

SOCIAL REFORM

I. Tim. 5:22: "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure."

If all would only heed this, and the many other instructions in God's Word, what a different world this would be! But, our whole social life today, in its many phases, needs lifting up to a higher level.

We cry out against the evils that abound, but only a few will listen. The following are some evils we wish to reform:

Profanity: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain." Swearing is becoming more common every day. Men and women and even little children. Who is to blame for the children's bad words? Fathers and mothers. God warns those who swear "The Lord will not hold him guiltless." Let those who swear take heed.

Swearing is a useless and wicked habit. It neither makes the cold day warm nor does it make the hot weather cooler. Nor does it help the stalled car to start, or the cow to stop her kicking, or make any other annoying thing right. Oh, how shocking to hear from tiny little children vile words or swearing! Poor little innocents, who will reform them? "But I say unto you swear not at all, neither by Heaven for it is God's throne. Nor by the earth, for it is His footstool . . . neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black." Matt. 5:34-36.

Gambling: By this we mean all forms of every kind and Bingo is very common. Our covenant gives us very wise advice, and includes Raffles, etc., but new forms of this fascinating sin are arising all the time.

A little girl of tender years was taken, by her mother, to a Bingo party because the woman had no one to leave the child with, and was heard to say how she enjoyed it. "Train up a child in the way it should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Surely this child is being trained up in the way she should not go, and very likely will go deeper in gambling when she is grown.

Every auto show has a car gambled off and the one who has bought the lucky ticket gets the car. If a young man gets a car so cheaply, will he not be tempted more into Bingo parties and games of cards?

Rev. R. C. Chalmers in an article on gambling says:

"Gambling corrupts the Christian spirit of service. It offers an easy way to make money without giving any adequate service in return, thereby encouraging laziness and a loss of the sense of a true vocation. Gambling discourages philanthropy. Gambling is in opposition to the building up of a just economic order. Our aim today is for a better distribution of wealth. Gambling corrupts sport.

Gambling is an attack upon good business.

Gambling is an attack upon good government.

It leads to crime, a source of human misery, and blights the integrity of a man's character. What can we do about it? Create a public conscience concerning its evil. Christians must set a good example and support all laws which aim at its suppression.

The Picture Shows: What can we say of these? Are they improving? Are fewer

Christians, professedly so, going? Is society being reformed by these?

Assuredly not.

Let me quote from Rev. C. E. Wemberly: "The moving pictures is one of our modern wonders. A sensible high-minded young man, not a church member, had observed the great and scientific values produced by the moving machine, took charge of one, believing it could be made helpful, edifying and remunerative. After two years experience he said he was thoroughly convinced that the good was overshadowed by the evil. It is estimated that from three to six million children see moving pictures daily . . . (what an influence for them). In spite of censorship the bill-boards continue to announce the wildest and fiercest tragedies of human life, divorces, betrayals, abductions, etc. . . . That the moving picture is a gigantic agency for the corruption of young men and women need only to be examined to be verified.

Immorality: Still increasing and becoming a common sin. Oh! If parents would only see this and warn their children while they are very young and have a care of their boys and girls.

In the first great war venereal diseases were the greatest cause for disability in the army. From the time the U. S. entered the army April, 1917, to Sept. 1918, the loss from this cause represented more than 2,295,000 days of service. We have a war today and I wonder if conditions are any better.

From a daily St. John paper I take excerpts from an article on this subject: "Dr. C. W. MacMillan, chief medical health officer for the province of N. B., says that conditions here in St. John are worse than in any other part of the province . . . it is the province's largest centre and has a great transient population of soldiers and sailors. He says that citizens have no conception of the extent of these diseases.

Another member of the Junior Board of Trade said: "The biggest problem in Saint John is with young girls ranging in age from 12 to 16 years."

We, as a denomination, have a great work to do in connection with this great problem of evil.

"Cry aloud and spare not and show my people their sins."

If the young are taught about these deadly evil diseases, the effects they will have, not only on their own bodies, but also on their posterity, they will flee the sin.

Here is again work for parents.

How much wiser to teach children what sin is, its allurements and its effects and how to avoid it before hand when they may be saved from a life of suffering, than to blame and scold them after they have become defiled.

Oh! the bitter tears and sorrow many, many mothers are having today because they failed to teach and warn their girls when they were very young. Yes, very young, the sooner the better.

Immodest Dress: Not only are the movies teaching sin and crime. Not only the dance opens the door to sin and shame, but the immodest dress of women and girls do the same. When will women cease to seduce men by their lewd dress?

Pure men, old and young, have to look away from such, else their very thoughts get defiled

We expect to see semi-nude bodies among the heathen, but expect modesty among civilized women, but lo, even Christian women are aping the world styles.

I tell you they will pay the price: "Keep thyself pure" means for both men and women.

If mothers let their tiny girls go about with only braces over bare backs, dresses so short they remind me of the heathen girls, short dancing frill of 8 or 10 inches long from the waist down. These mothers are teaching their baby girls, their 10 year olds to be immodest, yes, lewd. What will be the results in the future of these young things? They have been taught by their own mothers to expose their bodies when young and these girls grow up never having worn the beautiful pure, white garment of modesty. They get the sun alright and perhaps better health but they also learned to so expose themselves when very young, in their teens, they seduce some mother's pure boys and the ruination of both of them is disastrous.

I tell you candidly, we need a campaign of instruction for mothers of our day and they to arise in their might and fight each and every one of the above mentioned evils before we can have any success in our work of social reform.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. H. C. SANDERS

MRS. H. E. MULLEN

MRS. I. F. KEIRSTEAD

Committee

MAKE IT RIGHT AT ANY COST

I. Samuel 12:3: I will restore

Make it right, my brother, just as far as you have the ability to do so. If you have sinned against God, get His forgiveness. If you have wronged another, have sinned against him, get his forgiveness also. If there is any further way that you can make it right, do so at any cost. It is through failure to make things right that so many Christians are shorn of power and have so little joy. We know that it costs, but it is worth it. If it is money that you have wrongly taken, return it. If there is a debt that you have not paid, pay it. If you have slandered another, not only ask God's and the person's forgiveness, but go to those to whom you have falsified and do all you can to make it right.

Deal honestly; try to pay back with good interest, for the wrong done has been spreading its baneful influence. Failure here dries and dwarfs your Christian life. You will go through life handicapped because of something that needs to be made right. Do a thorough work on this line and the heavens will open and God will speak forth His forgiveness and approval. If you lose your friends, you will have God as your friend.

If you have not full ability, restore up to your ability. God will then accept the will for the deed. But when restitution is necessary, do not lull your conscience to rest by confession to God alone. Confess and make right to men as well.

Remember it is not necessary to confess to those who have no right to hear your confession, but yet your confession be as public as your sin. Those who have morbid consciences had better get the help of some wise and spiritual friend as to God's way of restitution.

To all who need these words, we say, Do not procrastinate. Act now.—Selected.