

MORALS, PURITY, SELF-RESPECT

What has happened to our Morals, Purity and Self-Respect today? TV, radio, Hollywood, fashions -- everything is going down-hill in an immoral way at a rapid pace -- faster than ever before.

It is amazing to see the men on the TV news programs properly dressed in suits and ties -- and yet the women seemed to go out of their way to show as much flesh as possible -- bust valley, knees and thighs.

The popular Police Crime programs always seem to have some immoral affair woven into their plot. It never was this way in the past -- the old Westerns and Police shows had great excitement and plots to keep your attention without all the present day sex, suggestive, gory and butcher scenes.

Even the so-called Comic Shows use foul language and lewd remarks in an attempt to draw the crowds and up their ratings. We can still remember Red Skelton saying that a good Comedian should be able to make the audience laugh without using smut and suggestive remarks.

Again -- what has happened to our "Morals, Purity and Self-Respect?" *"Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and Purify your hearts, you double minded"* (James 4:8).

Purity begins in the heart of men and women -- then proceeds to the mind and mouth -- and many times proves exactly how the individual was brought up -- bringing question on their parents and families.

The Apostle Paul made it very clear and plain -- *"To the PURE all things are Pure -- but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is PURE -- but even their mind and conscience are defiled"* (Titus 1:15).

Paul goes on to speak to the young people in particular -- *"Let no one despise your youth -- but be an example of the Believer, in Word, in Conversation (manner of life), in Love, in Spirit, in PURITY"* (1 Timothy 4:12) -- and His advice, *"Flee youthful lusts, but follow Righteousness, Faith, Love, Peace, with those who call on the Lord out of a PURE heart"* (2 Timothy 2:22) -- and then concludes with -- *"The purpose of the Commandment is Love out of a PURE heart, and of a good Conscience, and sincere Faith"* (1 Timothy 1:5).

We have allowed the removal of the Bible, Prayer and God's 10 Commandments from our schools and government buildings -- and then wonder, "What has happened to our younger generation?"

People support the smut of Hollywood with their paid attendance and sit by the hour in front of the TV (with the remote in hand) and continue to harden their conscience --

forward trash on the computer (with the delete button right in front of them) -- and then wonder what our society is coming to.

And what of our politicians, top government leaders and sports heroes? It seems every day we hear of another involved in immorality and sexual sin. Even our highest elected officials cannot control their sex drive and their mouth with the worst of all actions and swear-words. What examples do our young people have? If they followed the Apostle Paul's admonition, *"Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh"* (Galatians 5:16), we would see a change.

Let's face it -- we are sinful by nature and are unable on our own to overcome the lusts of the flesh. We need help -- and the only way to overcome this sinful nature is to cry-out with the Psalmist, *"Create in me a Clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me"* (Psalm 51:10).

Admit it -- we can't do it in our own power -- God is our only answer. Believe, Submit, Accept, Receive -- Victory can be ours -- Rejoice in HIM! *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble"* (Psalm 46:1).

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