

EAST CAMBRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

"A first century church in the 21st century"

Bible Reading Plan

Week 30

- 2 Kg 7-8; 2 Chr 21; *Mat 6*
- 2 Kg 9-10; Ps 49; *Mat 7*
- 2 Chr 22-23; 2 Kg 11;
Mat 8
- 2 Chr 24; 2 Kg 12; *Mat 9*
- Joel; Ps 50; *Mat 10*

Leading Services

Announcements: Ron V.

Morning:

Song Leader: Zack V.

Opening Prayer: Larry L.

Lord's Table: Mike V.

Asst By:

Closing Prayer: Ben V.

Evening:

Song Leader: **Song Service**

Opening Prayer: Zack V.

Closing Prayer: Richard L.

Scripture Reading: Larry L.
(Zechariah 8.12-23)

Sermons

AM: God With Us



Unacceptable

That which was unacceptable before God became respectable among the people of God as the blind, the lame, and the sick were offered in sacrifice to God (Lev. 22:20; Mal. 1:6-8). There are a number of things today unacceptable to God which have become respectable among men. Consider some examples:

When Men Say Homosexuality Is Just Another Lifestyle.

There was a time, in this country, when the sin of homosexuality was unacceptable with many, but the unacceptable has now become respectable. The Scriptures still teach that homosexuality is "uncleanness," "dishonor," "vile affections," "against nature," "unseemly," "error," "not convenient," and "that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Rom. 1:24-32).

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When the unacceptable becomes respectable

When There Are Those Who Try To Defend Social Drinking. Some agree that “drunkenness” is sin (Gal. 5:21), but really cannot say there is anything wrong with a little drinking. It may be argued that “not given to much wine” (1 Tim. 3:8) allows a little wine. First of all, there are different kinds of Bible wine — some fermented or intoxicating and some not. The context shows which is under consideration. If “not given to much wine” allows a little wine, does “be not over much wicked” (Eccl. 7:17) allow one to be a little wicked? If it is just “excess of wine” (1 Pet. 4:3) that is wrong, then would it be okay to be involved in a little “riot” (1 Pet. 4:4)? The word “banquetings,” in 1 Peter 4:3, is “drinking parties,” which takes in social drinking. Proverbs 20:1 still says, “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

When People Divorce And Remarry For Every Cause. Has it ever occurred to you that divorce, from the beginning, was not so (Mt. 19:3-8)? God's marriage law, from the beginning, involved one woman for one man for life (Gen. 2:18-24). The teaching of the Lord allows only one reason for divorce and remarriage — fornication. To divorce and remarry for any other cause is to commit adultery (Mt. 19:9; Rom. 7:2-3)! May we get back to that which is respectable as the Bible says, “Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4).

When Gambling Is Thought Of As A Good Thing. Some try to justify gambling on the thought of all the good it does for the community. Whether in a glitz-and-mortar casino, at a racetrack, through a state-operated lottery, raffling, booth at a county fair, office pool or home on the personal computer, gambling is a form of covetousness and greed. “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Tim. 6:10).

When Men And Women See Nothing Wrong With Dancing. Modern dancing comes under the class of “lasciviousness” (Gal. 5:19), “wanton acts or manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.” (Thayer's Greek Lexicon). Anyone who would try to defend such a practice would have to have low ideals and be sapped of spirituality.

When Immodest Apparel Does Not Cause Us To Blush. About the only kind of blush many know anything about these days is the kind you buy in a bottle and rub on! This is a sad commentary on our society. A reading of Genesis 3:7 & 21 will show that one may have some covering and still be naked as far as God is concerned. Hollywood has made it fashionable to parade around in immodest apparel. Yet the Bible says, “In like manner, also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works” (1 Tim. 2:9-10). Have we become like those in Jeremiah's day, concerning whom it was said, “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush” (Jer. 6:15)?

A thing may be respectable among men, yet be unacceptable to God. May God help us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12).

- John Edwards