



## **SIN – “PERVERSION OF A LEGITIMATE DESIRE!”**

Wrote James (the brother of Jesus), “No one must say, when he is tempted to do evil, ‘I have a temptation from God to do evil’, for God cannot be tempted to do evil, and He never tempts anyone to do so. However, any one is tempted to do evil when they allowed by their own evil desires and enticed by bait. Then evil desire conceives and gives birth to sin, and when sin is completed, it brings forth death.” (James 1:13-15, Williams Translation)

Notes highly respected Bible preacher, G. Campbell Morgan, “The sin is in the deliberate choice of the will and the determined act by which I turn aside to answer, not my desire, but the allurements to the fulfillment of desire in an improper way. When you turn toward evil courses, when you go out upon the highway or into the hidden secret, and shameful place, you are not seeking God, you are turning from Him. In your heart and conscience you know the thing which is right and the thing which is wrong.” (The Westminster Pulpit; Book 2; pg. 71)

“Take hold upon any proper and natural capacity of your life, I care not what it may be, and attempt to satisfy it outside the lines of God’s law, and you do but intensify the desire and never satisfy it.

*If you answer the desire of your inner life outside the line of God's will, which you know full well, then the desire which was proper becomes a fire which cannot be quenched." (Ibid; pg. 73, 75)*

*As the chart (printed below) demonstrates, there are many legitimate (God-given) desires, all of which God wills for believers to enjoy in their proper fulfillment, but all of which (because of the frightening capacity of human choice) can be misused or perverted! Some Christians mistakenly think that there is something inherently wrong with material possessions. Even though there is, according to the Bible's teachings, definite dangers associated with the possession of great wealth, it is important to realize that God grants to some persons the ability to make lots of money. But, to whom much is given, much is required! John Wesley taught the following regarding money: "Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can!" In other words, if God grants you the gift of gaining great wealth, it is your responsibility to be frugal (not wasteful), and to be generous (not self-indulgent and selfish and luxurious and greedy).*

*To illustrate the principle: "Sin is a perversion of a legitimate desire." G. Campbell Morgan (from whose writings I have been quoting), writes about the legitimate desire to possess material things, and how the God-given desire can be perverted and can become 'devilish'! He notes, "The desire to possess is perfectly correct, it is part of the proof of your relationship to Deity."*

*But a desire that is God-given and legitimate (as is true of all good desires) can too easily become perverted and, thus, can become very harmful – dishonoring to God, and hurtful to one's own self, and harmful to one's fellowmen. Money, for instance, which is meant to be used unselfishly to bless others, can, instead, be used to selfishly gratify one's own illegitimate passions and fantasies! Greed is the result of a wrong use of one's money and possessions!*

*Greed is "a grasping devilishness that blights everything that is human in the man and makes him cruel and hard and cynical, grinding all others to the dust that he may make his gold." (Ibid; pg. 74)*

*Ron Christian* 

**“SIN IS A PERVERSION OF A LEGITIMATE DESIRE!”  
(ILLUSTRATED CHART)**

<b>LEGITIMATE (GOD-GIVEN) DESIRES</b>	<b>MISPLACED OR PERVERTED DESIRES</b>
<b>1. Sexual Desire</b>	<b>1. Sexual Lust</b>
<b>2. Acquisitive Urge</b>	<b>2. Greed (Materialism)</b>
<b>3. Inquisitive Urge</b>	<b>3. Gossip</b>
<b>4. Desire for Food (Physical Hunger)</b>	<b>4. Gluttony</b>
<b>5. Self-Esteem</b>	<b>5. Pride</b>
<b>6. Enjoyment of Friends</b>	<b>6. Compromise of Moral Standards (Peer Pressure)</b>
<b>7. Enjoy Contemplation</b>	<b>7. Isolation From People (No Positive Witness)</b>
<b>8. Desire Justice For Wrongdoers</b>	<b>8. Pursue Vindictiveness (Hatred for Offenders)</b>
<b>9. Hate Sin Intensely</b>	<b>9. Hate Sinner Intensely (No ‘Agape’ Love)</b>
<b>10. Hate Heresy (False Doctrine)</b>	<b>10. Persecute and Destroy Heretics</b>
<b>11. Love Your Church (Loyalty)</b>	<b>11. Sectarianism and Division among True Believers</b>
<b>12. Compliment other People Sincerely</b>	<b>12. Flatter others for one’s own ulterior motives</b>
<b>13. Proper and Intelligent Fore Planning for the Future</b>	<b>13. Anxiety and Worry about the Future (lack of trust in God’s Provisional)</b>
<b>14. Enjoy Pleasurable experiences in one’s life (food, friends, family, hobbies, sexual love in marriage, out –of–doors, entertainment, etc.)</b>	<b>14. Pursue ‘Pleasure’ as the all-important goal of life, rather than focusing upon meaningful and joyous relationship with one’ Creator. (The God of Hedonism)</b>
<b>15. Pray much and often for Needs of Hurting People.</b>	<b>15. Failure to ‘reach out in love’, to practically help the ‘hurting ones’ through acts of generosity and compassion.</b>
<b>16. Laughing at the expense of others is very insensitive to the value and tender feelings of others. It is not only unkind, but is a type of ‘cruelty’ (a lack of love for one’s ‘brother’ and ‘sister; and a violation of ‘Golden Rule’). Unsanctified and coarse laughter (unwholesome jokes) is a violation of the ‘Golden Lay of Holy Lord’! Greatly grieves the God of</b>	

<p><b><i>Tenderness and Compassion! Jesus' Laughter and Humor was always pure, holy, and edifying!</i></b></p>	
<p><b><i>17. Self-Love (realized through total surrender to the Lordship of Christ, and enjoyed because one is obediently following the will and ways of Christ, and because one finds significances through humbly fitting into God's 'Master Plan' for all of life, (personal and corporate life alike). He who lovingly gives himself away to others (without selfishness calculations) or selfish calculation) is he who will find deep fulfillment through His life's involvement with people's needs.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>17. Self-Centered Love (which results in ever-increasing frustration and a sense of increasing social isolation). He, who is primarily or totally in love with himself, is he who is increasingly preoccupied with his own interests – to the exclusion of persons around theme. Therefore, the person who centers on himself rather than on God and on others will find himself despised by others! He will have no one to praise him, but himself (a very lonely person, despised by others.</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>18. Desire to dress attractively and appropriately.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>18. Vanity – Expensive clothing to proudly draw attention to one's own self.</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>19. Critical Thinker (Charitable Evaluation)</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>19. Critical spirit (Desire to 'destroy' another person)</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>20. Self-Love (Thanking God for one's God-given worth and value, to humbly minister to God's People)</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>20 Self-Centered Love (consideration of one's own self to be so important that everyone else should 'serve' one's own interests and needs). (Inflated evacuation of one's own importance and 'position' in the world of mankind).</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>21. Hate sin and evil</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>21. Hate sinners and evil persons</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>22. Embrace beliefs and doctrines that are precious to one that one thinks are Biblically based.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>22. Reject persons (Christians) whose beliefs and doctrines differ from one's own.</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>23. Open acceptance of Christians whose personal convictions and lifestyles are different from one's own. ('Ecumenical' in spirit and in actions)</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>23. Close-minded, sectarian, and exclusive towards fellow Christians who are different from one's self. (Protestants who judge the particular beliefs and religious practices of adherents of Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy)</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>24. Greatly enjoy all things that God has provided in His world, and the entertainment provided by gifted persons in the world. (Art, music, recreation, sports, etc.)</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>24. Become pleasure-obsessed and 'hedonistic' with the entertainment which the world provides, becoming self-indulgent in the pursuit of 'fun and pleasure and games and vacations', with the neglect of involvement in other person's needs.</i></b></p>

<p><i>25. Seeking conscientiously to obey all the commandments of God through sincere efforts. Involvement in many 'good works' of compassions in the causes of 'grace'!</i></p>	<p><i>25. Become more concerned about the 'letter of the law', resulting in a life of rigid legalism, judgmentalism, and lovelessness in one's approach towards people. Becoming 'law-oriented'!</i></p>
<p><i>26. Enjoying God-given' freedom' from all of one's sinful bondages, resulting in great rejoicing, and in grace-filled love for everyone.</i></p>	<p><i>26. Using one's 'freedom' in Christian living as an 'excuse' for compromise with questionable 'practices' that can lead one away from a conscientious life of holiness, resulting in a 'careless' (antinomian) lifestyle! (A prevision of God's Grace for Grace does not 'Save' a person 'in' his sins, but 'from' his sins).</i></p>
<p><i>27. Rejoicing in a definite (dated) 'Born Again' Experience, with amazing life style changes in one's daily life.</i></p>	<p><i>27. Judging one who claims to be a Christian, one without any reference to a specific (or dramatic) conversion experience. Failure to appreciate the fact that some persons slowly, but surely, come into a personal relationship with God. If a godly lifestyle is evident in a person's life, that person is 'Born Again', regardless of the means or the timing that is used by God to bring a spiritual relationship to a person.</i></p>
<p><i>28. Seeking to glorify God and to some people through acts of love, motivated only with 'pure motives' (i.e., with unselfish and with holy and compassionate motivations).</i></p>	<p><i>28. Allowing one's motives for service to become 'tainted' with some selfish motivations (i.e., choosing to seek honor and recognition for one's self, using the 'disguise' of serving others). (Accepting 'some types of 'deception', to advance one's own interests at the 'expense' of hurting others and of dishonoring God).</i></p>
<p><i>29. It is proper (legitimate) that there be honest and loving discussion and debate with a person whose views and ideas differ from one's own views and ideas. In searching for truth, one is open to the insights from other sincere persons. By searching for truth, one is open to the insights from other sincere persons. An open mind, a receptive spirit, a teachable and humble attitude, with a will-</i></p>	<p><i>29. In a 'spirit of attack', one manifests an attitude of resentment and hostility towards one's 'opponent'. Becomes negative, adversarial, judgmental, censorious, close-minded, non-co-operative in one's relationship to the person whose viewpoints one opposes. One turns a 'friend' into an 'adversary', by attacking another's personal instead of debating another's viewpoints. One becomes angry</i></p>

<p><i>ingness to make changes in one's own viewpoints – signs of a healthy mind and a reverent spirit!</i></p>	<p><i>with another person, instead of kindly disagreeing, in a reasonable manner with one's opponents.</i></p>
<p><i>30. Expressing legitimate (normal)) grief when one experiences the loss (death) of a close relative, but looking sincerely to God's Spirit for deep and gradual healing from grief itself and from the ongoing effects of friends in one's life.</i></p>	<p><i>30. Becoming so 'bowed-down' and 'devastated' with grief that the grieving one falls into a terrible state of depression, and into a state of hurtful isolation from other persons, insolation even from close 'loved ones' who desire to help but who are ejected by the grieving one. Instead of finding relief through prayer and from caring persons, the grieving one withdraws into himself, wallowing self-pity and in despair. These are the actions that lead to illness, instead of health.</i></p>
<p><i>31. Because God (according to the Bible) has given believers "all things richly to enjoy", a believer can freely and enthusiastically and legitimately embrace the many pleasures and enjoyments which God has 'built' into His vast world of wonderment, with the result that the believer becomes "lost in wonders love, and praise" as He 'feeds' his five physical senses upon God's magnificent creation! A believer realizes that God intends for Christians to take time to recreate, to vacation (to observe God's beautiful world), to retreated (to regain perspective in one's work), to laugh and to play, and to run and to jump, to hike and to explore, to dine with special friends and relatives, to create with one's hands and to construct a dozen different 'things', etc., to explore the vast beauties of God's world (oceans, plains, and mountains) will leave one awestruck! Yes, pleasure is a God-given gift, intended to enhance all of one's life!</i></p>	<p><i>31. When a person (even a believer) becomes more infatuated with the creation than he becomes infatuated with the creator, then the tragedy of 'idolatry' has taken place! When one (even a believer) becomes a 'lover of pleasure more than a lover of God', such a 'pleasure-obsessed' person has fallen away from his primary relationship with the Creator, and he has chosen to worship the Creation rather than to worship the One who has made creation for human enjoyment (but not for human worship). There are those (even professing Christians) who spend more time 'enjoying' their pets, and then they spend time worshipping their God! One, who makes 'pleasure' (recreation, sports, games, vacations) the main object (goal) of one's life, can only be described as a 'Hedonist' (not a true Christian).</i></p>
<p><i>32. The Bible declares that "God has given us all things richly to enjoy". Part of what God has given n us humans to enjoy is the abundance of the earth's fertility – delicious fruits</i></p>	<p><i>32. What is meant by God to be a great blessing to humanity can be turned into a 'curse' to man! Food is meant to be used to nurture the body of a human being, but be-</i></p>

*and vegetables, fish from the ocean, and cattle from the field, and grains from the harvests. God is the Giver of all good gifts – including the gifts of wholesome foods for the nurture of the body and for the delightful satisfaction of the taste! Because humans are made from the elements of the earth, God is pleased to give elements of the earth to nourish and sustain physical body of humans. We live and move and ‘have our very being’ – more existence and physical sustentions – all because of the love of a “faithful Creator”, whose care of humans is the care of a loving Father for His dependent children. Without the nurture, which the earth’s fertility previous, no human could neither exist nor could he be maintained. All good gifts – including the gift of nutritious food – come from the Heavenly Father, who loves and cares for His human creation! God desirous that every person (without exception) be nourished physically from the abundance of the earth’s resources. There is enough food for all of the inhabitants of the earth, and when there are some who seriously lack food; it is due to human selfishness or improper distribution of food!*

*cause of the consumption of too much food, or the consumption of the wrong kinds of food (high in fats and seasoned with too much salt), obesity results! The metabolism of the body becomes unbalanced, and the body eventually becomes subject to the invasion of various diseases – stress, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart problems, gout, indigestion, and possibly even cancer, etc. Unfortunately there are many Christians who have failed to “curb their appetite”, and who have become over weight, and thus they have subjected themselves to a variety of serious diseases (especially the disease of diabetes). These sincere, but ‘out-of-control’ (over weight) Christians are gradually destroying the ‘temple of God’ (i.e., their human body) because of their lack of discipline regarding their ‘habits of eating’! Many of these Christians have an ‘abounding appetite’, with no apparent desire to bring their appetite under God’s control. They not only eat too much food, but they choose to eat food that is ‘high in fats, sugar, and salt’ – a recipe for disaster (heart attacks and diabetes and strokes)! Many are “addicted to chocolate” and to pop that is very high in sugar content! Other Christians are nearly addicted to alcoholic drinks – and they could easily become alcoholics! All of these practices result from perverting God’s good gift of food!*

*33. Food is not to be despised, if it is received in the spirit of thanksgiving and of gratitude! If God’s blessing is upon the food, then one is to greatly enjoy his food, along with the members of his beloved family. Jesus often partook of food with His friends, and Jesus enjoyed food and drink often, as a result of his invitations from various persons and from*

*33. The glutton is a person who has lost control in the consumption of his food, with the result that he usually is considerably over weight and he is thus the subject to bodily disorders and probably disease (and often a pre-mature death). Such a person, who is undisciplined in his ‘eating habits’ is likely to be undisciplined in other practices in his life.*

*companies of person at special parties and celebrations. His first miracle was performed at a wedding feast. He loved to visit, to listen, and to laugh at dinner parties! Yes, Jesus at times fasted (went without food, in order to spend time in prayer), but Jesus was not an ascetic (that is, one who refrained from the joys of people who ate and drank and enjoyed the 'good things of life'). Jesus embraced all of life, including "eating and drinking and being merry" with persons whose company He enjoyed. Yes, Jesus was "a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief" (For He came to save a lost race of persons), but Jesus never despised the rich gifts of His Heavenly Provider – food and drink to nourish the human body! Jesus enjoyed eating so much that His critics called Him a gluttonous man! But, of course, He wasn't a glutton, for Jesus was the most controlled man on earth.*

*Because 'self-control' is one of the faults of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), his remedy for his gluttony is found in total surrender to the person and to the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit! The Bible condemns the serious sin of gluttony, and declares that the gluttonous man is possible headed for financial poverty (because of the tendency of a gluttonous man to become lazy and unemployed). "O my son, be wise and stay in God's paths; don't carouse with drunkards and gluttons, for they are on their way to poverty." (Proverbs 23:19, Living Bible) There is probably a 'countless' number of professing Christians whose 'besetting sin' is overeating, leading to overweight. A serious problem, for the Bible condemns 'gluttony' as a sin against the human body. Such Christians are trying hard (in many cases) to find deliverance from their debilitating problem, and many believers will find deliverance through the enabling power of the Spirit. Our God of love understands the weaknesses, which His children, family, and He is "a present help in time of need"! But for those God-rejecters who are living for the 'pleasures of flesh' (including large consumption of food), there rests upon them the 'condemnation of God'! For those who have made food (appetite) their 'God', their future is eternal loss (unless they forsake their pagan god)!*

*34. While it is true that "life does not consist in the abundance of things which a man possesses", it is also true to say (from Biblical teaching) that there is nothing inherently wrong for a person to possess large amounts of money which is true to say that one who possesses much money faces some serious dangers to himself (dangers such as temptations to pride and self-suffering and selfish*

*34. Money, of course, is not inherently evil! It is how one uses his money that determines whether his money is a 'means' or 'whole') to do good or to do harm to one's fellowman! Money can be used to do unspeakable good or unspeakable evil, to advance the Kingdom of God or to advance the kingdom of the devil! It is when one begins to 'love money' that one becomes no longer a disciple of Christ,*

greed), it is also true to say that the man who possesses honesty earned and honestly spent wealth is given the God-allowed opportunity to help many needy people, by means of his wealth! To whom much is given (in terms of financial wealth), much is required! Great is the temptation to wrongly and to selfishly use one's great wealth, but it is also true that great is the opportunity to bless a countless number of poor and oppressed and ill and suffering persons! The rich man (in Jesus' parable) had the opportunity to bring healing to poor Lazams, but instead he selfishly kept his wealth to himself – and Lazarus died as a result! "Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone, but their pride and trust should be in the living God who always richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. They should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity!" (I Timothy 6:17-19)

but instead a disciple of materialism! "People who long to be rich soon begin to do all kinds of wrong things to get money, things that hurt them and make them evil-minded and finally send them to hell itself. For the love of money is the first step toward all kinds of sin. Some people have even turned away from God because of their love for it, and as a result have pierced themselves with many sorrows." (I Timothy 6:9-10) One who worships money (and what money can buy) is a Materialist! He lives only for this world (and for the 'goods) of this world), and he has no 'compulsion' to live his life in light of eternity. He knows the 'price' of everything, and the 'value' of nothing! He fails to understand that 'life does not consist in the abundance of things or of money'! He says to all around him, "Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die!" but, he fails to realize that Materialism is a 'Dead-End Road': (1) because of the inheritability of laboriously-gained riches, (2) because riches cause sleepless nights, (3) Because riches Can be easily lost, (4) Because money cannot be taken with you when you die, (5) Because material possessions do not have the ability to satisfy the inner longing of the Soul. Money is either a wonderful 'servant' or a cruel 'tyrant'. It all depends on your attitude, and on how you use your money! For yourself or for your God!"

35. One of the 'basic emotions' that humans possess, as a result of the special creation, is the emotion of 'Anger'! As important (and legitimate) as this emotion is – an emotion that under God's control can motivate a believer to campaign against many social injustices – this emotion is nevertheless a very 'dangerous emotion potentially. The great

35. The Bible is most practical with the advice it gives regarding what one should do with his anger. There is no denial that anger is a 'leading emotion' – an emotion that is most dangerous if it is not brought under control by the powerful Holy Spirit. Most, perhaps everyone expresses 'anger' at one time or another, and for one reason or an-

*campaigners (again social 'evils' like slavery) have known how to 'whip up' their anger for 'holy causes'! This includes the famous Abraham Lincoln whose anger against the practice of human slavery was great indeed! His anger was God-controlled! He hated the cruel institution of slavery, and, at the same time, he loved the 'socially blinded' and the 'spiritually enslaved' slaveholders, including the thousands of soldiers who fought on the side of the 'South' (in defense of slavery). One who is God-directed must be intensely angry with sin (and with the horrible consequences which sin has brought to spiritually-enslaved sinners), but one must never be angry with the sinners, whose actions have brought much hurt to others around them and hurt to one's own self. Jesus never retaliated against those who hurt Him, but (on the other hand) Jesus often expressed anger toward those (religious leaders) who oppressed the weak and the vulnerable ones! Jesus expressed 'Righteous Indignation'!*

*other. One sign of growing maturity in the Christian life is evidenced by a believer quickly surrendering to God's anger (as a result of his unfair and unjust treatment by an 'enemy'). When a believer quickly surrendering to God his anger (as a result of his unfair and unjust treatment by an (enemy). When a believer finds that his emotion of anger is provoked, as a result of a person's unjust treatment of him, what is he to do? Simply deny that he feels anger welling up inside of him? No, for that is denial and this is a dishonest response to the God-created emotion of anger! To suppress his anger or to deny this emotion is to do one's self-psychological (mental) harm. No, the right way to deal with anger is to admit its presence, and then (in humility) to surrender this emotion quickly to the Heavenly Father (who understands everything and everyone)! Pray for the offender! Comment him to God! Ask the Spirit to cleanse you of all unrighteousness. Act in love toward your offender, and breath a pray for him often. God's anger is pure, and He will exercise His own vengeance against all evil doers! Don't live with anger (bitterness) against anyone. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay", says the Lord! Cease from anger, and live by love – for friends and enemies.*

*36. The race that God created was created with a very strong "Social Instinct" – that is, an instinct to associate with fellow humans. A desire to know others in various ways, but especially through 'verbal communication'. God has created persons with a deep desire to know other human beings. Of Adam, God said, "It is not good that man should be alone. I will make for him a 'helpmate'!" Of course, one of the great motivations for a single man or a single woman to be married, is to have a*

*36. What God has created to be a wonderful characteristic of humans, namely, the desire to know and to be known in human society (marriage, family, friends, acquaintances), this instinct (drive) can so easily become 'perverted' and can even become the 'vehicle' for sinful action! Instead of talking to people, one can begin to talk about people ('behind their back', unknown to the person about whom one is talking). Instead of one's tongue being used to share edifying 'news'*

*lifetime 'helpmate' - person who will be a partner, a companion, a confident, someone with whom he/she can share the deepest feelings of his/her heart! In sorrow or in happiness, someone who will be faithful and true, loving and understanding! But the 'social instinct' is manifest in almost every context, in addition to the marriage relationship. Everyone wants a friend - a person who is open to sharing all the basic information of life - the 'who, when, where, How, Why' of a friend's life, in order to 'know' him well, and to know him more and more as a result of a growing relationship. A desire 'to know and to be known' - that is one of the greatest characteristics of human existence!*

*with another, it is possible for one to begin total partial truths or even outright lies about someone (perhaps about a one-time 'friend' whom one has unfortunately turned into a virtual 'enemy' - because of a misunderstanding). When one time friends break up (because of disagreements or because of emotional hurts), the tongue can so easily be wed, not to express forgiveness for misunderstanding to bring about reconciliation, but the tongue can be used 'spread gossip', and to 'slander', and to inflict all kinds of hurt and harm! In this case, 'social instinct' has been perverted and untold damage in relationships results. The tongue (that God created as a 'tool' for the expression of love and satisfaction) can be used (by the devil) to destroy the reputation of another, resulting in the breakdown of all meaningful social relationship! The tongue expresses love or hate!*

*37. There is an inbuilt, God-given 'acquisit urge' within human beings. God created a material (physical) world, for the benefit, pleasure and 'ownership' of mankind. God created physical world, and therefore all things belong to God, but the God of love made material things for the purpose of man's enjoyment, and as a gift to mankind, and to mankind (as a steward of God) to 'possess' and to 'mange' all things for glory of God and for the good of mankind. 'right to own private property' is a right that is given to mankind by God, and it is a right that human government is to deny to human beings. This right to private ownership is a God-given (inalienable) right, and it is to be respected by governing authorities. The world, and all things that dwell therein belongs to the Creator, but because the Creator inherently is Love, the Creator wills generously to give material gifts to His cr*

*37. If one gets his eyes off God, he can become infatuated with money, and with what money can buy. Money and the possession of material things become the purpose for which one lives, with a serious failure of recognizing that "life does not often consist in the abundance of things which a man possesses." Having a love of money, because of what money can give one's self, in terms of pleasure, power, and popularity! Failure to realize that, just as a person me into this world with not even a penny, so no one who leaves this world cannot take a single penny with them! Failure to realize that 'money' is a great servant with the capacity to help many persons', 'money can become a great tyrant with the capacity to hurt many people' when money is selfishly spent on one's own indulgence rather than spent on one's*

tures, and these creatures are to properly manage God's 'things', and to personally find much 'pleasure' in the varnishing of God's material 'treasures' – never forgetting the 'source' of all the 'good things' which are designed by the Creator to bring great delight to the hearts of humankind and obedient followers of the Loving Creator!

poor fellowmen. When the purchase of lands and houses and stocks/bonds becomes the obsession of the greedy/grasping hand of a one-time Christian person, then a legitimate 'urge' (desire) has become a perverted 'urge' (greed), and the person (Christian) who bows his knees before the 'god of materialism' has destroyed his own soul, and he is headed for eternal destruction. (See I Timothy 6:9)

38. There is a universal desire among humans' to pursue knowledge of God's vast world, with a desire to experience wisdom, understanding, and discernment in the use of that knowledge, to be used for the purpose of glorifying the God of all knowledge and for the purpose of lovingly serving one's fellowman. The Word of God exhorts humans to seek knowledge, and in all one's seeking of knowledge, to also seek wisdom and understanding! There is an innate quest for knowledge to explore all the amazing 'branches' of God's vast storehouse of truth! "Knowledge is power" – not power to exploit others with one's knowledge, but power (understanding) to better serve others with one's knowledge, in the spirit of and sensitivity. One must discover one's own unique 'spirited gifts', and then to use those abilities to edify the 'Body of Christ' (individual members of the Church). Jesus is to be the 'Lord' of all – including one's mind! The sincere follower of Christ seeks constantly to be transformed (changed towards greater Christlikeness) by the Renewing of his Mind! (Romans 12:1)

38. One (even a Christian) can become personally prove that he/she has achieved high levels of knowledge – 'intellectual snobbery' –and, thus, he/she can become selfconscious and self-serving and self-centered in the practical use of one's knowledge – rather than remaining self-giving and compassionate in the use of one's knowledge. Failure to realize God's evaluation regarding intellectual opportunities, namely, Knowledge Puffs Up but Love Builds Up! "To whom much is given (intellectually), much is required (in special service to others)." God hates pride in all of its forms – including 'intellectual pride'! We (believers) are always to "walk humbly before our God." "What have you (an intellectually talented person) that you did not receive? If then you received (your intellectual abilities), why do you boast as if you did not receive your intellectual gifts?). The holy life (of Christlikeness) is always the humble life! All that one has, and all that one is, has come from the hand of a generous God! Therefore, there is never a 'place' for intellectual boasting! All knowledge will pass away, but love abides forever. (See I Corinthians 13)

39. God commanded Adam and Eve (in the beginning of human history) to replenish the earth – to populate the planet through the sexual union of man and female (husband

39. If 'sexual attraction' (towards a man or a woman whom one seriously desires to become a spouse) is God-given and is most legitimate and 'normal', when what can one

and wife). Therefore, it is obvious that the God-implanted sexual instinct' was for the purpose of giving birth to a new human life, and thus to fulfill God's specific command to bring new prodigy into the world. If there was no such phenomenon as sexual passion (drives) between man and woman, there would obviously be no act of sexual union, and certainly, the human race would vanish from the face of the earth! The attraction between a man and a woman is obviously deeper than the attraction of beauty (female and handsomeness (male). There is no sin in 'sexual attraction' for the 'opposite sex', for God gave young unmarried men and woman that 'strong attraction' for each other! It is possible (and important) for a young (Christian) man to feel a strong attraction for the lady that he loves (and that attraction includes a deep desirer – after his wedding – to 'Know' her sexually! However, as a man who loves her deeply, he has chosen (by the strength of the Spirit) to wait until his 'wedding night' to experience the glorious (spiritual) mystery of sexual consummation. He knows that God's commandments are relevant, and he knows that 'love can wait' for the proper time to surrender his body to his lover!

conclude is a perversion of 'sexual attractive? It is 'sexual lust' – that is, the desire to use the body of another person to experience personal sexual gratification! There are many manifestations of 'fleshly living', but one of the most evident manifestations is 'lust' and 'sexual passion'. There probably is no greater act of selfishness than the act of exploiting the body (and the entire life) of a woman who is not one's wife! Lust is totally self-centered, for the lust-driven man has no other goal other than the goal of using the sex organs of a woman to gratify his own passing passion he makes no long-term commitment to the woman with whom he has a brief encounter! Women are totally 'functionary' – to be used and to be discarded. Then the passion-filled man ('exploiter') can proceed to the next woman whom he intends to woe, to dominate, and to use for his own insidious purpose! His 'God' is sex, and therefore he can be called a 'sensualist' – a man who lives by his 'flesh', his uncontrolled sexual passions! He has abandoned the sacred gift of God, and he has chosen instead to drag the beautiful and sacred gift of sex 'in the mud' commits adultery is an utter fool, for he has destroyed his own soul."

40. There is a God-given 'instinct' (desire) for a person (created in God's image) to reflect God's image by the way he appears - physically. It is no sin for a person (especially for a Christian) to look as beautiful as he/she can – outwardly and physically. To dress handsomely and beautifully can be an outward reflection of one's God-given dignity a dignity that is patterned after the God of all dignity and order and beauty! Because the hu-

40. It is possible for one (for even a Christian) to unduly 'focus' on his/her outward beauty to the exclusion of focusing on the development of the beauty of one's inward character! The most (physically) beautiful person in the world, will (with the passage of time) become old in his/her body – with the accompanying bodily signs of aging! Even person is made 'of the dust', and every person in time will return to the dust after physical death!

*man body is called, 'the temple of the Holy Spirit' – the sacred location of the Spirit of God during man's pilgrimage on earth – no person (especially a Christian) will ever intentionally do harm to his/her body. One's body is never to be mistreated by his/her body. One's body is must never be mistreated by careless, deliberate action such as: by over-eating, by under eating, by improper eating, by neglect of adequate exercise, by over-work, by under sleep or by careless us of harmful drugs, etc... Christianity teaches that the human body is not to be despised (on one hand), and not to be worshiped (on the other hand). Rather, the human body is to be 'cherished' as a God-given gift, to be used as an 'instrument' of righteousness to serve the Kingdom of God! Honor God by the way you use your body – never for unholy (licentious) purposes, but only for Christ-glorify use. "You are not your own, but you belong to God. Therefore, glorify God in your body" – and let others enjoy your bodily presence – in holy love.*

*"It is appointed unto all persons, once to die." How futile to spend large amounts of money, to attempt to be transformed to the looks of a young person! Those who 'live for the physical appearance of their body', have not properly faced their own 'mortality', and they have not realized their 'call' in life to enhance their inner beauty (beauty of a godly character). For a woman to spend her time trying to 'imitate' the beauty of her youth is to waste valuable time. She depletes her energy, which should be expended on preparation for eternity – an eternity in heaven that has indescribable beauty, and unlimited pleasures, and undying and ever young spiritual bodies! To focus exclusively on earthly physical beauty (trying to find the 'secret' to unfading beauty) is to focus on that which inevitably perishes!*

## CHAPTER 45

# “BIRD-EYE VIEW OF REALITY!”

*I have, throughout my long life, sought to eat right and to exercise right (I have consistently involved myself in running a few miles almost every day, since my teen years). However, an event took place when I was 68 years old – an event that caused me to ‘face my mortality’. Simply stated, I discovered a dime-shaped mole on the outer, upper right arm (a ‘spot’ that I could not even see with my own ‘bare eyes’). My wife told me about it, but I could only see it when I viewed it in my mirror. I dismissed this ‘spot’ as insignificant, but I thought I probably should mention it to my family doctor, at the end of my complete physical examination (April 2012). My doctor quickly viewed the dime-shaped black spot, but he said it was nothing to be concerned about. Well, I thought nothing about it – until, about 10 months after seeing my doctor, the little spot began to bleed, and finally that spot became a large erupting, bloody ‘mess’! My wife, of course, insisted that I go to the doctor, but I told her that there was nothing to be concerned about, since he told me the same message, a few months before. Finally, after she continued to insist, I went to the doctor (who had serviced me medically, for the last 30 years). When he took the covering off of the bleeding sore, he said that it ‘looked angry’, and he said that he must soon operate on it – to remove this ‘angry sore’. Two days later, after he removed the ‘angry sore’ (a simple surgery performed in his own office), he said he was ‘baffled’ as to what was the nature of the sore! However, he assured me that he was quite sure that it was not a melanoma (skin cancer). However, after he received the pathology report (two days later), he called me and sadly informed me that, indeed, it was a melanoma! He was troubled, and he began to tell me that the seriousness of this diagnosis could result in surgeries (removing lymph nodes) and chemo treatments, etc. Of course, my wife and my daughter (who was present when I received the call) and myself were all ‘shaken’ by the ‘bad news’. I soon began to think of the ‘worst’ – eventual termination of my life (death). It was a few days later that I visited a specialist (surgeon) who told me that the diagnosis (pathologist report) was ‘troubling’. He said that the fact that the melanoma was quite ‘deep’ into the skin (which has five layers), and the fact that the ‘sore’ bled rather profusely – these two facts meant that this situation could be serious. Before I left his office, this specialist said that frankly he was ‘troubled’. Of course, my sense of the ‘brevity’ and the ‘uncertainty’ of life - my own ‘mortality’ - filled my mind. However, I must say, to the ‘glory of God’, that, in spite of my understandable ‘fears’, I sensed a certain wonderful (God-given) peace. I said to myself, “Even though I have tried hard to live a healthy life (trying to keep my heart and lungs and circulatory system in ‘good shape’ though my consistent running), maybe God does not desire for me to live a long life (into my late 80’s or 90’s like my ancestors). I began to remember the scores of persons whom I loved on earth, who are now in heaven. I had written quite a lot about heaven (and had recorded hundreds of quotations about heaven). Maybe now it was time for me to leave the family I loved, and to meet my blessed Savior. The surgeon (specialist) said he would have to take a lot of my arm skin (where cancer probably resided), as well as one of my lymph nodes. Three days after the extensive surgery, the pathology report came into the hands of my primary physician, and even though I was not home at the time, he called my wife and told her that NO cancer was found - ANYWHERE – that I had a ‘Clean Bill of Health’! He said, “Praise the*

*Lord!" My wife called me while I was traveling in a car with my brother, a few miles from home, and my brother and I could hardly believe the 'good report'! The burden that was lifted from me was more than I can put in words! Scores spent time in prayer for my healing!*

*Do you believe in: The Power of prayer? Healing from God?  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*

**"OPEN SECRETS TO PERSONAL RENEWAL!"**

Do you have a strong 'inner drive' to grow in your personal life? It is said of Jesus, "that He grew in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and Man." Balanced growth, physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual growth! Are you personally 'reaching for higher ground'? After a lifetime of very fruitful ministry as a highly respected missionary/teacher/preacher/writer, E. Stanley Jones said (toward the end of his long life of nearly 90 years), "The best that I can say about myself is that I am 'only a Christian in the making'; I am not yet 'fully made'". He then stated that the most wonderful thing about the Christian life is the 'joy of becoming'! Becoming a more loving servant among suffering human beings, and becoming a person who is 'more Christ like' in character! No 'list' of steps (for maturing in life) is 'complete', but (after much personal 'soul-searching') the following 'secrets for personal renewal' were deposited in my mind (perhaps by the Spirit of enlightenment). We, too, can be a 'Christian-in-the-making' – maturing every day!

1. **KEEP FREE OF BITTERNESS!** "Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives." (Hebrews 12:15)
2. **KEEP YOURSELF FREE FROM THE COMPETITIVE 'RAT RACE'!** Do not compare yourself with others. Be content with what you have! Enjoy the simple lifestyle.
3. **KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING BRIGHTLY!** Make your home a 'haven of rest', a place of solace and comfort where all in your family can build a wholesome self-esteem through unconditional love and positive affirmations and creative family projects.
4. **KEEP LAUGHTER ALIVE IN YOUR LIFE!** Develop a good sense of humor! Do not take yourself too seriously! A hearty laugh can do 'wonders' for you. Never laugh at people, but laugh with people. Enjoy 'clean' jokes!
5. **KEEP A 'CLEAR CONSCIENCE' BY DAILY CONFESSING ANY KNOWN SIN IN YOUR LIFE!** Remember: "If we confess our sins to God, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong because Christ died to wash away our sins." (I John 1:9)
6. **KEEP DIVERSION AND VARIETY IN YOUR LIFE!** Someone said, "Variety is the spice of life!" God created a world full of variety, so God is pleased when we enjoy variety in life. Try something new or do the same thing differently. Do not be afraid of failure. A worse failure is never trying anything new. Visit a new neighbor! Put aside your 'natural timidity', and reach out and show