

DRAWING THE LINE

MAKING MORAL DECISIONS

DRAWING THE LINE

- Often in a discussion of right and wrong, the question of the “gray area” arises
- The question is, “Where do you draw the line...what is the guiding standard?”
- Certain Biblical principles can help us deal with these legitimate questions

DRAWING THE LINE

- Certain Biblical principles can help us deal with these legitimate questions
 - God is our ideal and standard
 - “Be ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for an odor of a sweet smell.” (**Eph. 5:1-2**)

DRAWING THE LINE

- Biblical principles can help us deal with these legitimate questions
 - God is our ideal and standard
 - As God is *holy*, so are we to be *holy*
 - “Wherefore girding up the loins of your mind, be sober and set your hope perfectly on the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as children of obedience, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in the time of your ignorance: but like as he who called you is *holy*, be ye yourselves also *holy* in all manner of living; because it is written, Ye shall be *holy*; for I am *holy*.” (I Pet. 1:13-16)

DRAWING THE LINE

- Certain Biblical principles can help us deal with these legitimate questions
 - God is our ideal and standard
 - As God is *pure*, so are we to be
 - “And every one that hath this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure.” (I John 3:3)
 - “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (Matt. 5:8)

DRAWING THE LINE

- Certain Biblical principles can help us deal with these legitimate questions
 - God is our ideal and standard
 - As God is *perfect*, so are we to be
 - “Ye therefore shall be **perfect**, as your heavenly Father is **perfect**.” (**Matt. 5:48**)
 - “For every one that partakes of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But solid food is for **fullgrown** men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.” (**Heb. 5:13-14**)

DRAWING THE LINE

- God cannot change the standard, and man dare not change it
- We are given an exhortation not to practice certain things
 - (**Eph. 5:3-4**) “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as becomes saints; nor filthiness, nor foolish talking, or jesting, which are not befitting: but rather giving of thanks.”

DRAWING THE LINE

- We are then given a warning
 - (**Eph. 5:5-6**) “For this ye know of a surety, that no fornicator, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no man deceive you with empty words: for because of these things comes the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience.”
- From these points, we can make some practical applications

DRAWING THE LINE

FORNICATION

Agree that fornication is wrong, but do we draw the line just before we get into bed with someone and leave it there?

A Christian must look at a thing and determine where it leads

(**Gal. 5:24**)“And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof.”

There are things which tend or lead in the direction of fornication

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

Fornication

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

petting, or
“making out”

Fornication

DRAWING THE LINE

- (**Rom. 13:14**) “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

petting, or
“making out”
dancing

Fornication

DRAWING THE LINE

- (II Tim. 2:22) “But flee youthful lusts, and follow after righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart”

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

petting, or

“making out”

dancing

public schools

Fornication

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

petting, or

“making out”

dancing

public schools

dress

Fornication

DRAWING THE LINE

- (I Tim. 2:9) “In like manner, that women adorn themselves in **modest apparel**, with shamefastness and sobriety...”
- (Gen. 3:21) “The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and **clothed** them.”

Mary Quant



Mary Quant



- “It’s leading to sex...designed to seduce”

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

petting, or

Fornication

Holy

“making out”

Pure

dancing

Perfect

public schools

dress

Which way?



DRAWING THE LINE

FOOLISH TALK OR JESTING

Not average conversation or expression of humor

This is the language of fools that tends to corruption--double meanings, suggestive language

But where do we draw the line—dirty jokes, etc?

Line must be drawn earlier—with the heart

(**Matt. 12:34**) “Ye offspring of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the **abundance of the heart** the mouth speaks.”

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

Fornication

Foolish talk
or jesting



DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

heart

Fornication

Holy

Foolish talk

Pure

or jesting

Perfect



DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

heart

Fornication

Holy

magazines

Foolish talk

Pure

TV

or jesting

Perfect

books

movies



DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

heart

Fornication

Holy

mag's

Foolish talk

Pure

TV

or jesting

Perfect

books

movies

music



DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

heart

Fornication

Holy

mag's

Foolish talk

Pure

TV

or jesting

Perfect

books

movies

music

internet



DRAWING THE LINE

- (**Prov. 4:23**) “Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life.”
- (**Phil. 4:8**) “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

DRAWING THE LINE

STEALING

While we all agree that stealing is wrong,
where do we draw the line—at the point of
pulling out a gun and robbing a bank?

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

Fornication

Foolish talk
or jesting

Stealing



DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

cheating

Fornication

Holy

Foolish talk

Pure

or jesting

Perfect

Stealing



DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

cheating

exams

business

income tax

insurance

overtime pay

Fornication

Foolish talk

or jesting

Stealing



DRAWING THE LINE

DRUNKENNESS

We agree on the sin of drunkenness, but does God allow a person to drink to the point just before falling down dead drunk?

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

Fornication

Foolish talk

or jesting

Stealing

Drunkenness



DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

social drinking

Fornication

Foolish talk

or jesting

Stealing

Drunkenness



DRAWING THE LINE

- What is the Christian's attitude towards intoxicants?
 - (I Tim. 5:23) “Be no longer a drinker of water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.”
 - How do you reprove a man of drunkenness with a can of beer in your hand?

DRAWING THE LINE

SUICIDE

We may agree that suicide, or self-murder is wrong

But where do we stop—with a gun to the head, or do we include suicide by degrees?

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

Fornication

Foolish talk

or jesting

Stealing

Drunkenness

Suicide



DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

smoking

Fornication

Foolish talk

or jesting

Stealing

Drunkenness

Suicide



DRAWING THE LINE

- Does the Bible talk about the Christian's body?
 - (I Cor. 6:19-20) “Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body.”

DRAWING THE LINE

- Does the Bible talk about the Christian's body?
 - (I Cor. 10:31-32)“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give no occasions of stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the church of God.”

DRAWING THE LINE

- Does the Bible talk about the Christian's body?
 - (**II Cor. 7:1**) “Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

smoking

drug abuse

gluttony

Fornication

Foolish talk

or jesting

Stealing

Drunkenness

Suicide



DRAWING THE LINE

White

Gray

Black

GOD

Holy

Pure

Perfect

petting, dancing

schools, dress

mags., TV

Drunkenness

books, movies

music cheating

social drinking

Fornication

Foolish talk

or jesting

Stealing

Suicide

*Do these things make us more like God,
← or more like world? →*

DRAWING THE LINE

- It doesn't take much of a man or woman to be a Christian, but it does take all there is of that person—a fulltime job!
 - (I Pet. 5:8) “Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.”

DRAWING THE LINE


- We are more likely to be deceived in the “gray” areas than the “black”
 - (**Heb. 3:13**) “...exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called To-day; lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

DRAWING THE LINE

- There is another line drawn that separates the lost from the saved, and from hope of eternal life



DRAWING THE LINE

- There is another line drawn that separates the lost from the saved, and from hope of eternal life
- “He that believes and is baptized  shall be saved”
(Mark 16:16)