

Common Moral Challenges on Campus

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Introduction: We do not have the same students with us tonight that started with us in August.

- A. I want to look at the challenges that are faced by Christians on campus and learn from them.
 - 1. Overconfidence has destroyed many Christians! **(1 Cor 10:12-13)**
 - 2. Did Peter ever imagine that he would have done what he did? **(Mt 26:69-75)**
 - 3. Those who have continually come to these classes and others have recognized a need that others have shrugged off.
- B. You will always lose to Satan by yourself. **(1 Pt 5:6-8)**
 - 1. If we would understand the nature of the battle and take it seriously then all will be well.
 - 2. John commended those who fought well. **(1 Jn 2:13-14, 2 Thess 3:3-4)**

I. The Most Powerful Challenges involve Relationships

- A. Why do relationships in sin have such power? **(Jn 9:20-23; 12:42-43)**
 - 1. We are social creatures and need to belong. **(1 Pt 4:4)**
 - 2. When you have to give up both sin and relationships it is very hard.
 - 3. Those under Satan's power will try to "reason" with you. **(1 Jn 4:4-6)**
- B. How do we overcome this challenge? **(1 Cor 15:33)**
 - 1. Be companions of those whose faith "costs them." **(Heb 10:32-35, 23-25)**
 - 2. Be companions of those who will challenge you and tell you the truth!

II. The Christian must Fight Immorality

- A. The consequences of sin are rarely understood up front.
- B. Satan is known for his deception and lies. **(Rev 12:9; Jn 8:44-45)**
 - 1. Satan also does not want you to know where he and his followers are going. **(Rev 20:10)**
 - 2. Those who do not seek wisdom will fall for the easy short-term pleasure of sin.
 - a. How many think they can get away with things behind closed doors? **(Job 24:15, 17)**
 - b. Do you want a relationship that has to be sustained by lies? If someone will lie for you, they will lie to you.
 - c. What a blessing to be with one who you can trust! **(Prov 31:10-12)**
- C. How many of you know that adultery is wrong? **(Heb 13:4; Gal 5:19-21)**
 - 1. While we may "know" what is right Satan is capturing and destroying many within the church. (Ex. Recent studies and reports. It is common!)
 - 2. It is not uncommon to hear of Christian students that decide to live together.
 - 3. "Self-deception" is very strong in this area.
 - 4. When one refuses to repent and be honest with God then in time they will develop a character of lies and deceit. **(Jer 9:2-9)**
- D. How can we fight this challenge?
 - 1. Have a roommate that will hold you accountable.
 - 2. Only date one who is a dedicated Christian.
 - 3. Seek help from one who is spiritual when you are fighting this sin.
 - 4. Be reminded of the deep consequences that this path will bring. **(1 Cor 6:18)**

5. Understand things that can make one more vulnerable to this sin.
(Ex. Home life, Self-esteem)

III. The Christian must Fight Social Drinking

- A. The church has been deeply affected by drug and alcohol addiction.
 1. Many come from families with these problems. Most in the church in Lincoln had been affected in some way.
 2. There are many within churches who hide these problems in their lives.
(Example: An Alcoholic Elder successfully hid it for years. His children have followed the same pattern.)
- B. The issue of addiction is one of control. Who do you wish to control your life? How do you answer? (**Gal 5:16-17**)
 1. It is important to note that *addiction has a start*.
 2. Over 70% of the people in this country drink.
 3. Over 40 million are *known* alcoholics.
 4. One out of seven who take their first drink becomes an alcoholic.
- C. What is the “strong” drink of the scriptures? (**Prov 20:1; 31:6**)
 1. This is undiluted fermented grape juice. This is the equivalent of our modern day beer.
 2. The typical use of wine both in the Old and New Testaments, involves a diluting of the grape juice with 3 to 5 parts water.
 3. This process in fact acted as a purifying agent for the water. (**1 Tim 5:23**)
 4. There is no parallel with the common Bible wines and the modern social drink, except that of strong drink. This is everywhere condemned in the scripture.
- D. There are different levels of drinking and they are all condemned. (**1 Pt 4:3-4**)
 1. Is drunkenness the only thing condemned? No! There is also “revelries, drinking parties.”
 2. This denotes both the action of social intercourse and the kind of drinking itself!
 3. What other sins accompany the modern drink? (**Gal 5:19-21**)
- E. Consider the strong warnings concerning drunkenness. (**1 Cor 5:11; 6:19-21; Lk 21:34-36**)
 1. You cannot go to heaven and be a drunkard.
 2. You may say: “I will never be a drunkard!”
- F. Would you drink if you knew Jesus was coming today?
 1. (**Rom 13:11-14; 1 Cor 6:9-11**) - The same argument can be made for modern drug abuse! Would Jesus smoke pot?
 2. How much is your soul worth?
- G. What does this do for your influence for Christ?
 1. I have never known of a Christian who seriously wanted to reach the lost who was a social drinker. (**1 Cor 9:18-23**)
 2. What are the fruits of drinking in this country? How many have you known who have been affected by drinking? (Example: Friend at work.)
 3. What if you saw an elder drinking at a bar? (**Rom 14:13-23; 1 Peter 2:12**)

Conclusion: Our God will forgive all who repent.

- A. The message of Hosea tells us this. (**Hosea 1:2; 14:1-2**)
- B. There are other consequences of sin that will remain in this life.

Living Together Before Marriage

Here are some [statistics on living together before marriage](#) from Michael McManus, the president of [Marriage Savers](#). Statistically speaking, living together is not a trial of marriage, but rather a training for divorce.

- The number of unmarried couples living together soared 12-fold from 430,000 in 1960 to 5.4 million in 2005.
- More than eight out of ten couples who live together will break up either before the wedding or afterwards in divorce.
- About 45 percent of those who begin cohabiting, do not marry. Another 5-10 percent continue living together and do not marry.
- Couples who do marry after living together are 50% more likely to divorce than those who did not.
- Only 12 percent of couples who have begun their relationship with cohabitation end up with a marriage lasting 10 years or more.
- A Penn State study reports that even a month's cohabitation decreases the quality of the couple's relationship.

Here are some more statistics relating to the children of cohabiting parents.

- Children of cohabiting parents are ten times more likely to be sexually abused by a stepparent than by a parent.
- Children of cohabiting parents are three times as likely to be expelled from school or to get pregnant as teenagers than children from an intact home with married parents.
- Children of cohabiting parents are five times more apt to live in poverty, and 22 times more likely to incarcerated.

<http://www.rayfowler.org/2008/04/18/statistics-on-living-together-before-marriage>