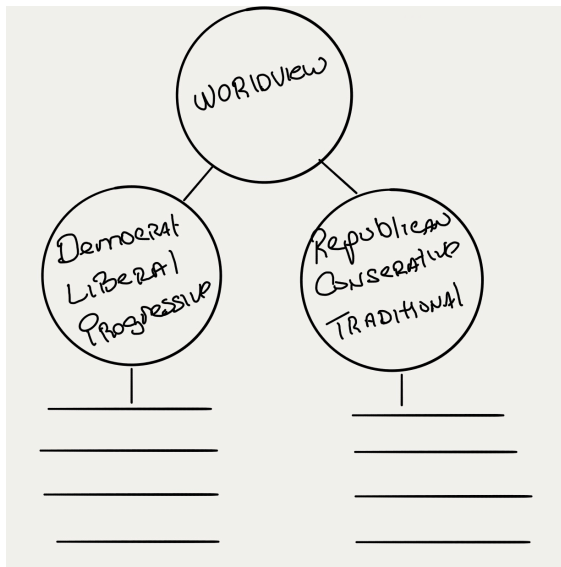
(3) Reference Teachings

(a) Versions of the same teaching

1. [The Image of God](#) (KEM Version-60 min.)
2. [The Image of God](#) (PowerPoint Version-30 min.)
3. [The Image of God](#) (Restoring Families Conference Version-25 min.)
4. [The Image of God](#) (Schools United Version-37 min.)

(b) Key Takeaways

1. The human family on earth is the expressed image of the Divine family in Heaven—the image of God.
 2. The destruction of the family is the enemy's chief strategy used to deny, destroy, or hide the image of God.
 3. The existential threat of the day is that one political side, because of their stance on gender, family and the right to life, says there is no God, and the other, by their stance in these three areas, says there is a God!
 4. It is critically important to restore the family and thereby restore the Image of God in the earth!
 5. You must make a clear distinction between the biblical worldview and current cultural view of family.
 6. The restoration coming to the earth will be paralleled by the restoration of the family to the image of our Creator. It's the most important work on planet today.
- (c) A picture is worth a thousand words...
1. Notice that what we often identify as the true battle, the Democrat/Liberal/Progressive View vs. the Republican/Conservative/Traditional View BOTH fall under the viewpoint of "the World."



a) **“Do not love the world or the things in the world.**

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” I John 2:15-17 NKJV

2. If we expand our view further, we realize that what you thought was the true battle is not our fight after all. We must find ourselves on the side the Kingdom, like Y’shua did! And we fight a different battle like Paul taught us!

a) “And He said to them, “You are from beneath; I am from above. **You are of this world; I am not of this world.**” John 8:23 NKJV

- b) **“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”** Ephesians 6:12 NKJV
- 3. Also notice that on “the World” side of the chart there are many questions (many ?). On the Kingdom side of the chart there are no choices (no ?)! That is because it is only when God’s way is the ONLY way that you are truly free!

B. The Image of God—The Suppression of Truth!

(1) Invisible Attributes

(a) His image should be clearly recognizable in the earth!

- 1. **“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”** Romans 1:20 NKJV

(b) What invisible qualities should be clearly seen?

- 1. **“Then God said, **“Let Us make man in Our image,** according to **Our likeness;** let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every**

creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply**; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

(c) These are His invisible qualities...

1. God is an us (male, female, child)
2. Adam (Man) was created in God’s image as and “Us” (with male and female DNA and fruit in him)
3. But, looking at Adam, the Female and Child **were invisible.**

(2) How does God make these invisible attributes “clearly seen”?

(a) He extracts the woman out of Adam and presents her to him!

1. “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. **Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a**

woman, and **He brought her to the man.**" Genesis 2:21-22 NKJV

(b) After they are separated as a man and a woman, God reunites them as ONE FLESH in Marriage.

1. "And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.** And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Genesis 2:23-25 NKJV

(c) And whereas God told Adam, even when he appeared as just a man, to "Be fruitful and multiply," in Genesis 1:28, the manifestation of Children takes place in Genesis 4:1, after God extracted the invisible Eve from the visible Adam and then brought them back together in marriage in Genesis 2.

1. "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she **conceived and bore Cain,** and said, "**I have acquired a man from the Lord.**"" Genesis 4:1 NKJV

(d) Summary

1. Yahweh extracts Eve from Adam and presents her to him.

2. The two reconnect in Marriage to remain One flesh.
 3. Then the male and female intimately recombine to form a child.
 4. This is the Image of God!
- (3) Review: God's invisible qualities are clearly made visible!
- (a) Man was created in God's image (as a man, woman and child) and the woman, who was not visible at that time, became visible!
 1. **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply...** Genesis 1:27-28
 - (b) Why? So that man would be without excuse.
 1. "For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power **and Godhead**, so that they are without excuse," Romans 1:20 NKJV

C. Warning

- (1) The destruction of the expressed Image of God is the greatest existential crises in the world!
 - (a) When you contemplate the existential crisis of our day, you can simplify it with two opposing viewpoints. One

stance says men and women are distinct and definitive, marriage is a holy union between them, and that children are the blessed fruit of that union. The other stance says gender is a social construct and there has never been a distinction between a man and a woman, nor is gender limited to male or female. A person is born as one gender, both genders, or neither. Marriage is unnecessary, or if desired, may take place between any genders or no genders at all. And of course, the unborn child is the fruit of nothing, is not even human or alive, and has no rights to live, other than what the person carrying that lump of cells permits. One side believes in the God who expressed His image in the human family. And the other side denies every aspect of the family and therefore denies God Himself.

(b) Let's Connect the Dots!

1. Let Us make man in Our image...
2. Male and female He created them...
3. From man He extracted the woman...
4. He brought her to the man...(so His invisible quality can be seen).
5. The two shall become one flesh...
6. Be fruitful and multiply...(fruit also becomes visible).

7. His invisible attributes are now clearly seen...
8. These attributes point to the nature of His His eternal power and Godhead...the characters traits of man, woman, and child.
9. Now, there can be no excuse! (It is clearly visible!)
10. Deny this image; deny the One true God!

D. Y'shua's View on the Topic

- (1) What was Jesus' spin on the importance of His Father's Image as expressed in gender and marriage?
 - (a) For this reason!
 1. Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning '**made them male and female [Genesis 1:27],**' and said, '**For this reason** a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and **the two shall become one flesh**'? [Genesis 2:24] So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore **what God has joined together, let not man separate.**"" Matthew 19:4-6 NKJV
 - (b) For what reason?
 1. Because Adam was made both male and female...
 2. And because he had hidden attributes...
 3. And because the hidden attributes were revealed when the woman was extracted from Adam...

4. And because even with that separation God needed us to understand that they remained One as He is One...He gave us MARRIAGE!
5. And Jesus let us know in no uncertain terms that this oneness CAN NEVER BE SEPARATED!

E. Chief strategy (and strategist) to destroy the image of God!

- (1) If understanding the once invisible qualities—the male, female, and child—is the way God reveals His image to us, what would be the best strategy to DESTROY that image?
 - (a) Strategy: suppression of the truth in unrighteousness
 1. “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them** *[as He showed Eve to Adam].*” Romans 1:18-19 NKJV (the two verses preceding why we have no excuse!)
 - (b) Again, to burn it in your your brain—how did God show mankind what should be known about Him that hard-hearts humans ultimately suppressed?
 1. He made woman and brought her to Adam. (Genesis 2:21-22)

2. He made Marriage: a man shall be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:23-25)
3. He made children: Adam knew Eve and she conceived and said “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” (Genesis 4:1)

(2) NO EXCUSES!

- (a) Pervert those invisible attributes and see what happens (now add verses 21-23)!

1. For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes** are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even **His eternal power and Godhead**, so that they are without excuse, (v.21 the verses after...) because, although they knew God, **they did not glorify Him as God**, nor were thankful, but became **futile in their thoughts**, and their foolish **hearts were darkened.**” Romans 1:20-21 NKJV
2. **“Professing to be wise, they became fools**, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.” Romans 1:22-23 NKJV

(b) The root manifestation of futile thoughts and a foolish darkened heart (this is what happens when you deny His invisible qualities!)

1. **“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts,** to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to **vile passions.** **[THE ROOT SIN]** For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”
Romans 1:24-27 NKJV

(c) All the sins that follow...(what happens when you deny His invisible qualities!)

1. **“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge [acknowledge His invisible attributes],** God gave them over to a **debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;** being filled with all unrighteousness **[A WHOLE LIST OF SINS FOLLOW**

THE ROOT SIN—YOU READY?], sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Romans 1:28-32 NKJV

(d) Summary:

1. Suppress the truth about what has been revealed about God’s invisible attributes!
2. Persist long enough and your heart will be darkened.
3. God will give you over to the lusts of your heart and vile passions.
4. The first on the list—the corruption of gender! [**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**]
5. All else follows!

F. How do we fix this mess?

(1) It's called The Restoration!

(a) Corrupted Creation is delivered from bondage with the revealing of the sons of God—“

1. “For the earnest expectation of the **creation** eagerly waits for the **revealing of the sons of God**. For the **creation** was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God**. For we know that the whole **creation** groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.” Romans 8:19-22 NKJV

(b) Summary

1. The fall of creation in Genesis 3 is still manifesting in the earth.
2. The corruption is ultimately manifested in the denial of God's very image.
3. Therefore, when creation is delivered from the bondage of that corruption, we will see a RESTORATION of God's image!

(2) When is the restoration?

(a) Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.

1. “And His disciples asked Him, saying, **“Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”** Jesus answered and said to them, **“Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that **He spoke to them of John the Baptist.**” Matthew 17:10-13 NKJV
- (b) John the Baptist points toward Elijah in Malachi
 1. **“And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.** He will also go before Him in the **spirit and power of Elijah,** ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children... Luke 1:16-17
- (3) What will it look like as we approach those days?
 - (a) Like the days of Noah and Lot...
 1. **“And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:** They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. **Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot:** They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that

Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. **Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.**"

Luke 17:26-30 NKJV

- (b) What will the restoration look like? The final words of the Old Testament! Elijah comes first (before Messiah). Radical obedience and the restoration of families.
1. **"Remember the Law of Moses**, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet **Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord**. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, **And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**"
- Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV (You see the ministry if John/Elijah?)

G. Whose job is the restoration?

- (1) Jesus, Elijah and the Church
 - (a) It's not Jesus' job. He's in heaven until the restoration!
 1. "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**, and that He may send **Jesus Christ**, who was preached to you

before, **whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken **by the mouth of all His holy prophets** since the world began." Acts 3:19-21 NKJV

(b) AGAIN! What did His holy prophet say?

1. **“Remember the Law of Moses**, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet **Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord**. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, **And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse [lest the curse of creation, the bondage of corruption, remain].”** Malachi 4:4-6 NKJV

(2) Radical obedience to God’s commands or the curse remains!

(a) You cannot have restoration if you continue to act with the same lawlessness that had Jesus crucified in the first place!

1. “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have **taken by**

lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;" Acts 2:23 NKJV

(3) The Sermon on the Mount

(a) [Beginning:] He did not come to abolish the Law...

1. ""Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments,** and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-20 NKJV

(b) [End:] Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!

1. "**Not everyone who says to Me,** 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does** the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many

wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; **depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**’” Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

(c) Hear and do God’s commands vs. Hear and don’t do God’s commands!

1. “Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But **everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” Matthew 7:24-29 NKJV

H. Jesus’ final prayer a whole new perspective on Oneness with God...

- (1) The end looks like the beginning— The Image of God restored!

(a) The Image of God—made perfect in One!

1. **“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word **[THAT IS YOU!]; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.** And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,** and **that the world may know that You have sent Me,** and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:17-23 NKJV

(b) Summary

1. At the very end of His longest discourse, Jesus gets down to the bottom line truth!
2. Currently we have rampant denial of distinct genders, the holiness of marriage, and the sanctity of the life of the unborn—a blatant denial of family and therefore the denial of the ONE AND ONLY GOD!

3. When the Image of God as One (with three parts) is perfectly represented by His people (family as one with three parts)—the world will know who He is!
4. In other words, when God’s invisible attributes are clearly acknowledged once again, then the world will recognize His Image!
5. That process begins with the revealing of the sons of God—the deliverance of creation from bondage—and the restoration of the family!

Summary: THE IMAGE OF GOD

1. Cross Pollination Pollution

A. What is a man or woman anyway, and why does knowing matter?

(1) Yahweh’s Definition

- (a) In His image He made THEM!

(2) Cross Dressing

- (a) Since we have now clearly defined that there are two different genders...

(b) Key Takeaways

1. The human family on earth is the expressed image of the Divine family in Heaven—the image of God.

2. The destruction of the family is the enemy's chief strategy used to deny, destroy, or hide the image of God.
 3. The existential threat of the day is that one political side, because of their stance on gender, family and the right to life, says there is no God, and the other, by their stance in these three areas, says there is a God!
 4. It is critically important to restore the family and thereby restore the Image of God in the earth!
 5. You must make a clear distinction between the biblical worldview and current cultural view of family.
 6. The restoration coming to the earth will be paralleled by the restoration of the family to the image of our Creator. It's the most important work on planet today.
- (c) A picture is worth a thousand words...
1. We often identify as the true battle, the Democrat/ Liberal/Progressive View vs. the Republican/ Conservative/Traditional View BOTH fall under the viewpoint of "the World."
 2. If we expand our view further, we realize that what you thought was the true battle is not our fight after

all. We must find ourselves on the side the Kingdom, like Y'shua did! And we fight a different battle like Paul taught us!

3. On "the World" side there are many questions (many ?). On the Kingdom side there are no choices (no ?)! That is because it is only when God's way is the ONLY way that you are truly free!

B. The Image of God—The Suppression of Truth!

(1) Invisible Attributes

- (a) His image should be clearly recognizable in the earth.
- (b) What invisible qualities should be clearly seen?
- (c) These are His invisible qualities...
 1. God is an us (male, female, child).
 2. Adam (Man) was created in God's image as and "Us" (with male and female DNA and fruit in him).
 3. But, looking at Adam, the Female and Child **were invisible.**

(2) How does God make these invisible attributes "clearly seen"?

- (a) He extracts the woman out of Adam and presents her to him!
- (b) After they are separated as a man and a woman, God reunites them as ONE FLESH in Marriage.

(c) And whereas God told Adam, even when he appeared as just a man, to “Be fruitful and multiply,” in Genesis 1:28, the manifestation of Children takes place in Genesis 4:1, after God extracted the invisible Eve from the visible Adam and then brought them back together in marriage in Genesis 2.

(d) Summary

1. Yahweh extracts Eve from Adam and presents her to him.
2. The two reconnect in Marriage to remain One flesh
3. Then the male and female intimately recombine to form a child.
4. This is the Image of God!

(3) Review: God’s invisible qualities are clearly made visible!

(a) Man was created in God’s image (as a man, woman and child) and the woman, who was not visible at that time, became visible!

(b) Why? So that man would be without excuse.

C. Warning

(1) The destruction of the expressed Image of God is the greatest existential crises in the world!

(a) When you contemplate the existential crisis of our day, you can simplify it with two opposing viewpoints. One

stance says men and women are distinct and definitive, marriage is a holy union between them, and that children are the blessed fruit of that union. The other stance says gender is a social construct and there has never been a distinction between a man and a woman, nor is gender limited to male or female. A person is born as one gender, both genders, or neither. Marriage is unnecessary, or if desired, may take place between any genders or no genders at all. And of course, the unborn child is the fruit of nothing, is not even human or alive, and has no rights to live, other than what the person carrying that lump of cells permits. One side believes in the God who expressed His image in the human family. And the other side denies every aspect of the family and therefore denies God Himself.

(b) Let's Connect the Dots!

1. Let Us make man in Our image...
2. Male and female He created them...
3. From man He extracted the woman...
4. He brought her to the man...(so His invisible quality can be seen).
5. The two shall become one flesh...
6. Be fruitful and multiply...(fruit also becomes visible).

7. His invisible attributes are now clearly seen...
8. These attributes point to the nature of His His eternal power and Godhead...the characters traits of man, woman, and child.
9. Now, there can be no excuse! (It is clearly visible!)
10. Deny this image; deny the One true God!

D. Y'shua's View on the Topic

- (1) What was Jesus' spin on the importance of His Father's Image as expressed in gender and marriage?
 - (a) For this reason! For what reason?
 1. Because Adam was made both male and female...
 2. And because he had hidden attributes...
 3. And because the hidden attributes were revealed when the woman was extracted from Adam...
 4. And because even with that separation God needed us to understand that they remained One as He is One...He gave us MARRIAGE!
 5. And Jesus let us know in no uncertain terms that this oneness CAN NEVER BE SEPARATED!

E. Chief strategy (and strategist) to destroy the image of God!

- (1) If understanding the once invisible qualities—the male, female, and child—is the way God reveals His image to

us, what would be the best strategy to DESTROY that image?

- (a) Strategy: suppression of the truth in unrighteousness
- (b) Again, to burn it in your your brain—how did God show mankind what should be known about Him that hard-hearts humans ultimately suppressed?
 1. He made woman and brought her to Adam. (Genesis 2:21-22)
 2. He made Marriage: a man shall be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:23-25)
 3. He made children: Adam knew Eve and she conceived and said “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” (Genesis 4:1)

(2) NO EXCUSES!

- (a) Pervert those invisible attributes and see what happens (now add verses 21-23)!
- (b) The root manifestation of futile thoughts and a foolish darkened heart (this is what happens when you deny His invisible qualities!)
- (c) All the sins that follow...(what happens when you deny His invisible qualities!)
- (d) Summary:

1. Suppress the truth about what has been revealed about God's invisible attributes!
2. Persist long enough and your heart will be darkened.
3. God will give you over to the lusts of your heart and vile passions.
4. The first on the list—the corruption of gender! [**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**]
5. All else follows!

F. How do we fix this mess?

(1) It's called The Restoration!

(a) Corrupted Creation is delivered from bondage with the revealing of the sons of God—“

(b) Summary

1. The fall of creation in Genesis 3 is still manifesting in the earth.
2. The corruption is ultimately manifested in the denial of God's very image.
3. Therefore, when creation is delivered from the bondage of that corruption, we will see a RESTORATION of God's image!

(2) When is the restoration?

- (a) Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.
- (b) John the Baptist points toward Elijah in Malachi
- (3) What will it look like as we approach those days?
 - (a) Like the days of Noah and Lot...
 - (b) What will the restoration look like? The final words of the Old Testament! Elijah comes first (before Messiah).
Radical obedience and the restoration of families.

G. Whose job is the restoration?

- (1) Jesus, Elijah and the Church
 - (a) It's not Jesus' job. He's in heaven until the restoration!
 - (b) AGAIN! What did His holy prophet say?
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TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE

2. No Refuse Permitted in the House of the Lord

A. Leave it at the door!

(1) Sin in the Camp

(a) What is the plan for your refuse?

1. ““Also you shall have a place outside the camp, where you may go out; and you shall have an implement among your equipment, and when you sit down outside, **you shall dig with it and turn and cover your refuse.**” Deuteronomy 23:12-13 NKJV

(b) The camp is holy; don't let that nasty stuff into the congregation!

1. “For the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; **therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.**” Deuteronomy 23:14 NKJV

(2) The Acceptable Sin?!

(a) What has become ritually accepted sin in the Church today?

1. “There shall be no **ritual harlot** of the daughters of Israel, or a perverted one of the sons of Israel.”
Deuteronomy 23:17 NKJV

(b) It does not matter how you frame it, nor does it matter that you'd donate the proceeds of your unrighteous behavior to God! He does not want it or your behavior!

1. “You shall not bring **the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the Lord** your God for any vowed offering, for both of these **are an abomination** to the Lord your God.” Deuteronomy 23:18 NKJV

B. What’s Under Your Seat?

- (1) I’m not here to make friends. I’m here to make disciples!
 - (a) It’s actually reported...what are you going to do about it?
 1. “**It is actually reported** that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife!” I Corinthians 5:1 NKJV
 - (b) Bad company corrupts good morals. If you allow it to hang around, it will get on you and before too long it will get in you!
 1. “Do not be deceived: “**Evil company corrupts good habits.**” Awake to righteousness, and **do not sin**; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.” I Corinthians 15:33-34 NKJV
 - (c) Toss him out of the congregation...don’t even share a meal! Or, are you more concerned about the numbers and empty seats?

1. “I wrote to you in my epistle **not to keep company** with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

[11] But now I have written to you **not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.** [12] For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. **Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”**” I Corinthians 5:9-13 NKJV

2. “But **fornication** and all **uncleanness** or **covetousness, let it not even be named among you,** as is fitting for saints; neither **filthiness,** nor **foolish talking,** nor **coarse jesting,** which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no **fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater,** has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” Ephesians 5:3-5 NKJV

(d) REFUSE! (Categories) Don't even share a meal with those who insist on bringing this refuse into the house of God. Better yet—remove them from the congregation! *It's the obvious sexual immorality, the idolatry, the slander, the gossip, the greed, the physical and chemical abuse, the unchecked desires, the consumerism, and the preoccupation with selfish gain.*

1. **Sexual Immorality:** we can't even begin to name every type of sexual sin, but to name a few: adultery, pornography, sex outside of marriage, all types of sexual activities other than intercourse, and I would include here co-habitation outside of marriage.
2. **Covetousness:** I am not satisfied with what is mine and I want what is yours, and I don't want you to have what is yours. And it goes beyond a fleeting thought; it is almost an insatiable desire bordering on obsession.
3. **Idolatry:** anything above God: a desire, a person, a career, a hobby, a habit, a resource, a possession, an accomplishment, a position, an appearance, etc. You name it, and if it finds a position superior to Christ in your life, it is an idol!

4. **Reviling:** a critical, angry, insulting spirit that is insistent on conflict—insistent on attacking and condemning others!
5. **Drunkenness:** debauchery, dissipation, the squandering of God’s resources—intoxication and the overindulgence of anything. Any and all things that consistently challenge the sobriety of clear thinking and decision-making!
6. **Extortion:** dishonest gain, obsession with possessing money and wealth to the point of demanding it from others, even the willingness to harm others along the way to obtain it!
7. **Foolish Words:** Let nothing unedifying leave your lips. Speak life, not death. Impart God grace with your words! (Eph. 4:29) It’s a high calling.
8. **Anything/Anyone Unclean:** *“that He may see **no unclean** thing among you, and turn away from you.”* (Deut. 23:14) Nothing unclean, soiled by the world, has any part in the Kingdom of Christ and God. (Eph. 5:5)

(2) MASSIVE MOMENT! Repentance

- (a) Don’t even share a meal with those who insist on bringing this refuse into the house of God! *“...do not to*

keep company with... do not even to eat with such a person." (I Cor. 5:11) "...let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;" (Eph. 5:3) "Abstain from every form of evil." (I Th. 5:22) Is this mandate missing God's mercy? Let me qualify this concept.

1. God is okay with your sin as long as you are not! God came to free the sinner, not in search of the "already righteous!" The key is your repentance. Struggling with your sin is not the same as insisting on your sin. When you insist on sinning, it is a clear sign that you do not have a contrite heart!
 - a) "When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, **but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.**" Mark 2:17 NKJV
 - b) "**Have mercy upon me, O God**, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, **Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.** For **I acknowledge** my transgressions, And **my sin** is always before me. [10]...Create in me a **clean heart**, O God, And renew a **steadfast**

spirit within me. [17]...The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a **contrite heart**—
These, O God, You will not despise.” Psalms
51:1-3, 10, 17 NKJV

2. I suggest you read and study all of Psalm 51. In my estimate, it is the most complete picture of a proper view of sin and repentance that you will find anywhere in the Bible. It even shows the most beautiful fruit of repentance and forgiveness... *“Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.”* Psalms 51:13 NKJV

C. A Pile of C _ _ _ in the House of the Lord

(1) A form of godliness

- (a) There are those who will love their sin—who creep into the house of God and influence others with their sins and lusts! They will not care about the truth! *“Evil company corrupts good habits.”* (I Cor. 15:3)

1. “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty,

lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness** but denying its power. And from such people turn away! **For of this sort are those who creep into households** and make captives of gullible women **loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts**, always learning and **never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**" II Timothy 3:1-7 NKJV

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- (d) REFUSE! (Categories) Don't even share a meal with those who insist on bringing this refuse into the house of God. Better yet—remove them from the congregation!
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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

3. It is what it is!

A. Even if...

(1) Weights and Measures: You shall not have in your house differing measures.

- (a) Do you keep those who insist on sinning in your midst because they serve some benefit to you, to the congregation? *“You shall not bring **the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the Lord** your God for any vowed offering, for both of these **are an abomination** to the Lord your God.”* (Deut. 23:18)

1. *““You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light. **You shall not have in your house***

differing measures, a large and a small. You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord your God is giving you. For **all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination** to the Lord your God.”

Deuteronomy 25:13-16 NKJV

- a) Is it good to give God the proceeds from that of which He disapproves? No... they must be removed even if....Just like anyone else!

(2) Protect others from such influence!

- (a) Don't give him back to the enemy! Don't let them go back to satan.

- 1. **“You shall not give back to his master the slave who has escaped from his master to you.** He may dwell with you in your midst, in the place which he chooses within one of your gates, where it seems best to him; you shall not oppress him.” Deuteronomy 23:15-16 NKJV

- (b) If they go back and are overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning....

- 1. “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are **slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is**

overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they **are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.** For it would have been **better for them not to have known** the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them." II Peter 2:19-21 NKJV

(3) Don't look the other way when you see sin!

(a) Love your neighbor! When you ignore sin, don't convict sin, you are actually hating your neighbor. Overlooking sin is NOT an effective form of evangelism.

1. **"You shall not hate your brother** in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and **not bear sin because of him.** You shall **not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge** against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV

B. Instead...

(1) Instead...Stop sinning

(a) You are empowered to stop sinning. It is a deception to think you are stuck with your sin. Sin is from the devil and the works of the devil have been conquered. He who is born again is no longer the victim of the need to insist on sinning!

1. “Whoever commits **sin also commits lawlessness**, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that **He was manifested to take away our sins**, and in Him there is no sin. **Whoever abides in Him does not sin.**

Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

Little children, **let no one deceive you. He who**

practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is

righteous. **He who sins is of the devil**, for the devil

has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the

Son of God was manifested, **that He might destroy**

the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of

God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and

he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.” I

John 3:4-9 NKJV

2. “**We know that whoever is born of God does not sin;** but **he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.** We know that

we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one." I John 5:18-19 NKJV

(2) Instead...Be Holy

(a) Be holy (set-apart) in all your conduct. Be mature (perfect) in every aspect of your faith!

1. "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, **be sober**, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, **you also be holy in all your conduct**, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy.'" I Peter 1:13-16 NKJV

2. "'Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: '**You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.**'" Leviticus 19:2 NKJV

3. "Therefore **you shall be perfect**, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48 NKJV

(3) Instead...

(a) You shall not confuse a man for a woman; you shall leave your sin at the door; you shall not compromise anything you do as if it for God; and you should treat all

sin the same; it does not matter what “benefit it might be to you!”

1. **“A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment...”**

Deuteronomy 22:5 NKJV

2. **“...your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.”**

Deuteronomy 23:14 NKJV

3. **“You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the Lord...”**

Deuteronomy 23:18 NKJV

4. **“...You shall not have in your house differing measures...”** Deuteronomy 25:13-14 NKJV

Summary: WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

3. It is what it is!

A. Even if...

(1) Weights and Measures: You shall not have in your house differing measures.

- (a) Do you keep those who insist on sinning in your midst because they serve some benefit to you, to the congregation?

- (b) Is it good to give God the proceeds from that of which He disapproves? No... they must be removed even if....Just like anyone else!
- (2) Protect others from such influence!
 - (a) Don't give him back to the enemy! Don't let them go back to satan.
 - (b) If they go back and are overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning....
- (3) Don't look the other way when you see sin!
 - (a) Love your neighbor! When you ignore sin, don't convict sin, you are actually hating your neighbor. Overlooking sin is NOT an effective form of evangelism.

B. Instead...

- (1) Instead...Stop sinning
 - (a) You are empowered to stop sinning. It is a deception to think you are stuck with your sin. Sin is from the devil and the works of the devil have been conquered. He who is born again is no longer the victim of the need to insist on sinning!
- (2) Instead...Be Holy
 - (a) Be holy (set-apart) in all your conduct. Be mature (perfect) in every aspect of your faith!
- (3) Instead...

- (a) You shall not confuse a man for a woman; you shall leave your sin at the door; you shall not compromise anything you do as if it for God; and you should treat all sin the same; it does not matter what “benefit it might be to you!”

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Gender identity seems to be very clear in the Bible...

- A. How does Deuteronomy 22:5 make complete sense in light of Genesis 1:26-28?

2. Again, referring to Genesis 1:26-28, journal your thoughts about the following:

- A. When God created the physical body (outward appearance) of man (Adam), what gender would he have appeared to be?
- B. What was inside of Adam that you would not have been able to see with your eyes that allowed God to call him a “them.”
- C. What did God instruct “them” to do?
- D. In light of this information, describe what God intended when He “created man in His own image.”

3. How might this revelation about God’s image be related to the invisible attributes of God mentioned in Romans 1:20?

- A. How did God make His invisible attributes visible? (Consider: Genesis 2:21-25; 4:1)

- B. What was Y'shua's point of view on the matter? (See Matthew 19:4-6)
- C. What has the world done to deny this revelation? (See Romans 1:18-19)
- D. How has it manifested in the modern era and how might that relate to Romans 1:21-32? (Hint: Consider the assault on gender identity, marriage, and the right to life in your answer.)
- E. How will this perversion ultimately be corrected? (Consider Romans 8:19-22; Matthew 17:10-13; Malachi 4:4-6 and Acts 3:19-21 in your answer.) Also consider the restoration of the traditional family (in light of Genesis 1:26-28; 2:21-25).

4. As Christians, we are empowered to overcome our sinful behavior...

- A. What does Deuteronomy 23:12-14 instruct us to do with our refuse and why?
- B. How can Christians use those instructions as an encouragement to leave their sins out of the house of God?
- C. Use Deuteronomy 23:17-18 to discern God's heart on bringing the proceeds of sinful activities into the Church.

5. What are we, as Christians, called to do when we witness prevailing repetitive sin in the church? (See I Corinthians 5:9-13 and Ephesians 5:3-5)

- A. Define the following sins: sexual immorality, covetousness, idolatry, reviling, drunkenness, extortion, and foolish words
 - B. First self-assess, then consider others in your congregation who engage in such sin. What are you going to do about it?
 - C. In light of Mark 2:17, why is Paul saying to be so hard on sinners in I Corinthians 5:9-13?
- 6. Read Psalm 51 and use your own words to describe genuine repentance.**
- A. Define: a clean heart, a steadfast spirit, a contrite heart.
- 7. What happens when you let sin creep into your house? (See II Timothy 3:1-7)**
- A. How does that relate to I Corinthians 15:33-34?
 - B. In light of Deuteronomy 25:13-16 and Leviticus 19:17-18, how are we called to treat each person who is engaged in persistent sin, regardless of their benefit to the church.
- 8. Once a slave has escaped his master, much like we have “escaped” from Satan...**
- A. How should we help them? (See Deuteronomy 23:15-16)
 - B. How might this concept relate to II Peter 2:19-21?
- 9. Describe your correct relationship to sin and holiness.**
- A. Use I John 3:4-9; 5:18-19; I Peter 1:13-16; and Leviticus 19:2 to assist your answer.