

Blue Ridge Brandmarks

“...I bear on my body the brandmarks of Jesus” - Gal. 6:17

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An Evil Influence

This world has its spiritual stumbling blocks, just as Jesus prophesied (Matthew 18:7). There are plenty of them already in our pathway without us placing them there. Yet, I fear that many of God’s people too often do just that.

The Example Of Lot

The conduct of Lot, the nephew of Abraham, is an example of such risky behavior. The Bible tells us that Lot was a “righteous man,” but one who nonetheless made foolish decisions. When given the choice as to where to live, he “pitched his tent even as far as Sodom,” a city filled with men who “were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord” (Genesis 13:12,13). As he continued to live among these evil people he “tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds” (2 Peter 2:8). Yet there is no doubt the city had a detrimental effect on Lot and his family. To his sons-in-law, Lot’s warning of the

imminent destruction of the city by God was nothing more than a joke. His wife had become so attached to the city that she “looked back,” for which she was turned into a pillar of salt. Even Lot did not escape the city’s influence unscathed, for he later allowed his two daughters to get him drunk. Worse yet, his daughters used that occasion to commit incest with their father, rationalizing their deviant behavior with the thinking, “that we may preserve the lineage of our father” (Genesis 19:12-38). Lot stands as a timeless example of one who paid a terrible price for placing himself and his family in the way of ungodly influences.

Evil Will Have Its Influence

The Bible says, “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Corinthians 15:33). Apparently we are easily deceived to think just the opposite, and thus the warning. We keep company with some who are evil, their evil bothers

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us, and thus we tell ourselves that their evil has had no effect on us. But God's word tells us we are wrong in our reasoning. Indeed, "can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" (Proverbs 6:27). Others might say that they have become desensitized to the evil around them and can therefore remain unaffected by such. They are wrong. And since when did the inability to blush become an admirable quality? (Jeremiah 6:15; Ezra 9:6).

The Television

I know of no greater illustration of all this today than that of man's keeping company, not with a person, but with a thing -- the television.

I'll be the first to say that there is still some good to be seen on the small screen,

but in proportion to the bad its amount is minimal. Who can deny this? Both the networks and cable channels carry shows that trivialize (if not promote) fornication, adultery, and homosexuality. Corrupt and vulgar language is used with regularity. Situation ethics, a godless philosophy of our age, is advanced. Gratuitous violence is put forth as entertainment. How many people literally invite these stumbling blocks into their homes each night? Do you, dear Christian? If so, stop patterning yourself after Lot! There is no way you, your spouse, or your children can remain unaffected by it all.

This writer never ceases to be amazed to hear of the profane viewing habits of some (thankfully, not all) who would describe themselves as Christians with "conservative" values. Have they become

Rest in the Lord, My Soul

Rest in the Lord, my soul;
Commit to Him thy way.
What to thy sight seems dark as night,
To Him is bright as day.
Rest in the Lord, my soul;
He planned for thee thy life.
Brings fruit from rain, brings good from pain,
And peace and joy from strife.
Rest in the Lord, my soul;
This fretting weakens thee.
Why not be still? Accept His will;
Thou shalt His glory see.

◄Anonymous►

Pharasaical without noticing? They would shudder (and well they should) at the very thought of the local church corrupting the doctrine of Christ in just one point, while they in their own homes (the church distributed) corrupt the Lord's doctrine many times over by allowing themselves and their families to be entertained with the filth described above. Truly, they "strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!" (Read Matthew 23:23-24 and see if this doesn't mirror what Jesus condemned.)

Fellow-Christian, don't allow these easily accessible stumbling blocks into your home. They will "conform you to the world." If you have time to watch television, transform your viewing habits in light of God's word (Romans 12:2).

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord..." (Psalm 1:1,2).

◀Jimmy Fields▶

Answers to What Does Each Group Have in Common? by Dody Gibson

1. Life threatened at birth Ex 1:16, 2 Kin 11:1-2, Matt 2:16
2. Barren but later had children Gen 18:11, I Sam 1:5-6, Luke 1:7
3. Kings who had dreams Gen 41:1, Gen 20:3, Dan 2:28
4. Books named for women
5. Both had a "bad hair" day Jud 16:19, 2 Sam 18:9
6. Built temples I Chron 22:11, Zech 4:9, John 2:20
7. Had only one child Jud 11:34, Luke 8:41
8. Spoke to angels Gen 19:1, Jud 13:2-3, Acts 10:1-3
9. Died a martyr's death Matt 14:1-12, Acts 7:59-60, Acts 12:1-2
10. Wrote songs of praise Jud 5, Luke 1:46-55
11. The number twelve Apostles; Matt 10:2, Jacob's sons; Gen 35:22, Adar 12th month; Est 3:7
12. All widows Ruth 1:3, and 4-5, 2 Kin 4:1
13. Important event at age twelve Luke 2:42, 2 Kin 21:1, Luke 8:42
14. Kept in the Ark of the Covenant Heb 9:4
15. The number four 4 -- friends; Dan 1:6, 4 winds; Mark 14:27, 4 barrels of water; I Kin 18:33
16. Not well known but both reigned for a short period over the United Kingdom Ishbosheth, Saul's son; 2 Sam 2:10, Rehoboam, Solomon's son; 2 Chron 9:31 The revolt came during the reign of Rehoboam 2 Chron 10:12-19
17. Killed lions I Sam 17:34-35, Jud 14:5-6
18. Name means some plant Myrtle, Cassia, Palm Tree (All were also described as fair -- BAP)
19. Gentiles in the lineage of Christ Canaanite, Moabite, Hittite there are others
20. Suicides I Kin 16:18, Matt 27:5, I Sam 31:4, 2 Sam 17:23, Jud 16:30
21. Twins Gen 25:24, John 11:16 (both names mean twin), Gen 38:27-30
22. Materials used in Solomon's temple I Kings 7:2,3,9,47,48,51
23. Jesus brothers Mark 6:3
24. David's choices of punishment 2 Sam 24:13 He chose the last one
25. Struck dead for disobedience Gen 19:17 and 26, 2 Sam 6:6-7, Acts 5:1-5

MAY 2010 DUTY ROSTER

Weekday	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN
Date	5/2	5/5	5/9	5/12	5/16	5/19	5/23	5/26	5/30
Opening Prayer	Ed M.		Matt M.		Ed M.		James M.		Eric B.
Morning Message	Jimmy F.		Larry P.		Randy F.		Don H.		John M.
Announcements	Jeremy L.	Larry P.	Bill A.	Charlie K.	Don H.	Bill A.	David T.	John M.	Leo R.
Leading Songs	Alan M.	Matt M.	Charlie K.	Larry P.	David T.	Alan M.	Bill A.	David T.	Matt M.
First Prayer	Eric B.	Eric B.	Jimmy F.	Randy F.	Jerry D.	Leo R.	Alan M.	Jeremy L.	Larry P.
Lead at Lord's Table & Contribution	Jerry D.		David T.		Larry P.		Jeremy L.		Ed M.
Assist	Michael F.		Jeremy P.		Tripp H.		Jerry D.		Brad F.
Assist	James M.		Brad F.		Eric B.		Jeremy P.		Cody M.
Assist	Don H.		Jerry D.		Matt M.		Randy F.		James M.
Read Scripture	Bill A.		Alan M.		Jimmy F.		Leo R.		Jeremy P.
Preaching	Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.
Wed. Exhortation		Charlie K.		Jimmy F.		Matt M.		Leo R.	
Closing Prayer	Charlie K.	John M.	Randy F.	John M.	Brad F.	Ed M.	Tripp H.	Jeremy P.	Jeremy L.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday

9:15 - Morning Message

10:00 - Bible classes for all ages

11:00 - Worship

Wednesday

7:30 - Bible Classes for all ages

Elders:

Jim Fields, Alan Moeller & Leo Rodrigue

Deacons:

Eric Bridge & John Malloy

Evangelist:

Brent Paschall

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class material at

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