

THE SLIP IN MORALS
By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" Matt.. 5:8.

History records that the downfall of every nation was preceded by a steady decline of morals. The Bible records, *"Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people"* Prov. 14:34. This warning spells great grief for any nation that ignores the results of sin. Our nation is in an unprecedented rush to slaughter everything decent in word and deed. Certainly, the devil is behind it all with many helpers working together to bring about our national disgrace. Let's see if we can spot some of the causes.

For a start, how about **THE POOR EXAMPLE OF TODAY'S PARENTS.** In many homes, great parental example and leadership has broken down. The offspring of any family will closely resemble that which they see in their parents. Playboy fathers and unfaithful mothers flash a tragic picture to impressionistic children. The moral antics of today's adults have not only scarred the morals of our next generation but are often a picture of the sad lack of moral commitment in their parents. as well. My father used to say, "Monkey see, monkey do". My parents were a consistent example of purity and unquestioned obedience to the Word of God. I cannot remember one moral compromise I ever saw on their part as they raised me. I will be eternally thankful for their warnings and guidance to preserve me from the evils of the day. I think today's parents who slip morally, not only endanger their children but even their children's children.

Second, there is **LITTLE EFFORT TO PROTECT THE HOME FROM TODAY'S**

FILTH. Our present day homes possess radios, record and tape players, CDs, TV sets and VCRs. Most parents do little to stem the flood tide of entertainment written and produced by the worst morally deficient bunch of writers and artists ever assembled. Women who watch the "Slop Operas" cannot possibly stay clean in thoughts and actions. Men who watch the late night garbage will become blind leaders of the blind. Giving your teen a TV set for his bedroom is a blunder you will never forget. An out of control TV will do much to cement your teen into tragic immoral thoughts and actions. Even the VCR can become a tool of titillation for family members using questionable programming. It is almost impossible to purchase entertainment materials that do not contain evil and profanity. If you have them, they will fester like a sore in the moral life of your family. Younger kids soon learn all the curse words from the "Boob Tube", instead of the kids next door. The junior rock backgrounds of the violent cartoons and evil commercials all take their toll. They watch so much sex they soon try it and are hurt for life. Teens loving rock and roll lose their purity in the adoration of the filthy lyrics and the sick example of their music heroes. Many of today's books and magazines pose a further threat. We desperately need to heed the warning, *"Hate the evil but love the good"* Amos 5:15. Your family needs spiritual walls to shut out the evil that threatens. the beauty and sanctity of successful family raising. Your children and even their future children need stability and clear example. Morals only have value if they are kept as a precious part of growing up for Jesus.

The moral climate is further hurt by the **FAILURE TO INFORM THE BASICS OF SEX AND THE VALUE OF PURITY** in family lives. The command of God is to "Keep thyself pure" I Tim. 5:22. Start early with clear instruction about their body and the

marvelous ability of procreation. Teach virginity to both the boys and girls. Be ready for their questions and don't blush and stammer at queries that now come earlier in life than ever before. Try to eliminate all you can that is counter productive to family morals taught by scripture. Be prepared to refute false information given in the evil public school health classes. The Bible clearly limits sex to marriage. Any sex outside of marriage makes one morally degenerate, liable to fatal disease and the judgment of God. Remember if you are a teen to "flee youthful lusts" II Tim. 2:22. You need diligent training and daily vigilance, along with a careful choice of companions. Immoral adults and friends can tempt you into fornication, adultery, homosexuality and all manner of sexual impurity. A strong flag must be raised for purity. Your whole spiritual value and future can be tarnished by one act of moral failure. "*Grieve not the Holy Spirit*" Eph.. 4:30.

Further, you must not allow yourself or your family to wear **SENSUAL AND SLOPPY APPAREL**. This further degrades society and endangers your children. Sloppy clothing leads to sloppy thinking and sloppy actions. Unisex clothing adds to moral confusion and breaks down the Bible- taught difference of the sexes. The Christian body is the temple of God and is to be clothed in modesty and decency. Our looks must portray our Godliness. Most swim suits worn by today's women cause most men to commit several acts of mental adultery before getting to the water. The uncovering of your body in shameless attire, degrades your testimony. It causes others to fall and for this you will be accountable before God. A good verse to study is the much hated Deut. 22:5. Why do many of our church women refuse to follow a verse even a child can understand. We preachers know that fire will flash from the eyes of many of our women if we mention the evils such attire causes. One night we stopped at Pilot which contains a Wendys. My wife

was picking up two spicy chicken sandwiches and I sat at the table waiting. A teen girl walked by with her tight pants so low three inches of her crease showed displaying her rear end tattoo. It was clear what kind of family she had and the tragedy which will follow such exposure. I know that was extreme but bare middles and tight pants and short tops all cry "I'm here, do you want me?" Even the style experts say the pants style has given women the best way to flaunt sex. Don't try to explain it away, but accept its principle teaching and obey its admonition. Grandma I know yours are looser and you argue quite modest. Why dress differently on Sunday night and prayer meeting. Do different hours and days affect the attire we use to bring praise to God? I think not! Why should you be guilty of something the Lord calls an abomination? Other verses like, I Cor.. 6:19, I Tim. 2:9-10 and Titus 2:5 are good patterns to control how you dress. God clearly wants the sexes to wear different clothing that covers and pleases the Creator who first covered His created beings.

Dear believer, **BEWARE OF PRIDE**, which is a potent weapon in the hands of Satan. There is no question that a Christian must be different from the world. Instead of considering that fact a cross, why not look at it as a symbol of class and quality. Rather than give in to the worlds looseness, take a stand with pride in whose you are. Remember, "*Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall,*" Prov. 16:18. Many believers are too shallow in their commitment to stay right with the Lord when He demands difference. Don't be sorry for yourself when Bible standards clash with sinful temptations. We are to stand as evidence of the change God has made in our lives. Their supposed ridicule will turn to respect if you stick to the Bible commands. Don't whine over the fact you are royalty. In my young days I chose to wait for sex until marriage. I walked away from the loose ones who bragged about

their explorations. The sons and daughters of the king need not to feel bad because they must be different. Rather feel good about your obedience to the Word of God and the choices you make as His child. *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world,"* I John 2:15 & 16. We dare not allow the looseness of the world to characterize us in any way. Why not rejoice in the difference you show to the eyes of this sin-crazed world. It matters greatly how you dress and what you allow in your actions, and how you demonstrate to others you have found something better in being different. We have the best and thrilling way to live in this world of sin and looseness.

Beware the **SELF GRATIFICATION SYNDROME**. The urge to do your own thing is a sure way to discover impurity. The flesh fanned by the fires of offered lust will result in an inferno of moral destruction. It will seek to destroy your future life, saddle you with immoral fleshly habits and taint your testimony before others. It can wreck your approach to marriage or wreck the one you have. Real joy comes from seeking to please the one that is yours. Self gratification leads to sex before marriage. It greatly increases the probability of future divorce. It can sadly spawn self abuse, homosexuality, sodomy, fornication, and adultery. The world now laughs at these and indulges freely but God warns those who continue in such will not see Heaven. Just because it feels good does not mean it is right. Dedication to Christ will bring true spiritual gratification.

Certainly, a **LACK OF BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER AND ATTENDANCE AT A GOOD STRONG CHURCH** is a large factor

of the problem. A great fundamental disciplined church will help you maintain a good moral outlook. Daily study of the Word and committing verses to your memory will enforce the climate of purity in your life. Remember the Lord was "tempted like as we are and yet without sin" Heb. 4:15. The word of God becomes a great scaffold upon which to build a moral mind and body. Daily prayer and a quick call for help at the moment of testing will do much to give escape and victory. Many argue their church is too strong and leave for weaker ones who allow for more freedom from and less obedience to the Bible. Great charismatic churches exist today where preaching is watered down and standards are weak. Be sure to be a member of a strong church whose pastor holds a firm position in all his preaching. This will serve as a strong deterrent to moral impurities that will try to capture you. Someday when you stand at the judgment throne to receive reward or loss you will be glad you took the side of strict obedience to the Word of God

God has a purpose for you in this life. Serve Him with Godly dedication and fear. **Don't make yourself ineligible for God's BEST by giving in to the immoral climate of the REST.**