

Keeping Ourselves Unspotted from the World
(Lesson 7)

Introduction:

1. We learn from James 1:27 that "keeping ourselves unspotted from the world" is an important part of *"pure and undefiled religion before God."*
2. According to 1 Corinthians 15:33, one key to keeping ourselves unspotted from the world is "exercising control when choosing companions."
3. In our lesson we are examining:
 - a. this passage in its context
 - b. 2 events from the Old Testament that illustrate the principle we are studying.

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST EXAMINE 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33 IN ITS CONTEXT
 - A. In this chapter, Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth about "the resurrection."
 - B. According to vs.12, some people in that congregation said that there is no resurrection.
 - C. The evil influence of these people is illustrated in vs.13-19.
 - D. In dealing with this problem, Paul showed that the resurrection will occur when Jesus returns.
 - E. Looking forward to the resurrection should motivate us to serve the Lord faithfully (vs.58).
 - F. Christians must exercise control when choosing companions because our companions will influence us either positively or negatively.
 - G. Let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. TWO EVENTS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT THAT ILLUSTRATE THE PRINCIPLE WE ARE STUDYING
 - A. The first event involved Lot and his family.
 1. (Genesis 13:10-12) When Abraham and Lot separated, Lot went to Sodom.
 - a. Lot saw that the plain of Jordan was well watered.
 - b. Unfortunately, Lot overlooked something (see vs.13).
 2. Eventually, God destroyed Sodom, but Lot, his wife, and their 2 daughters escaped.
 3. These 4 may not have taken part in the sins practiced in Sodom, but it seems they were somehow influenced by the wickedness that was prevalent there.
 - a. (Genesis 19:26) Lot's wife looked back.
 - b. (Genesis 19:30-38) Lot and his daughters were involved in incest.
 4. The things that happened to Lot and his family illustrate how *"evil communications corrupt good manners."*
 - B. The second event involved the Israelites.
 1. (Exodus 34:11-17) God instructed His people to avoid making covenants with the pagan people living in Canaan.
 - a. God knew that idol worshippers would have a harmful influence upon His people.
 - b. God wanted His people to remain faithful to Him.
 2. (Numbers 25:1-3) The Israelites got involved with the people of Moab.
 - a. God afflicted His people with a plague.
 - b. We learn from vs.9 that 24,000 people lost their lives.
 3. These things that happened to the Israelites illustrate how *"evil communications corrupt good manners."*

Conclusion:

1. For some additional thoughts, let us read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.
 - a. (vs.14a) Christians are not to be *"unequally yoked together with unbelievers."*
 - b. The *"unbelievers"* include those who walk in unrighteousness, those who walk in darkness, followers of Belial, infidels, and idol worshippers.
 - c. (vs.16) Christians are God's temple, and God's temple is to be holy.
2. Let us remember that:
 - a. *"evil communications corrupt good manners"* (1 Corinthians 15:33)
 - b. *"good communications promote good manners."*