

Scriptures are quoted from a modern language edition derived from the American Standard Version of 1901, which was prepared by 30 of the top American religious scholars. It is likely the most accurate Bible translation widely available.

And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. If anyone doubts that these words apply to us at this time, since they were God's description of the generation before the Flood of Noah's day, consider how Jesus compared the days before the flood to our day. Consider too, how the Apostle Paul, who was divinely chosen by Jesus, had a monumental struggle to do good and avoid doing wrong. (Genesis 6:5; Matthew 24:37-39; Romans 7:13-25)

If anyone thinks this does not apply to him, he would be well to keep in mind the words at I Corinthians 10:12: *Therefore let him that thinks he is standing take heed lest he fall.* The problem with the proper conduct for Christians is that they might not see when they are doing wrong.

One of the best guides in the Bible for proper conduct towards both God and our fellow humans is the Ten Commandments. The Sixth Commandment, by common reckoning, says: *You must not kill.* Perhaps you may keep that commandment, though in our day, especially in some nations, many excuses are made for not keeping it. Men make those excuses but the excuses may not be acceptable to God, and that would be fatal for the one trying to justify himself.

But even if we do not kill, are we guilty of any of the following: Hostility, strife, jealousy, anger, contentions, divisions, sects, envies. In Galatians, it warns against these things, and condemns them as works of the flesh, and tells us that those guilty of such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God. And it tells us to impale the flesh and its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:19-21, 24)

When we are angered by events, occurrences, or things people do, and when it seems that wickedness is running wild and going on unchecked, remember that God sees all things and that God will punish all wrongs at the time of his choosing. *And I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity. And I will put an end to the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the tyrant.* (Matthew 10:29; Psalm 33:13-20; Isaiah 13:11)

While there are times we must act, it is necessary to do so with caution, and always keep in mind the Bible's warning: *There is a way*

that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. That is why the Bible tells us to be long-suffering, and do not become provoked, or keep record of injury, and to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things, in a proper Christian way. If we always remember those words, we will not sin against God. (Proverbs 16:25; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

There are two Bible commands that many people take lightly today, and for that reason things will not go well with them if they do not change their ways. The Bible commands: *You must not commit adultery.* We must not commit any acts that the Bible defines as sexual immorality, and according to Jesus we must not contemplate, fantasize about, or plan such acts. And we must fully regard them as reprehensible and disgusting. If we do not, then we should change our ways so we meet with God's approval. (Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27, 28)

In Galatians it says: *Now the works of the flesh are evident, and they are sexual immorality, uncleanness, licentiousness.* So the Bible clearly and explicitly forbids sexual intercourse between a man and another man's wife, between a wife and a man not her husband, and between two males. These acts are strongly condemned in both the Old and New Testaments, but they are not the only acts condemned. We must avoid all forms of moral conduct that are forbidden in the Bible. It is no casual matter. *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to homosexual acts, nor practicing homosexuals...will inherit the Kingdom of God.* (Galatians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10)

The other commandment that many people do not realize the seriousness of violating is *You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.* This may be the most ignored of all the commands of God. People routinely pass along lies about politicians and others they do not like. They do not seem to realize that it is their responsibility to make sure what they are saying is true. We must recall that Jesus said that Satan is the father of the lie. So if someone lies, what does that make them but the child of the Devil. (John 8:44)

This is no minor or unimportant thing. The goodness or badness of the subject of the lie makes no difference, no more than if a person was to commit adultery with the spouse of that person, or steal from them, or commit an act of violence against them, to lie about them still

merits punishment from God. Their being consigned to perdition is described metaphorically at Revelation 21:8.

Much wrong conduct in the world is a result of people who claim to be Christian ignoring the tenth Commandment against coveting, or desiring what belongs to another, in fact, the violation of the commands against stealing, sexual misconduct, and even killing and lying, are born from ignoring the commandment against coveting what another owns and possess. (Exodus 20:17)

It is therefore absolutely necessary, if we would please God, and receive his gift of everlasting life, that we clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. If we do, we will exhibit the fruitage of the spirit which the Bible tells us is *love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, mildness, self-control*. (Romans 13:14; Galatians 5:22, 23)

To do this and gain eternal life we must follow what Jesus told the scribe, to love God, and love our fellow human. That love is all-important in meeting God's approval and living in Paradise forever. Its need was emphatically stressed by the Apostle Paul when he said: *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all sacred secrets and all knowledge, and if I have all the faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

Love is long-suffering and kind. Love does not envy. Love does not boast, and is not puffed up, does not behave improperly, seeks not its own interests, is not provoked, does not keep account of wrongs. Does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. (Mark 12:28-31; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a)

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CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

Many think they conduct themselves
as Christians, but they do not.

When people look at you
do they see a Christian?

Your eternal life may depend
on the answer to that question.

*Conduct yourselves in a manner
worthy of the good news
of Christ.—Philippians 1:27*