

It Is Written

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When The Unacceptable Becomes Respectable

By John Edwards

That which was unacceptable before God became respectable among the people of God as the blind, the lame, and the sick were offered in sacrifice to God (Lev. 22:20; Mal. 1:6-8). There are a number of things today unacceptable to God which have become respectable among men. Consider some examples:

When Men Say Homosexuality Is Just Another Lifestyle. There was a time, in this country, when the sin of homosexuality was unacceptable with many, but the unacceptable has now become respectable. The Scriptures still teach that homosexuality is “uncleanness,” “dishonour,” “vile affections,” “against nature,” “unseemly,” “error,” “not convenient,” and “that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” (Rom. 1:24-32).

When There Are Those Who Try To Defend Social Drinking. Some agree that “drunkenness” is sin (Gal. 5:21), but really cannot say there is anything wrong with a little drinking. It may be argued that “not given to much wine” (1 Tim. 3:8) allows a little wine. First of all, there are different kinds of Bible wine — some fermented or intoxicating and some not. The context shows which is under consideration. If “not given to much wine” allows a little wine, does “be not over much wicked” (Eccl. 7:17) allow one to be a little wicked? If it is just “excess of wine” (1 Pet. 4:3) that is wrong, then would it be okay to be involved in a little “riot” (1 Pet. 4:4)? The word “banquetings,” in 1 Peter 4:3, is “drinking parties,” which takes in social drinking. Proverbs 20:1 still says, “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

When People Divorce And Remarry For Every Cause. Has it ever occurred to you that divorce, from the beginning, was not so (Mt. 19:3-8)? God's marriage law, from the beginning, involved one woman for one man for life (Gen. 2:18-24). The teaching of the Lord allows only one reason for divorce and remarriage — fornication. To divorce and remarry for any other cause is to commit adultery (Mt. 19:9; Rom. 7:2-3)! May we get back to that which is respectable as the Bible says, “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4).

When Gambling Is Thought Of As A Good Thing. Some try to justify gambling on the thought of all the good it does for the community. Whether in a glitz-and-mortar casino, at a racetrack, through a state-operated lottery, raffling, booth at a county fair, office pool or home on the personal computer, gambling is a form of covetousness and greed. “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Tim. 6:10).

When Men And Women See Nothing Wrong With Dancing. Modern dancing comes under the class of “lasciviousness” (Gal. 5:19), “wanton acts or manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.” (Thayer's Greek Lexicon). Anyone who would try to defend such a practice would have to have low ideals and be sapped of spirituality.

When Immodest Apparel Does Not Cause Us To Blush. About the only kind of blush many know anything about these days is the kind you buy in a bottle and rub on! This is a sad commentary on our society. A reading of Genesis 3:7 & 21 will show that one may have some covering and still be naked as far as God is concerned. Hollywood has made it fashionable to parade around in immodest

apparel. Yet the Bible says, "In like manner, also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (1 Tim. 2:9-10). Have we become like those in Jeremiah's day, concerning whom it was said, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jer. 6:15)?

A thing may be respectable among men, yet be unacceptable to God. May God help us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12).

The Other Woman

By L.A. Stauffer

After women entered the work force following World War II, the problem of the "other woman" (or the "other man") became much more prominent. Men and women began working side by side, eating lunch together, and developing friendships often more intimate than with their mates at home. TV sit-coms and commercials in more recent years have glamorized sex outside marriage and, as a result, acts of adultery and the divorce rate have climbed at a startling and alarming rate. The problem of the "other woman" is not going away any time soon and God's people are not going to escape the temptation it has created in society.

The most appalling aspect of this problem is that Christians are often deceived by it. Scores of Christians have been beguiled by the "attractiveness" of the "other woman." The "other woman" is friendly, laughs at your jokes, doesn't put her mother or children ahead of you, is ignorant of your boorish attitude and disgusting habits at home, isn't guilty of spending your check before the next one arrives or running your credit cards up to the limit, doesn't despise your mother or other family members, etc., etc., etc. Satan has not lost an ounce of ability to draw us away from God and God's ways for a man and a woman.

The difference between the "other woman" and your wife is that you have to live with your wife. The problems mates have to deal with in an ongoing family relationship are trying, demanding, and sometimes agonizing. Disagreements demand communication and resolution; anger demands apologies and forgiveness; neglect yields unloved feelings that precipitate self-esteem problems; hurt feelings create hard feelings and indifference; etc. And often when these are handled one at a time the underlying problem or problems are never resolved and the cycle goes on and on. The time that "issues" in marriage will go away has not and will never come.

None of these things, however, comes between the man and the "other woman"—which makes the adulterous relationship not only attractive but deceptive. And what has been demonstrated again and again is that soon after a man divorces his wife and marries the "other woman" the problems of the first marriage will appear in the new relationship. The "fantasy" of the office romance one day becomes the old "reality" of the marriage one had left behind months before. And the strange phenomenon is that so many are naive enough to start the process all over again.

What all of this means, brothers and sisters, is that the "other woman/man" is not the solution to life's problems in marriage. The solution is character—love and devotion and care for one's mate that exalts her/him above oneself and all others; honesty to face, discuss, and correct underlying problems that disrupt the relationship. This is the real world that leads to life. The fantasy world of adultery leads only to judgment and condemnation. As God says and Jesus repeats: "cleave to your wife," an expression in Greek, and I understand also in Hebrew, that means "stick together like glue" (see Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5).