



# Modern attacks against the home

## Lesson 1: The Myth of Male Superiority

**The problem:** Proud men, who feel they are superior to women and therefore can dominate them and abuse them.

A. Read Galatians 3:28. What does this say about male superiority?

B. "Machismo" This is a Spanish term used to refer to the concept of male superiority among Latins.

1. Some psychologists think this comes from the almost supernatural concept of Mary in Catholicism.

a. The theory is that Latin men think they have to put women down to bring them down from the exalted status of Mary, to their level.

2. What do you think of that kind of theory?

3. Does the myth of male superiority exist only in Latin America?

C. Write down some reasons you think males sometimes try to act superior to women

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D. Is the Bible sometimes misused to promote the myth of "male superiority"? (We'll show how this is wrong.)

E. It has been said that women can help civilize men by demanding that they make a marriage commitment, come home and help raise children.

1. Do you agree with this?

2. How do women sometimes contribute to the de-civilization of men and their selfishness?

3. Can women help men "behave" if they want to?

\* Before analyzing Biblical texts, let's think of the behavior promoted by this misconception.

### I. Characteristics of those contaminated by the myth of male superiority (machismo)

A. The desire to dominate and control women:

1. What are some ways that men try to dominate and control women in a selfish way?

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2. Are Bible texts sometimes abused? Which? (We'll analyze how they're abused later.)

B. Seeing women as an object, as a personal possession instead of an individual deserving respect

1. Talk (without naming names) of examples of this type of behavior that you've seen.

C. Prohibitions that make no sense

1. Talk (without naming names) of examples of this type of behavior that you've seen.

D. Verbal abuse, insults, humiliation

1. Talk (without naming names) of examples of this type of behavior that you've seen.

E. A desire to always be served by his wife and never a desire to serve her.

1. It's not wrong for a wife to serve her husband, but he should want to serve her just a much!

2. Talk (without naming names) of examples of this type of behavior that you've seen.

F. Sexual unfaithfulness

1. Sometimes the "macho man" feels he can have other women and imagines that she is doing the same with other men.

G. Irrational jealousy – He's unfaithful and imagines the same of her.

1. Talk (without naming names) of examples of this type of behavior

H. Physical abuse – Sometimes the "macho man" feels he can slap his wife and hit her

1. Sadly, some wives tolerate this misbehavior.

2. Why do women tolerate abuse?



### II. Misconceptions about what it means to be the head of the house

A. Read Ephesians 5:22,23

B. Some men think that being the head implies:

1. constantly being served

2. Acting superior

3. Shouting out orders like a sergeant

d. Add some other misconceptions

C. Think: Look closely at Ephesians 5:22,23. What in the text shows that show that this concept is entirely wrong?

**III. The solution to the concept of male superiority – Imitate Jesus!**

A. According to Ephesians 5:23, How should husbands be head of the wife? \_\_\_\_\_

B. According to the following texts: What are some things Christ does, that husbands should also do for their wives and families? Write a summary after each text.

1. Matthew 20:28 (two things) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

2. John 13:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

Thought question: Can a man truly claim to be “head” if he refuses to imitate Jesus’ example of service?

C. The “head” should guide the family, but how? Like Jesus!

1. Read John 10:11-14 How does Jesus guide? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How should husbands guide? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Some husbands think being “head” means being like a sergeant.

1. Is Jesus the good “sergeant”? Or, the good shepherd?

2. What are some differences between the way a sergeant leads and a shepherd? Write  
SERGEANT \_\_\_\_\_ SHEPHERD \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

3. Give some examples you’ve heard of that show

\_\_\_\_\_ husbands don’t realize this difference. (No names please!)

E. How do shepherds lead? Read Psalm 23 and tell what a shepherd does according to each verse. How can husbands imitate God on each one as he helps his wife and family?

Vs. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 2 \_\_\_\_\_

\* How can husbands let their wives rest?

Vs. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

\* How can husbands do this?

\* Young women. Do you think you should marry someone who can’t or won’t do this for you?

Vs. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Misc. Points**

A. In what two ways should a husband love his wife according to Ephesians 5?

1. vs. 25 \_\_\_\_\_

2. vs. 28 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Some husbands complain: “My family won’t do what I say!” “I’m the head, you have to obey me!”

1. What do such statements reveal about the leadership abilities of the husband?

2. If a husband truly loves his wife as Ephesians 5 teaches, won’t she truly want to follow him?

3. Do real leaders have to constantly claim their position? Or, isn’t it simply taken for granted?

C. What is the one basic problem behind “macho men” and those who promote the myth of male superiority?

# Modern attacks against the home

## Lesson 2: "Feminism"

**Intro.** \* Young women, write down the main two things you would like to be when you reach adulthood. Young men, write down what you would most want for your daughter. Be honest \_\_\_\_\_

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A. Dictionary Definition of feminism: (1) Belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes.

1. It's much more than this. Feminism usually promotes the following harmful errors:

- a. The idea that women should leave the home and pursue meaning to life in the business world.
- b. Children and husbands can hinder you in that goal – promotes abortion, divorce, child abuse
- c. There should be no difference in roles between men and women.

B. Why feminism is so powerful

1. It is sometimes a reaction against abuses of men

a. Have many men taken advantage of women through the years?

b. All effective propaganda has a germ of truth in it. Feminism likes to revel in the suffering of some women at the hands of selfish men. They're right that often ungodly men have done evil to women.

2. Selfishness– Some women don't want to worry about others: their husbands, children, etc. just selves.

**I. Men and women are equal in God's eyes.** Read the following texts

A. Galatians 3:28

1. Does God consider any human being to be inherently superior to others? \_\_\_\_\_

B. 1 Corinthians 11:11, 12

1. Can men and women live independently of each other? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Give any other verses or principles that you think of which show that men and women are equal in God's eyes.

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**II. But, though equal, they're different and have different purposes in God's plan**

A. Matthew 19:4 How did God create mankind? \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_

B. Differences

1. Physical - obviously!

a. Man has been given greater upper body strength

b. Women are able to give birth,

2. Emotional – Women are usually more sensitive, more in tune with security.

Some say "more civilized." Helps in nurturing children

\* Thought question: Did God have a purpose in making us different?

C. Discuss some of the differences between men and women

D. Thought question

1. Can men do everything women can do?

2. Can women do everything men can do?

D. Feminism tries to blur these distinctions, trying to make women to be like men, and men to be like women.



**III A few good things that have come from the feminist movement**

A. It has emphasized that women should not tolerate physical and emotional abuse by men.

B. Some in it have fought pornography, stating that it treats women as objects, not as people.

**IV. Errors of feminism**

A. Feminism allows women to be deceived, just as men have been for centuries, by thinking that they can find fulfillment not by being givers in their families and in the church, but by succeeding in the business world, being in charge of people.

1. Read Acts 20:35 – What is more blessed according to this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\* How does feminism miss the point on this issue?

2. Read Matthew 5:3, 5 Who are "blessed" according to these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

\* How does feminism miss the point on this issue?

3. Read Titus 2:4,5 Write a list of what young women should strive to do according to these verses

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\* What do "feminists" think about these commandments."

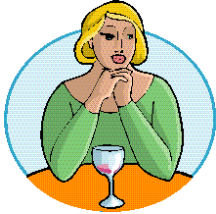
4. Read 1 Peter 3:4 What two words does Peter use in the last part of the verse to describe the spirit that is very precious in the sight of God? \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_\_\_\_ spirit

\* Feminists despise women with this spirit. They think women should be aggressive and pushy.

\* List some aggressive, loud and pushy women that are promoted on TV, movies, etc.

B. Implying that women are not only equal in importance, they are the same as men and should have identical roles.

1. For discussion: How do schools promote this concept? Television?
2. What are some absurd things that we see as a result of this effort to imply that men and women should be identical in the roles?



C. By under emphasizing the blessing that comes from children

1. Feminism tries to de-emphasize the importance of children. They are seen as a burden to a woman's accomplishing truly important goals in her career.
  - \* What violent act, promoted by feminists most reflects this dislike of children?
3. The results. As society leaves God, and men and women become more selfish, the biggest victims are children.
  - \* 60% of all children are raised without a father during at least a portion of their lives.
  - \* 2,500,000 children were treated in hospitals for abuse during the last year
4. Write and think about other consequences to children that have come from feminism and it's idea that women's fulfillment comes from leaving the home, competing with men and finding success in the business/ cultural world.

D. By promoting the misconception that greatness comes through being in charge and being powerful.

1. Read Matthew 20:25-28 According to verses 26 and 27, what must we do to be first?
  - \* Men have been deceived for many years thinking that greatness came through conquests, money and fame. Generally women have helped temper and "civilize" men by making them "come home" and attend to their domestic duties. But when women allow themselves to be deceived by the same misconceptions that have deceived men, what happens to the civilization of society?

#### IV. Feminism in local churches

A. Recently the Manhattan church of Christ (80<sup>th</sup> Street) has decided to allow women to lead in prayer, preside at the Lord's supper, make announcements, etc.

1. Read 1 Timothy 2:11,12
  - \* How would this text affect this practice?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 14:34,35
  - \* How would this text affect this practice?

B. Why do Christians try to "get around" texts like 1 Timothy 2:11,12 and 1 Corinthians 14:34,35?

#### V. How has it affected you?

A. On a scale of one to ten, write the number that affects how much you have been affected by the following clichés of feminism. (For example 1 = not affected at all, 3 = affected a little, 5 = affected somewhat, 8 = affected a good bit, 10 = a full blown, man hating feminists like Gloria Steinham)

1. "Women who stay at home with their children aren't living up to their potential." \_\_\_\_\_
2. "It is of greatest importance that women have a successful business career." \_\_\_\_\_
3. "God puts women in an inferior position by not allowing them to preach or lead in the church." \_\_\_\_\_

B. Add up your score: (1-3) Are you in the real world?  
(4-10) You've been affected somewhat  
(11-18) You're contaminated with feminism  
(19-30) You're very much affected, but at least you're honest.

#### VI. How to combat feminism

A. How not to - politics

1. Did Jesus try to change social ills of his day through political means?
2. Why are we tempted to try to use political means to deal with social ills of our society like feminism?

B. How? How can we fight the evils of feminism with the following Biblical principles? Discuss

1. With good, with love (Romans 12:21) How can we overcome the evils of feminism with good?
2. Not compromising spiritually
3. Constantly analyzing our motives
  - a. Why do we want wives to leave their children to work? Is it absolutely essential? Or, have we not taught how fulfilling motherhood can be? Do we just want more things or more financial security?

Conclusion: We're in a battle for the souls of men and women. May God help us!

# Defending Our Families

## Lesson 3: Homosexuality

Intro. Homosexuality involves sexual activities between those of the same sex.

A. Discussion questions

1. Are there any in your school who are openly homosexual?
2. Are they looked upon favorably or unfavorably?

**I. What does the Bible say about homosexuality?**

A. Read Leviticus 18:22

1. What does God think about homosexuality?
2. According to verse 29, what should happen to those who commit such actions?

B. Read Leviticus 20:13

1. According to this text, what was the punishment for homosexuality?

C. Romans 1:18-27 – The description of the perverse Roman world. Discuss the questions

1. According to verse 18, What do unrighteous men do to do the truth? How do they do it?
1. According to verse 20, why are those who reject God without excuse?
2. According to verse 21, How do people’s hearts become when they reject God?
3. Though they claim to be wise, what are they in actuality?
4. Verse 23 describes idolatry? What kinds of idolatry to people involve themselves with today?
5. What do you think it means when it says that “God gave them up to uncleanness?”
6. What do those who commit sexual perversion do to their bodies? (Read different versions)
7. According to verse 25, what do they exchange the truth for?
8. What word in verse 26 describes the kind of passions did God give them up to?
9. According to verse 26, homosexual acts are against what?
10. According to the last part of verse 27, what do those who commit sexual perversions receive?

**II. Thinking about the tragedies in the lives of homosexuals**

A. Romans 1:27 talks about the penalty for perversion. What are some sad consequences of this lifestyle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. Television shows homosexuals as happy and carefree. Why do you think that television shows and movies do not discuss these sad consequences of sexual perversion? Discuss

**III. The hope for homosexuals** (Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

A. What are the sins mentioned in verses 9 and 10? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. Though the Corinthians had allowed these sins to control them, what three things had happened to them in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the spirit of God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Thought questions:

- \* According to God, can homosexuals change?
- \* Why do you think the propaganda of homosexual activists is that they can’t change?
- \* An interesting web site run by evangelical ex-homosexuals: <http://www.exodus-international.org/> Also good info. at

[http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/lwc\\_cda\\_article/0,1643,A%253D153618%2526X%253D1%2526M%253D50088,00.html](http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/lwc_cda_article/0,1643,A%253D153618%2526X%253D1%2526M%253D50088,00.html)

#### IV. Feminine women, masculine men

A. With the promotion of homosexuality there has been a tendency to try to blur the distinction between the sexes. Society tries to feminize men and make women more masculine.



B. God wants there to be a distinction between the sexes

1. Read 1 Corinthians 11:14,15

- a. What kind of hair should women have?
- b. Should men have that kind of hair?

2. Thought question. What are some other characteristics that should distinguish men from women?

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C. How has television and the media tried to blur the distinction between men and women?

D. What can Christians do to try to maintain the distinction?

1. In raising children? Should girls be raised in exactly the same way as boys?
2. What can guys do to reaffirm their masculinity?
  - a. in their dress?
  - b. in their actions?
  - c. in other ways?
3. What can girls do to reaffirm their femininity?
  - a. in their dress?
  - b. in their actions?
  - c. in other ways?

#### V. How to respond to homosexuality and those affected by it.

A. Discuss the two scenarios below. Which is more effective in helping deal with homosexuality and why?

1. Mauritius knows that homosexuality is against Bible teaching and decides that he needs to campaign against it in his school. He prints up flyers quoting Leviticus 20:13 which states that they should be put to death and passes them out. He pickets the meeting of "Gay and Lesbian" club with a sign that says "Sodomites will go to hell." He gets up a petition against gay marriage and passes it around getting other students to sign it. When some of them call him a homophobe he says it's better to be a homophobe than what they are and uses crude language to describe them. He knows he's using crude language, but he wants to show those perverted people for what they are.
2. Nicodemus also knows that homosexuality is wrong and yet he decides to overcome evil with good. Though he's careful not to show approval of homosexuality, he does try to be polite to those who have that problem. He even tells Mauritius that his approach to the problem is not helping the situation and says that he won't sign the petition against gay marriage. Mauritius thinks Nicodemus is a softie. Some in the "gay and lesbian" club notice that Nicodemus doesn't approve of Maritius's approach. A member of the club comes to him and says he doesn't really know if he's homosexual or not, but he knows he's different and doesn't like what he considers to be Mauritius's bigotry.

B. Thought questions

1. Whose approach is the best? Mauritius or Nicodemus? Why?
2. What should Nicodemus say to the member of the "Gay and Lesbian defense club" that comes to him and expressions his uncertainties?

# Defending Our Families

## Lesson 4: Media contamination

Introduction –

- A. Read Proverbs 6:27
  - 1. This verse has to do primarily with one who chases someone else’s wife.
  - 2. Can it be applied to anyone who takes unhealthy influences into his life?
- B. Read Ezra 9:10,11 A description of the land of Canaan that the Jews repossessed.
  - 1. Is our own land becoming increasingly unclean morally? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. In your opinion, what is making it so unclean? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Different sources media contamination
  - 1. Blatant pornography – Hope that doesn’t affect very many of us. Most will avoid.
    - a. sources – Internet, videos, magazines
    - b. If you have a problem with this, there is help available, but you must seek it.
      - \* Let someone know about your problem and we will find resources to help.
  - 2. “Hollywood” - movies
  - 3. TV – sitcoms, talk
  - 4. Printed media - newspapers, magazines
  - 5. Music – music lyrics, videos, MTV, etc.,
  - 6. Video games



### I. How does the mediate contaminate us?

#### A. Stimulates unhealthy sexual or materialistic desires

- 1. Which two or three of the six types of media above would tend to do this more sexually? Which would affect us most with materialism, the idea that money is of great importance?
- 2. Can this become an addiction, like drug addiction?

#### B. Desensitizes us - makes us less shocked at sin and evil behavior

- 1. We should be shocked and shamed when we consider sin and evil behavior
  - a. How did Paul feel when seeing the evils in Athens? (Acts 17:16) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Read Jeremiah 6:15
    - i. How should the Jews have felt about their abominations? \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. What did they not know how to do? \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. Why is the inability to blush (feel ashamed) a sign of deep spiritual problems?
    - iiii. A psychiatrist, Leon Wurmser wrote the following about the loss of the ability to blush.  
“Where there is an unrestrained exposure of one’s emotions and of one’s body, a parading of secrets, a wanton intrusion of curiosity, [it has] become hard to express tender feelings, feelings of respect, of awe, of idealization, of reverence.... The culture of shamelessness is also the culture of irreverence, of debunking and devaluing ideals.”  
*(Embry Hills, bulletin, 2/27/05)*



- iiii. What role has modern media had in causing people to lose their ability to blush? discuss
- 2. The modern media takes us through several steps to desensitize us.
  - a. Laugh at it
    - \* Discuss how modern sitcoms try to make us laugh at homosexuality, casual sex. Gambling, materialism, revealing “sexy” clothing, etc.
    - \* Why is it hard to see something as evil when you are laughing at it?
    - \* Which sitcoms do you think are the worst? Name three \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. excuse sinful action– Modern media makes excuses for homosexuals, drug addicts, etc.
    - i. Write some excuses made for homosexuality, drug addiction, criminal behavior  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - \* Thought question – How can we love such people without excusing their sin?
    - \* Can those who excuse their sin really help them?
  - c. toleration – if you don’t tolerate such action you are a “homophobe” “judgmental”
  - d. participation- After toleration one tends to see no problem in participating in sin.

#### C. Affects our concept of normality

- 1. We all have an urge to be “normal.” But what is normal? Who defines normality?
- 2. The media has tried to define “normality” as...
  - a. sexuality before marriage (living together)
  - b. homosexuality is fine
  - c. normal clothing for young women is tight pants, short blouses, etc.

3. Thought question - Which three of the six media sources mentioned above is the worst at trying to define perverted, sinful behavior as normal? Defend your answers \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

**III. How has it affected you?** Analyze honestly how media has contaminated you in two ways. First, With a number on a scale of 1-10, write down how much you have been affected you on the issue mentioned. (For example: "1" would be hardly at all, "3" a little, "5" somewhat, "7" a good bit, 9 "a lot.") Then, with a letter on the second line write which source of media contamination has affected you the most on that issue (A) pornography (B) Movies (C) TV (D) newspapers, magazines (E) Music

**This is for self analysis.** You don't have to share your answers with anyone if you don't want to.

**Negatively** - On the numbers, #1 would be great, #10 would be the worst.

**Number Letter**

- \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 1. It is important for me to dress like most everybody else my age, (young ladies) even if it means somewhat short tops, somewhat tight pants, etc.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 2. A good career is the most important thing for me to work on in life.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 3. Homosexual acts aren't that evil.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 4. Sex before marriage is normal behavior that doesn't cause that much harm.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 5. A key to my happiness is making plenty of money.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 6. I must have lots of things, gadgets, clothes, etc. to be happy.

**Positively** - On the numbers, #1 would be the worst, # 10 would be the best

- \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 1. I think very little about trying to dress like others my age. (young ladies) I have absolutely no temptation to wear tight pants, short tops or anything that might be revealing.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 2. The most important goals for me are spiritual: Bible knowledge, association with Christians, serving others, etc. All other goals, including careers must come second.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 3. Though we should love those affected by it, homosexuality is an abomination to God  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 4. Sex before marriage is evil. It is of greatest importance to avoid it.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 5. The key to happiness is knowing God. Money is secondary.  
\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 6. I can be happy with very few things of this world.

**IV. How to control media contamination? Two ways**

A. "Cold turkey" There are some who have no television, do not go to movies, etc. I didn't have TV growing up and really don't feel like I missed out on that much.

1. Some think this is extreme. I don't. (Though I have a TV now and go to an occasional movie.)  
2. Why is it wrong to laugh at those who take this approach and make fun of them?

B. Control - I don't think it is wrong to have some media access if it is strictly controlled. How can we do it?

List ideas that you think will be helpful to control media contamination. Then answer the questions (a).

**1. Pornography** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. movies** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Which of the following will keep you from watching a movie. Discuss  
\* bad language \* Full nudity \* R rating \* nothing  
\* partial nudity \* Violence \* PG-13 rating

**3. TV** \_\_\_\_\_

a. List 3 TV shows you will not watch because of your convictions (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(If you have a hard time thinking of some, what does that say about your self control with the TV?)

4. Magazines, newspapers \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Music** \_\_\_\_\_

a. List 3songs you will not listen to because of your convictions?(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Video games** \_\_\_\_\_

a. List 3 video games you will not play because of your convictions?(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

C. What specifically do **you** plan to do to control the evil influence of the media in your life?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Defending Our Families

## Lesson 5: Instant Gratification

**Introduction:** If you offer a four year old child the following options, (1) A shiny five dollar bill right now, or (2) \$50 but you have to wait one month for it, which will he probably choose?

1. Why will a four year old accept the \$5 now and refuse to wait for the \$50? \_\_\_\_\_
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how good are you at sacrificing short-term pleasures for long term benefits? \_\_\_\_\_

### I. The Bible teaches the importance of sacrificing small short term blessings for long term spiritual gain

#### A. Read James 5:7,8

1. What example does James give of someone who must wait for the benefit of their work? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How do our lives as Christians compare to farmers? discuss

#### B. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

1. What example does Paul give here of those who must train themselves to win a prize? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do athletes punish their body in training? (running, lifting weights, etc.) discuss
3. How much training is necessary to be an Olympic runner? discuss
4. What comparisons can be drawn to Christian living?

#### C. An example – Esau Read Genesis 25:29-34

1. What did Esau sell to eat a bowl of stew? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* This involved a double portion of his father's inheritance and other great blessings
2. Do we sometimes sell valuable blessings for short-term benefits? How?



#### D. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

1. What are some things that cause problems if pushed **out of their time and season**?
  - a. In sports/athletics
  - b. In education?

### II. The idea of waiting, controlling yourself is the basis of civilization

A. Where there is no civilization, everyone grabs what they want, when they want it if they have the power to do so.

1. You have the "law of the jungle." "Might makes right." Etc.
2. Think of some times in history when there was little civilization. (Judges 21:25 gives a Bible example)
  - a. How much are people in such societies willing to wait and restrain themselves for the better long-term good?

B. Modern examples that show that restraint (waiting) is the basis of civilization.

1. Traffic – What are some examples of rules drivers must obey to have civilized traffic, even though it may mean that it may take longer for them to get to their destination?
  - a. What would happen to traffic if laws didn't make some wait or slow down to get to their destination?
  - b. Have any of you visited or lived in countries where people don't like to restrain themselves and obey traffic rules? (Dominican Republic, Argentina, etc.) What is traffic like there?
2. School – What are some examples of rules students must obey to have civilized schools?
  - a. What happens to students who don't want to restrain themselves in school?
    3. Camp!

C. Where there is no restraint, no waiting, there is no civilization



### III. Modern culture promotes "instant gratification" - no restraint, no waiting.

A. Starts with child rearing

1. In the 1950's Dr. Benjamin Spock promoted the idea that children shouldn't be punished, but when possible should be given whatever they wanted.
    - a. Result – Demanding, spoiled brats
  2. "I want it, and I want it now!"
- B. The idea of waiting or restraining oneself for better long-term good is laughable to many today.
- C. On a scale of 1-10, how much do the following media sources that promote the concept that restraint, controlling yourself, is "old fashioned." concept (remember yesterday's lesson). Defend your number
1. MTV
  2. Movies
  3. Rap music
  4. Rock music



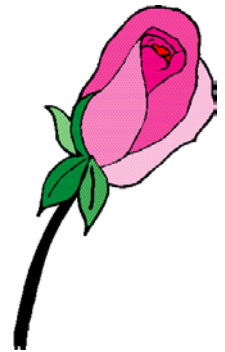
#### IV. Examples

- A. Money – “borrow now, enjoy your money now, don’t worry about having to pay it back with high interest.”  
1. Think of some commercials that promote this concept \_\_\_\_\_

2. Thought question: Why do people get in trouble with credit cards?  
3. How can they avoid it?

#### B. Sex

1. The Bible teaches us to wait for sexual satisfaction until marriage (Hebrews 13:4). Sex before marriage (or outside of marriage) is the sin of fornication.  
2. For people of the world, waiting until marriage for sex is laughable.  
3. Illustration –  
a. If you take a rose bud and peel the petals off, you will never be able to have it look like a beautiful rose, even if you try to glue the petals back together.  
b. If you want a beautiful rose, you have to wait until the rose bud blooms.  
c. Forcing things prematurely causes the loss of the full beauty that comes from God’s plan.  
4. What are some ways that sex before marriage takes away from the beauty of marriage?



#### C. Leave school

1. Is school always fun?  
2. Why are young people tempted to leave school before time?

- D. List other ways that the desire for instant gratification causes problems.

#### V. Results are disastrous

##### A. Families destroyed

1. When both husband and wives want instant gratification (“I want what I want now!”) they fight constantly.  
2. Do you think the exploding divorce rate has a lot to do with the culture of instant gratification? Why? Or why not?

##### B. Civilization

1. What are some ways the concept of “instant” gratification destroys civilization? Discuss

#### Conclusion –

- A. Maturity means learning to wait! It means learning to sacrifice small pleasures now, for greater benefits later.

##### B. Story

1. A little boy got his hand stuck in his mother’s very expensive vase and couldn’t get it out.  
2. She tried everything to help him get it out: soapy water, tugging, etc. Nothing worked  
3. Finally she had to call the daddy home from work. He tried everything: oil, WD-40, but the hand was stuck.  
4. Finally the mother in tears, went to get the hammer to break the vase.  
5. While she was gone, the father said, “son try to make your hand as narrow as possible and let’s try one more time.” As he said that he extended his hand with the fingers pointed forward to show his son how to make his hand.  
6. The little boy said, “Daddy, I can’t make my hand like that. If I did, I would drop my quarter!”

##### C. Applications.

1. How are young people and adults that way?  
2. What are some things of little value that they insist on holding on to, while thus sacrificing things of much greater value?  
3. What are some worldly things you want to hold onto that may make you lose your faith and your salvation? Put a check mark by what tempts you.  
a. Movie habits \_\_\_\_\_ d. questionable TV shows \_\_\_\_\_  
b. short, tight blouses \_\_\_\_\_ e. school activities \_\_\_\_\_  
c. tight pants \_\_\_\_\_ f. obsession with sports \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
4. What do you plan to do to gain a better perspective? \_\_\_\_\_

