

will provide the way to escape this and all other temptations to sin (1 Cor. 10:13). But we must seek it out.

Porn is yet another sign that **our society is sick** and getting sicker. We do not have to be among those who are spiritually ill:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that hence-forth we should not serve sin (Rom. 6:6).

– Roelf Ruffner
Columbia, TN



THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Let us pray for...

- Sheila Beauchamp – recovering from shoulder surgery
- Tonya Thatcher – difficulty with pregnancy
- Judy Reid – treatment for auto accident injuries (sister in NJ, planning to move here)
- Lester Kamp – fighting prostate cancer
- Mike Mallett – fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)
- Ken Chumbley – fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)
- Ann Henderson – fighting cancer (Sheri Woodall's aunt)
- Brian Ritter – fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
- Tim Smith – fighting chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)
- Samuel Bagsangi – Gospel preacher in Philippines we help support
- Joshua Aidoo – Gospel preacher in Ghana we help support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	16
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	16
Contribution	\$746.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$1,180.50

Internet Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, www.northpointcoc.com.

Assignments...

Adult Bible class teacher for January
Chairman of Men's Meetings (January–March)
Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Phil Smith
Rick Beauchamp
Dub McClish

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Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM

Wednesday

B.C./Worship 7:00 PM



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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On Being Separate

The Bible teaches the doctrines of “holiness” and “separation” almost incessantly. God requires His people to recognize that they distinctly belong to Him and to behave accordingly. God gave His law through Moses to Israel to make and keep them a “holy” (i.e., pure, dedicated, and thus set apart) nation and people (Exo. 19:5–6, 16; Deu. 7:6; et al.). They were to maintain this holiness and separation from “the nations” until the promised Seed – the Christ – should come, Who would bring the fullness of salvation to Jew and Gentile alike (Gal. 3:19, 26–28).

The New Testament identifies the church of Christ as God's anti-typical, spiritual “holy nation” (1 Pet. 2:9). The Gospel makes it very clear that those who belong to Christ must live in a way to distinguish themselves from the world. In His upper-room prayer, Jesus observed that, as He was, so the apostles were **in** the world, but not **of** the world (John 17:15–16). He further prayed that His Father would keep them sanctified (holy, set apart) from the world through the Truth of His Word (v. 19). The idea of being a saint, sanctified, and holy (all three terms deriving from a single Greek root word) in the New Testament is that Christ's servants have been separated **from** the world and its practices and dedicated **to** the Christ as “living sacrifices” (Rom. 12:1).

However, separation does not mean isolation or withdrawal **from** the world. It means living in such a way that one's life is in contrast with the lives of worldlings. It means not becoming entangled with unbelievers so as to be hindered in our service to God (2 Cor. 6:14–18). It means living sober, righteous, and godly lives in a world dominated by ungodliness and the fulfillment of worldly lusts (Tit. 2:12). It means refusing to let those who know not God determine our behavior, but being different from the world – changed by a heart full of the Gospel (Rom. 12:2). Our mandate is to live “without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation” (Phi. 2:15).

As seeking to be “like the nations” was the downfall of old Israel (1 Sam. 8:5, 20), so the root of widespread apostasy of churches once faithful to the Lord is the lust to be “like the [denomi-] **nations**. Thus many have adopted the “language of Ashdod” and have gone a-whoring after such things as worship, organization, and salvation innovations. To justify their perversions they have learned strange ways of viewing and handling the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

Remaining a holy, separate people from world includes daily personal attention to speech, recreation, dress, the places we go, the way we spend money, and especially our moral standards. Amazingly, some citizens of God’s “holy nation” – called out by the Gospel to a blameless and pure life – see nothing contradictory in their drinking, dancing, gambling, immodesty, adultery, materialism, and general secularism. Even those in the world know that such things are incongruous and are justifiably quick to cry, “Hypocrite.” The world cannot be attracted to Christ by people who are no better than or different from it. God expects us to be **holy**, which will cause us to be **different** and thus **separate** from the world. The Lord’s dictum still holds: “No man can serve two masters” (Mat. 6:24a).

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Saved Before Baptism?

Almost all Protestant denominations teach that the alien sinner is saved (becomes a child of God) at the point of faith in Jesus Christ before and without any further act(s) of obedience. The Bible makes clear that this is false doctrine. It can be seen to be false, for a number of reasons.

1. It is false because Jesus said, “Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). This means that no one can enter into the kingdom of God without being baptized in the name of Christ (cf. Acts 2:38; Mark 16:15–16; Rom. 6:3–5; et al.). If one is baptized (undergoes some religious act involving water) without understanding that being baptized in the name of Christ is an act of faith, which is essential to salvation, then he is not saved, because he has obeyed a mere human doctrine and not the doctrine of Christ. But one must obey Christ to be saved (Mat. 7:21–23; Heb. 5:8–9).
2. It is false because it affirms (by implication) that the alien sinner is saved (becomes a child of God) by a dead faith. Yet, James 2:24–26 teaches that faith without works is dead. Since whatever is dead is powerless, inoperative, unable to accomplish anything, then obviously, no one can be saved by faith only (a dead faith). One is saved only when – because of a living faith – as a penitent believer in Jesus Christ, he is baptized in the name (by the authority of) Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38).
3. It is false because it affirms that one can be saved without doing the will of God. Yet, Jesus said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter

into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Mat. 7:21). One is not saved merely by (1) being religious, (2) being sincere in religion, or (3) confessing, “Lord, Lord.” While all of the above matters are necessary, they are not sufficient. One is saved either (1) **before** he is baptized, (2) **when** he is baptized, or (3) **after** he is baptized. These are the only possibilities. The truth of the matter is that one is saved **when** (as a penitent believer) he is baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:26–27; et al.) The other two possibilities are false. So, no matter how religious, how sincere, how zealous, and so on a person may be, if he has not been baptized into Christ, then he is not a child of God – he is not a Christian.

Every child of God (that is, every Christian) is a member of the church of Christ (the church described on the pages of the New Testament, the church which Jesus bought with His own blood). There is not one Christian living on earth today who is not a member of that church. Every other church is of human origin and thus is not authorized by God. Salvation is only in the church, which Jesus bought with His blood (Acts 20:28).

May every person deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Jesus – not men or the doctrines of men (Luke 9:23).

– Thomas B. Warren
Deceased

Soiling the Soul

Jesus said:

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is the darkness (Mat. 6:22–23).

Pornography (i.e., “Porn”) is a multi-billion dollar “industry.” Now this “business” is not comparable to the “girlie” magazines of yesteryear, but it is a well-financed octopus with its tentacles in the Internet, Facebook, and YouTube. **Millions** have soiled their souls and darkened their bodies with this legal lust.

Porn strikes through one of the three “legs” of sin – “the lust of the flesh” (1 John 2:16). The flesh is never satisfied and **porn can be addictive**, ruining lives, marriages, and homes. The Soul Saver, Jesus Christ, spoke of unchecked lust when He said:

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart (Mat. 5:27–28).

The word *whosoever* means any male: young, middle aged, married or unmarried. Christians should “submit” to God and “resist the devil” (Jam. 4:7). God