

Raising the Bar

Presented by Shane Lewis
August 4, 2013

Lowered morality and consequences

- Wealth gap between rich and poor, declining middle class. Love of materialism. Greed
- Abuse of alcohol, drugs and prescription medication, excessive eating. Gluttony
- Sexual abuse, misconduct by officials and politicians, rape cases in military, growing acceptance of homosexuality and other deviant lifestyles. Lust

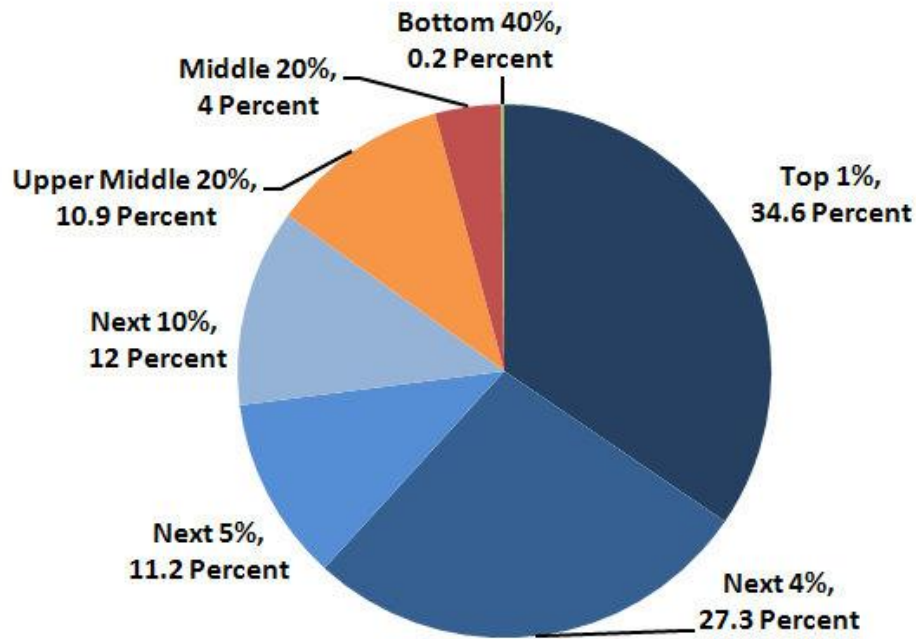
Greed- love of money, desire for excessive material items



Mat 6:24 No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. NIV

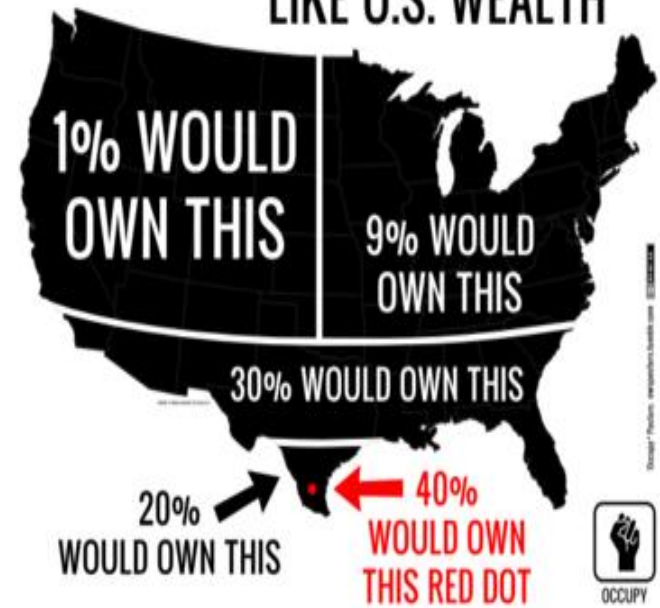
Mat 19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. KJV

U.S. Distribution of Wealth, 2007



Edward N. Wolff, 2010

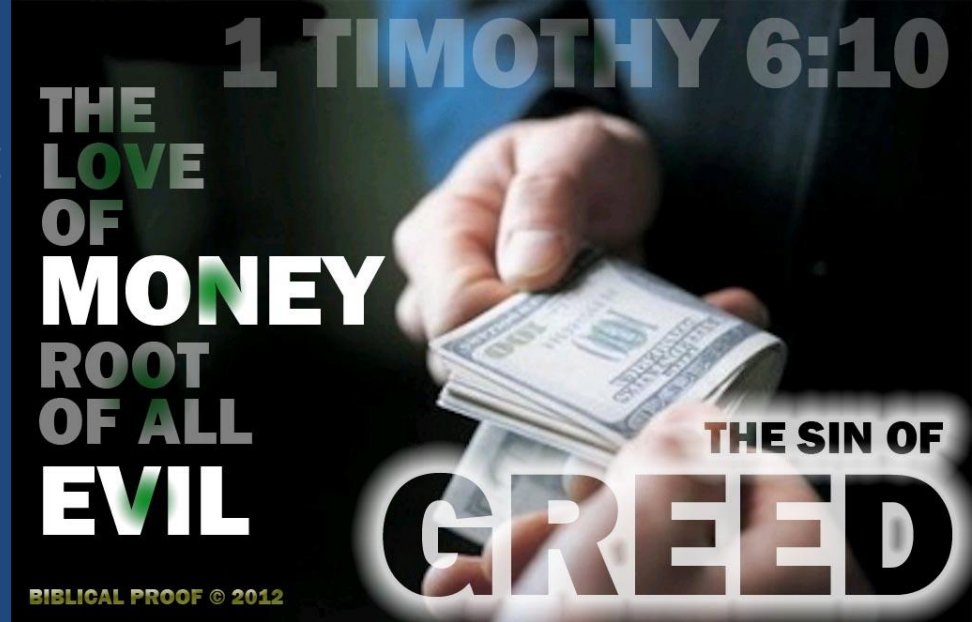
IF U.S. LAND MASS WERE DIVIDED
LIKE U.S. WEALTH



Ecc 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. KJV

Pro 17:5 Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished. KJV

1Ti 6:10 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. KJV



Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. KJV

Gluttony – drunkenness, drug abuse, excessive eating



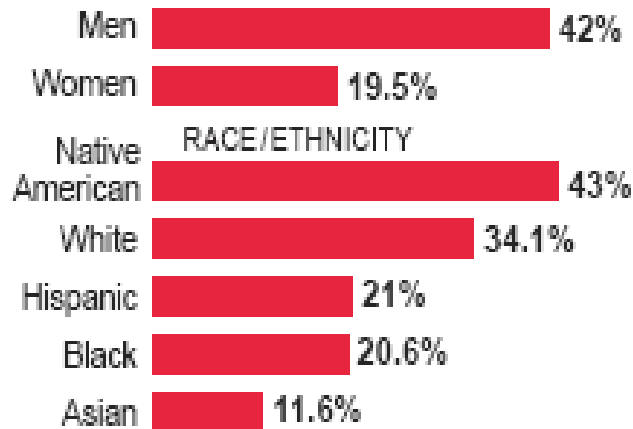
- Similar to greed; excessive substance for the body.
- Lack of self control, dependence on drugs (alcoholism) rather than asking God for help.

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess;
but be filled with the Spirit; KJV

Alcohol abuse high

Rates for alcohol abuse and alcoholism were found to be highest in men and in Native Americans, as reported in a new government study.

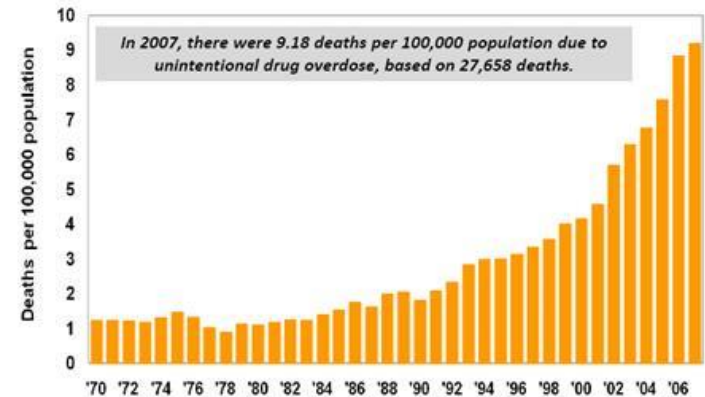
Percentage of Americans suffering from alcohol abuse or alcoholism in their lifetime



SOURCE: American Medical Association

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Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths United States, 1970-2007



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Unintentional Drug Poisoning in the United States* (July 2010).

Pro 23:20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:



Pro 23:21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. KJV

- Some alcohol is permitted
- Jesus turned water to wine. John 2: 1-25
- Do not abuse alcohol, food, drugs, medication, to the point of losing self control
- Instructions given to deacons, we should all live by.

Titus 1:7-8 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. NIV

Lust- strong physical desire for sex



1 Cor 7: 2-3

2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.

3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. NIV

Marriage = 1 man + 1 woman

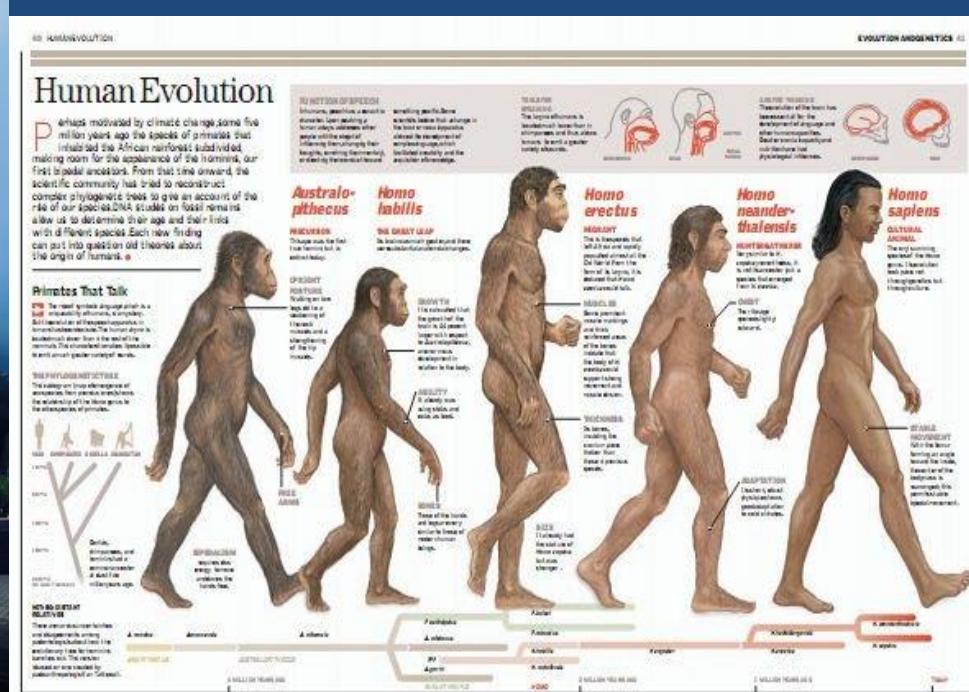
Heb 13:4 Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. KJV

- Sex only allowed between married: 1 man + 1 woman
- Any sexual conduct outside of marriage is sin
- Summary of Leviticus 18, regarding sexuality
- Do not have sex with: relatives, in-laws, members of same gender, animals.

Some do not believe in the Bible, others are leaving. They think they know best; and that people should do **whatever** makes them happy, without consequence.

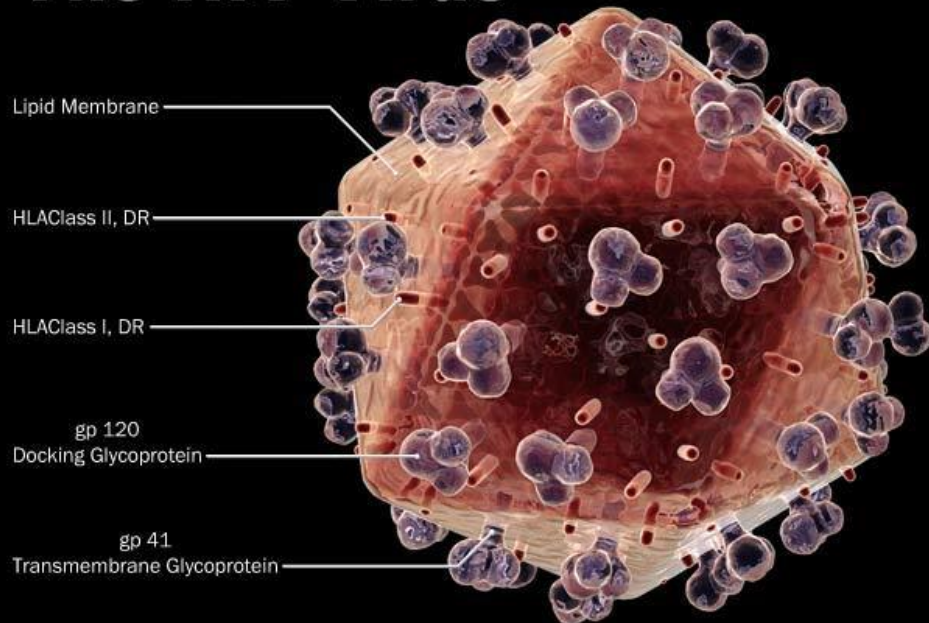
Romans 1: 24-27 NIV

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.



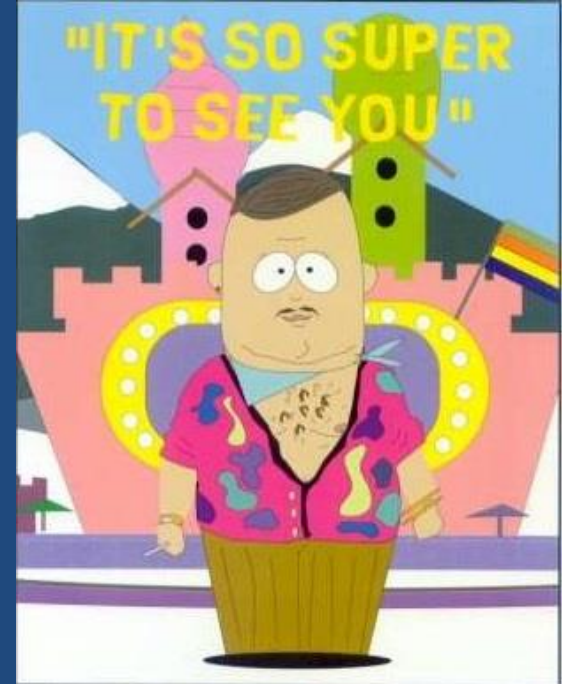
²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

The HIV Virus



Homosexuality is a sin.

- What makes it a sin? Why is something wrong?
- It is wrong if God says it is wrong!

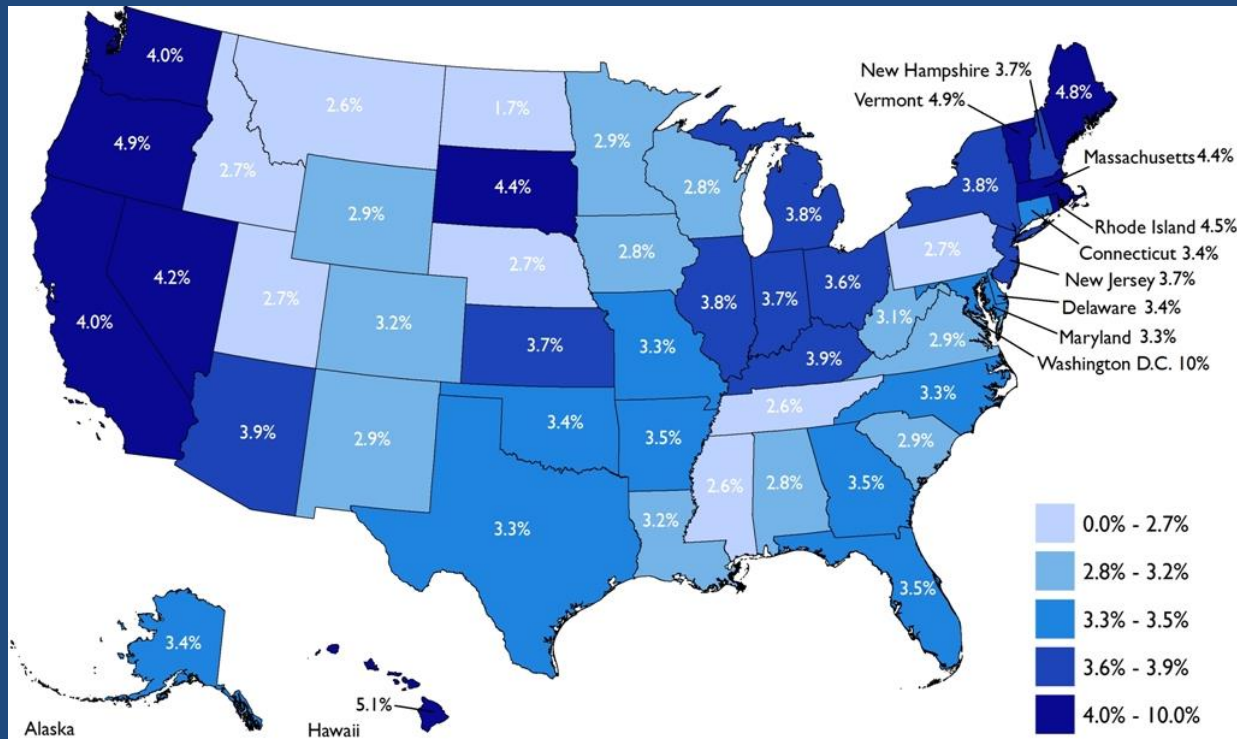


Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. KJV

- Plain summery: A man shall not have sex with another man, it is an abomination.

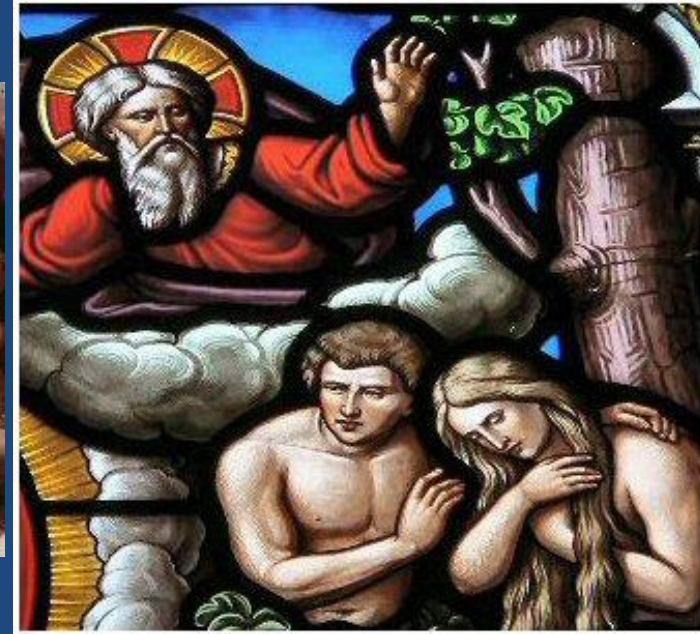
Homosexual's argument: It occurs in nature.

- Animals have no sense of morality or self control
- Animals mount anything that doesn't kick them off
- There are humans who behave this way, some of whom are in prison for rape!



Percentage of LGBT Population, by state (Source: Gallup, 2013)

God created man in His image



Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. KJV

- Created in God's image: we must follow His law
- We are not to behave like animals!

The news overly excited on pope Francis quote on homosexuality:
"If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?"
- Pope Francis, July 28, 2013



Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged:
condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive,
and ye shall be forgiven: KJV

- We are not able to judge who goes to Hell for sins.
- Not judging does not = acceptance or approval
- Only God can make final judgment and offer forgiveness for sins

Some have been quick to judge

- Protests at soldier's funerals, for government allowing open homosexuality in military
- Picketing, destruction and violence in protest.
- What did would Jesus do?



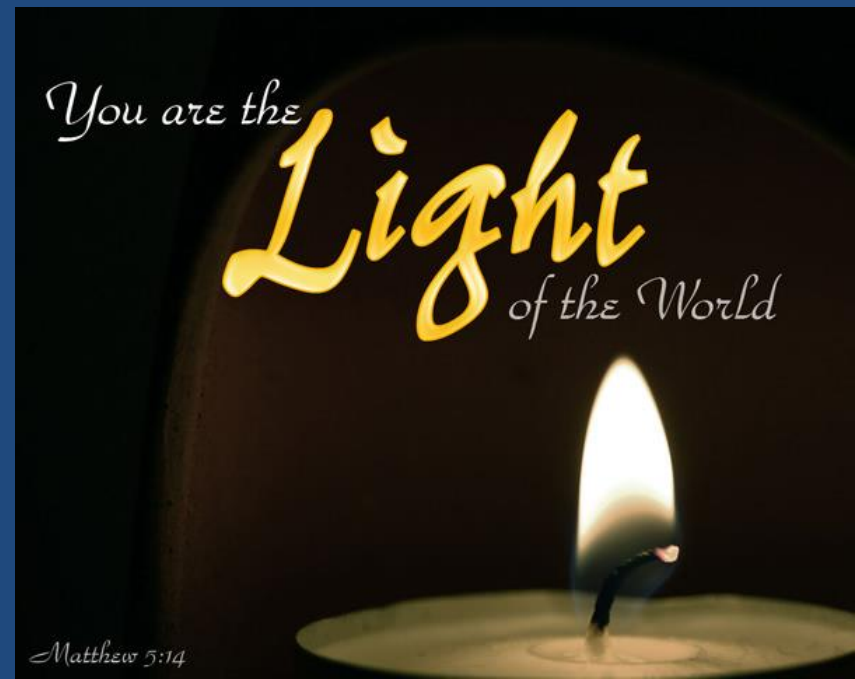
John 8: 1-12 adulteress woman

- “Who is without sin, cast the first stone” v7
- Does not condemn
- Gives her a chance to repent.
- “go, sin no more.” v11

Light of the World

- People unlikely to respond to the gospel while having to dodge stones. Don't fight fire with fire, but with water of baptism.
- Drop stones, get tools, Bibles, build better society
- Persuade people to Christ through good works

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. KJV



Born this way?

- Born with choice of good or evil. Genesis 3
- Susceptible to temptation. Lifelong struggle.
- Choose to repent, follow Jesus

1 Cor 6: 9-11 NASB

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

What will you choose?

Will you continue
living in sin;
contributing to moral
decay?

Or

Will you confess, repent, be
baptized for the forgiveness
of sins; live a faithful life,
and help raise the bar?



Let your need be known. The Church is here to help.