

*In search of...*

# Truth & Right

Volume 09 Issue 20

May 18, 2014

## Implicitly Forbidden

Why do preachers often condemn things that are not even found in the Bible? Where do you ever read about gambling or pornography in your Bible? And where is dancing ever expressly forbidden? Obviously, in explicit (fully revealed) terms, these are not forbidden: there is no "Thou shalt not ..." regarding these. However, it is by implicit (capable of being understood from something else though unexpressed) terms that all three of these common sins are certainly proscribed among men.

### **Gambling**

Gambling is not wrong because it is a game of chance, nor because it has been preached against in America for four centuries. It is wrong by virtue of the indisputable fact that it is an outlet for covetousness. And covetousness is most definitely condemned in any form or outlet it may assume.

Covetousness (Greek *pleonexia*) is defined as a "greedy desire to have more" by Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament. We see coveting every time we stand in line at a convenience store watching our neighbor scratching his lottery card or picking his six numbers. He has the desire to take a dollar or two out of the pocket of every one of his rivals across this great state. Coveting occurs at the local bingo hall and the weekly poker game. "But ... covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints. ... For this you know, that no ... covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God" (Ephesians 5:3-5).

No, I can't find gambling explicitly prohibited in the Bible, but I can find its parent. Gambling is merely one mode of expressing something plainly condemned —

avarice. Gambling is implicitly condemned by the clear prohibition against covetousness. "But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is ... covetous" (I Corinthians 5:11).

### **Pornography**

Pornography is a rampaging beast in our increasingly vulgar society. You have seen us progress from the war era pinup posters in gas stations and bars, to the advent of Playboy magazine, to the age of 8-millimeter films, to our glorious Information Age in which pornography is available 24 hours a day to anyone regardless of age. But nowhere does the Bible mention pornography as sinful. Explicitly, correct. But implicitly, pornography is a damnable stumbling block.

Solomon taught that the law is a light "To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread" (Proverbs 6:24-26). The harlot still parades on every street corner, but now she also models her wares in magazines and on the Internet. She may call it a liberating experience to pose seductively, but it only proves her slavery to wickedness. Further, her allure enslaves innocent young men (and women!) to the devil's supply as well.

Pornography is a vehicle

of lust. That conclusion is unavoidable. Though Hugh Hefner has become a mainstream icon in his old age, it should be recalled that he has spend forty years pandering to the lowest common denominator in the imaginations of young men. Pornography has long provided a partial and unlawful satisfaction of the natural sex drive in men. Sadly, it has also led many to seek rape and assault to fulfill the rest (Serial killer Ted Bundy admitted to being an example).

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28). Does it matter if I am looking at her picture or her virtual likeness on a computer monitor if I am looking to lust? Of course not! The commandment has been violated by the lust in my heart given opportunity by pornography. While pornography is never explicitly forbidden, it is most surely implicitly off limits to the Christian.

### **Modern Dancing**

In old testament days, dancing was a form of praise that did not mix the sexes nor excite the libido. I don't know what that dancing looked like, but I haven't seen any like it lately. Modern dancing, from the country line dance to that done to soul and disco music is absolutely nothing but a mimicry of the sex act put

to music (a private act reserved for the marriage bed — Hebrews 13:4). If the band were not playing in the background, such movements and positions would be scandalous. The Bible says they are anyway. Listed among the evident (explicit) works of the flesh is lewdness. Lewdness (Greek aselgeia) is defined by Thayer as "wanton acts or manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc." Apply the latter part of that definition and we could be led to believe that Joseph Henry Thayer was watching the modern dance as he penned it.

Modern dancing is lewdness. Such is improper for a Christian (Romans 13:13) and will prevent him from inheriting the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:21). (And no amount of jitterbugging by the president of Baylor University is going to change that.)

### Conclusion

It is sad to hear our friends defend their immorality to us based on such a faulty premise as the lack of explicitness in the Bible on their actions. The words rape and child molestation are absent from the Holy Writ, but who defends them? The condemnation of gambling, pornography and dancing is quite implicit from the explicit prohibitions of covetousness, lust and lewdness.

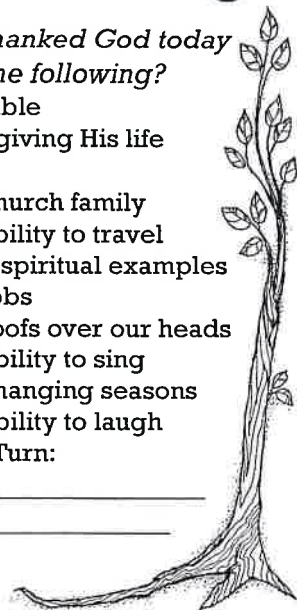
Jeff S. Smith

dear God,  
thanks for this  
beautiful life  
and forgive me if  
i dont love it  
enough.

*Have you thanked God today  
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- The ability to travel
- Good spiritual examples
- Our jobs
- The roofs over our heads
- The ability to sing
- The changing seasons
- The ability to laugh
- Your Turn:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



*This bulletin is published by the*  
**WELLSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST**

92 Rose Cottage Lane  
Wellsburg, WV 26070  
304-737-1422

<http://www.truthandright.org>



Like us on  
**FACEBOOK** under  
Wellsburg church  
of Christ!

Follow us on **TWITTER**  
@wellsburgchurch



View us on **YOUTUBE**:  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
user/wellsburgchurch](https://www.youtube.com/user/wellsburgchurch)

# Christian Q&A

*Jarred & Jessica Currence have been members at the Wellsburg church of Christ for more than two years now.*

## **What is your favorite hymn that we sing? Why?**

Jarred: "Worthy Art Thou," because it really illustrates what we need to be thinking, feeling, & doing in worship.

Jessica: "Victory In Jesus," because it's one of the first hymns I learned and it has a good message about salvation.

## **What makes you a strong believer in your faith?**

Jarred: The evidence for God and the Bible, the fact that it makes sense.

Jessica: There are no contradictions in the Bible and it all makes sense. God is truth and He cannot lie.

## **What advice would you give someone who is new to the Church?**

Jarred: Read your Bible as often as you can, take an active part in Bible studies and don't be afraid to ask questions.

Jessica: Surround yourself with Christians. I Cor. 15:33.

## **How do you show others that you are a believer in Jesus Christ?**

Jarred: Through my language, my attitude and my knowledge of the Bible.

Jessica: They should see that I act differently than others in the world. Jesus should be able to be seen in us if we are a follower of His.



## **What is your favorite Bible verse? Why?**

Jarred: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; I really identify with them and think of God.

Jessica: Philippians 4:13, It gives me strength because I know that all things are possible with God.

## **What is an effective way to spread God's Word? Why is this effective?**

Jarred: By using Bible verses in daily conversation. This gives opportunity to take about the Bible.

Jessica: To send text messages and Facebook messages to others about God, this opens up avenues for Biblical discussion, also through inviting others to public and private Bible studies.

