

CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TO DO “AFTER THE DOINGS OF THE LAND”

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Moses wrote, “After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I *am* the LORD your God” (Lev. 18:3-4). In other words, we are to be different because God has commanded it to be so.

God’s people are not to involve themselves in the sinful things of the world no matter if it is considered to be justified by others. God demanded that Israel be different from the world (Egypt) and He has demanded that we are to be different from the world, also. Paul said, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2). We must always remember that Christians can remain faithful no matter what type of government we live under or how many times the world says something is acceptable when it is not.

Even when those in authority give permission to do certain things, it does not mean that God allows such. For example, our country allows abortion on demand, while the scriptures plainly teach against it. One of the seven things that the Lord hates is the “shedding of innocent blood” (Prov. 6:17). Believers in God have been fighting for years to ensure the safety of the unborn child, while those that have no respect for human life indicate that a person is not a person until the moment of birth. However, God knows that at the moment of conception we are living beings. When referring to John the Immerser, prior to his birth, it is said, “the babe leaped in her womb” (Lk. 1:41). If John was not a living being, God was unaware of it! The Lord has also declared homosexuality to be an abomination, no matter how many people celebrate it as an “alternative” lifestyle. Paul listed this sinful lifestyle along with many others in Rom. 1:23-31.

Our own culture, and most others in the world, say that if a person is not happy in their current marriage they can simply find another mate; after all, God wants us all to be happy. It is true that God wants His creation to be happy, but He wants us to be happy according to the parameters he has set forth. Jesus taught the people the only acceptable reason for a second marriage, other than the death of a spouse (1 Cor. 7:29), was for the cause of adultery (Mt. 19:9). God is the One that joins all people in marriage and He is the only One that can dissolve a marriage, and it can only be dissolved if one of the partners has been unfaithful to the other.

Immodesty and lasciviousness is accepted today because it is not viewed as something that is wrong. The problem with that line of thinking is the creation has no authority to set the boundaries of what is right and what is wrong, only the Creator can do that. It is a shame when members of the Lord’s church spend their time arguing about how many inches a pair of shorts can come above the knee. It doesn’t matter what we think about it, we have to obey God! God defines nakedness for us. The priests of the Old Testament had to climb stairs in order to reach the altar where they sacrificed animals to God, and since they wore long robes it was necessary for God to instruct them to wear underclothing so they could be properly clothed. God said, “And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach” (Ex. 28:42). We all understand that the thigh goes all the way to the knee, so if the thigh is to be covered then we must have clothing that reaches our knees. Also, the loins must be covered or God considers one to be

naked. The Hebrew word “môthen” is the word from which we get our word “loins,” and it includes the small of the back according to the Hebrew scholar Strong. Also according to Strong, the word “coats” means to cover the upper end of the arm where the garment hangs, which would indicate that going shirtless or strapless is not pleasing to God. It was God that made “coats” of animal skins for Adam and Eve in the garden (Gen. 3:21).

No matter how much one wishes to change the truths that have been set forth by the Lord, He has still commanded us to abide by them if we are going to be pleasing to Him. These few things are just a sampling of the sins in which the world participates. Let all of us to endeavor to stop the things that displease God and dedicate or re-dedicate ourselves to Him.