

# Why I Am a Christian – 1. The Influence of Christianity on the World in Morality

What was the world like in AD 33?

Emperor Tiberius (AD 14-37) had nude women wait on tables while he dined. Emperor Caligula (AD 37-41) committed incest with all of his sisters. Titus, Domitian, Commodus kept eunuchs, committed incest and maintained harems of hundreds of concubines, respectively.

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Greek and Roman homosexuality was primarily pedophilia – sexual relations between men and boys.

Sexual relations were displayed publically by the Greeks and Romans on their bowls, lamps, vases, and pictures and were engaged in publically, similar to the behavior of animals, as often occurred in Greece and Rome.

The drawings on the walls of Pompeii (destroyed in AD 79) were so lurid, King Frances I of Naples had them locked away, to be viewed only by “mature individuals of respected morals.”

“Tertullian (Apology chpt. 39) writes a fairly explicit account of the practice and singles out Socrates and Cato as freely lending out their wives to their friends.”

Strabo gives the following account: "...that it is counted lawful among them (the Tapyrians) to give away their wives to other men after they have had two or three children by them: As Cato in our time, upon the request of Hortensius, gave him his wife Marcia, according to the old custom of the Romans".

Emperor Augustus' marriage to Livia (39 BC) took place when she was already pregnant with the future Emperor Tiberius. Livia's previous husband, Tiberius' natural father, gave her away the wedding

Bestiality had no religious, moral, social or cultural stigma and is often portrayed on artifacts.

Into this age of licentiousness  
comes the law of Jesus Christ,  
through his apostles.

Sex outside of marriage was  
immoral.

Heb 13:4 Let marriage be held in  
honor among all, and let the  
marriage bed be undefiled; for  
fornicators and adulterers God will  
judge.

Over a period of centuries, the Western world was civilized by Christian values. Laws were passed prohibiting adultery, sodomy, pedophilia, homosexuality and bestiality.

Why? Because of God's word.

1Co 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall 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, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And 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.

1Co 6:16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH." (17) But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (18) Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her ... (27) that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. (28) So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; (29) for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

Augustine (5<sup>th</sup> century) said the Romans despised Christians because they opposed their unrestrained sexual lifestyles.

But we are turning away from Biblical teachings.

In 1998 the *Psychological Bulletin* a publication of the American Psychological Association published an article stating “adult-adolescent sex has been commonplace cross-culturally and historically, often in socially sanctioned forms, and may fall within the ‘normal’ range of sexual behaviors.”

At present, our President and our Governor, and many in our state are proponents of the marriage of Sodomites and the abortion of children.

Look at the rest of the “great” religions of the world – Hinduism, Islam, or Buddhism.

The Hindi Indian woman's position in the society further deteriorated during the medieval period when Sati (burning widows alive on their husbands funeral pyres), child marriages and a ban on widow remarriages became part of social life among some communities in India.

British missionaries began educating women. They abolished sati in 1829 and outlawed child marriages (minimum of 14) in 1929.

Hinduism maintains an inequality based on skin color and a grinding poverty based on a belief that those who suffer deserve it because of sins in a previous life.

Even today, these beliefs are so ingrained, it is difficult to get Hindu converts to visit another's house.

In Buddhism, “women are capable of spiritual progress but must be reborn male in order to attain final spiritual liberation.”

In Islam, interpretations of the Qu'ran differ widely, but laws of dress, marriage, work and access to education and health care are widely restricted in most Islamic societies.

The Koran would replace a religion of love and care for others with cruelty (justification of suicide bombers) and the female half of the world's population would sink to levels of slaves or even dogs.

Islam counsels earthly war with all who oppose it.

Qu'ran 2.191 And kill them wherever you find them, and drive them out from whence they drove you out, and persecution is severer than slaughter, and do not fight with them at the Sacred Mosque until they fight with you in it, but if they do fight you, then slay them; such is the recompense of the unbelievers.

Qu'ran 9.29 Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in the latter day, nor do they prohibit what Allah and His Apostle have prohibited, nor follow the religion of truth, out of those who have been given the Book, until they pay the tax in acknowledgment of superiority and they are in a state of subjection.

Qu'ran 5.51 O you who believe! do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them; surely Allah does not guide the unjust people.

The morality of Jesus Christ rises above the morass in which the world was wallowing at His arrival.

Gal 4:4 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, (5) in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (6) And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Mat 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. (29) "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.