DESIRE AND LUST--GOOD AND EVIL

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THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT SUBJECT FOR ANY CHRISTIAN, BECAUSE THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT WE ARE TO CRUCIFY THE FLESH WITH THE AFFECTIONS AND LUSTS(GAL.5:24); THAT LUSTS ARE DECEITFUL(EPH.4:22), LOOKING HARMLESS, BUT BRINGING DEATH IN THE END; THAT LUSTS ARE FOOLISH AND HURTFUL(1 TIM.6:9); "LET NOT SIN THEREFORE REIGN IN YOUR MORTAL BODY, THAT YE SHOULD OBEY IT IN THE LUSTS THEREFORE"(ROM.6:12).

THIS IS A BIG SUBJECT, AND MANY PEOPLE ARE CONFUSED AS TO JUST WHAT IS EVIL LUST, AND WHAT IS LAWFUL DESIRE. I DECIDED TO SHARE THE RESULTS OF MY STUDY WITH YOU.

CRUDEN'S CONCORDANCE SAYS THAT THE WORD "LUST" WAS FORMERLY USED WITH A GENERAL MEANING OF PLEASURE, DESIRE, WITH NO IDEA OF EVIL. SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES, WE FIND THIS TO BE TRUE. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, EATING AND DRINKING ARE EVEN CALLED LUSTING, DEUT.12:15-21; DEUT.14:26-27, WITH GOD'S APPROVAL.

BUT SO FAR AS I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN, THE WORD "LUST", IS ALWAYS USED IN AN EVIL SENSE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. IT IS FROM A WORD WITH A WIDE APPLICATION AND VARIOUS SHADES OF MEANINGS: LAWFUL AND UNLAWFUL. CONCUPISCENCE, SIMPLY MEANS "UNLAWFUL LUSTS". BUT THE WORD "DESIRE" IS OFTEN USED IN THE GOOD SENSE.

IN THE BEGINNING GOD GAVE MAN HIS FOOD AND DRINK (GEN.2:16-17) "OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN THOU MAYEST FREELY EAT; BUT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THOU MAYEST NOT EAT OF IT: FOR IN THE DAY THOU EATEST THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE." IN GEN.3:3, "GOD SAID, YE SHALL NOT EAT OF IT, NEITHER SHALL YE TOUCH IT, LEST YE DIE". NOTICE CLOSELY THAT DESIRE FOR THE ALLOWED FRUIT WAS APPROVED. BUT LUST FOR THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT WAS EVIL. THE SAME PRINCIPAL HOLDS ALL THROUGH THE BIBLE. MANKIND ARE CREATURES OF DESIRES GOOD AND BAD IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. AND JUST BECAUSE A THING LOOKS GOOD OR HARMLESS, SATIFIES A DESIRE, AND GIVES PLEASURE, DOES NOT MEAN IT IS NOT AN EVIL LUST. GEN.3:6, "AND WHEN EVE SAW THAT THE TREE WAS GOOD FOR FOOD, AND WAS PLEASANT TO THE EYES, AND A TREE TO BE DESIRED TO MAKE ONE WISE, SHE TOOK THE FRUIT THEREOF, AND DID EAT, AND GAVE ALSO UNTO HER HUSBAND WITH HER; AND HE DID EAT." IN THIS EVE LUSTED FOR EVIL. BUT SHE PLACED HERSELF IN THE WAY OF TEMPTATION; BY LISTENING TO THE SERPENT TELLING HER WHY SHE WAS ENTITLED TO EAT OF THIS TREE. SHE FANNED HER DESIRE BY LINGERING NEAR THE TREE; ADMIRING ITS FRUIT, TOUCHING IT, AND YEARNING FOR THE PLEASURE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. THIS IS STILL THE WAY WE ARE TEMPTED TODAY. JAS.1:13-15, "LET NO MAN SAY WHEN HE IS TEMPTED, I AM TEMPTED OF GOD; FOR GOD CANNOT BE TEMPTED WITH EVIL, NEITHER TEMPTETH HE ANY MAN; BUT EVERY MAN IS TEMPTED, WHEN HE IS DRAWN AWAY OF HIS OWN LUST, AND ENTICED. THEN LUST WHEN IT HATH CONCEIVED, BRINGETH FORTH SIN, AND SIN WHEN IT IS FINISHED, BRINGETH FORTH DEATH." IF EVE HAD NOT LINGERED NEAR THIS TREE, CONSIDERING WHAT PLEASURE STATUS, AND SATISFACTION ITS FRUIT COULD GIVE HER, SHE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ENTICED(TEMPTED); IF SHE HAD RESISTED THE LUST AT THE VERY BEGINNING SHE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DECEIVED BY IT. ROM.12:9, "ABHOR THAT WHICH IS EVIL." 1 THESS.5:22, "ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL". PROV.4:14-15, "ENTER NOT INTO THE PATH OF THE WICKED, AND GO NOT IN THE WAY OF EVIL MEN. AVOID IT, PASS NOT BY IT, TURN FROM IT, AND PASS AWAY." 1 COR.15:33, "BE NOT DECEIVED: EVIL COMMUNICATIONS CORRUPT GOOD MANNERS." 2 TIM.2:22, "FLEE ALSO YOUTHFUL LUSTS: BUT FOLLOW AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH, CHARITY, PEACE, WITH THEM THAT CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD OUT OF A PURE HEART." JAS.4:7, "RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU." IF WE ALWAYS RESISTED THE DEVIL; IF WE MADE AN HONEST EFFORT NOT TO BE IN THE WRONG COMPANY; IF WE ABSTAINED FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL EVEN, HATING, LOATHING, ABHORING IT; THEN WE WOULD'T FEEL OR SAY, "THE PLEASURES OF THE WORLD." BECAUSE THESE THINGS WOULD BE HATEFUL TO US, NOT PLEASURES AT ALL. LET US PROFIT BY THE TERRIBLE LESSON EVE LEARNED THE HARD WAY.

UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES, THE JEWS WERE COMMANDED TO EAT AND DRINK WITH REJOICING BEFORE THE LORD "WHATSOEVER THY SOUL LUSTETH AFTER, ACCORDING TO THE BLESSING OF GOD." BUT THERE WERE REGULATIONS HERE TOO. IN LEV CHAPTER 7, CERTAIN MEATS ARE POINTED OUT AS UNCLEAN FOR THEM TO EAT. LEV. 19:26, THEY WERE FORBIDDEN TO EAT BLOOD. PS.106:14-15, AND NUM.11:4-6, TELL HOW THAT WHEN THE JEWS HAD LEFT EGYPT BEHIND WITH ALL OF HER PLENTEOUS SUPPLY OF FOOD: HER FISH, GARLICK, MELONS, CUCUMBERS, AND SO ON. BEING LED OF GOD IN THE WILDERNESS WHERE THEY WERE EATING MANNA AND DRINKING WATER FROM ROCKS, THESE THINGS WERE NOT AVAILABLE IN THEIR JOURNEYINGS. AS WE WOULD SAY: "THEY COULDN'T AFFORD THEM." NOW THESE WERE ALL GOOD FOODS, NOTHING UNCLEAN OR FORBIDDEN ABOUT THEM. BUT THEY WERE JUST NOT AVAILABLE. SO, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, LUSTING AND LONGING FOR THEM WAS A GRIEVIOUS SIN IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD. THIS IS STILL TRUE FOR US TODAY: 1 TIM. 6:8, "AND HAVING FOOD AND RAIMENT LET US BE THEREWITH CONTENT.

THERE IS A REGULATION FOR OUR DRESS IN 1 TIM.2:9-10,"IN LIKE MANNER ALSO,THAT WOMEN ADORN THEMSELVES IN MODEST APPAREL,WITH SHAMEFACEDNESS AND SOBRIETY;NOT WITH BROIDED HAIR,OR GOLD,OR PEARLS,OR COSTLY ARRAY;(BUT WHICH BECOMETH WOMEN PROFESSING GODLINESS)WITH GOOD WORKS." TO YEARN,AND LONG FOR,TO DREAM FOR THINGS WE CANNOT AFFORD:COSTLY THINGS BECOMES EVIL:LUSTING AFTER EVIL THINGS.JUST AS IN EVE'S DAY.JUST AS IN MOSES' DAY.

IN 1 COR.11:22,PAUL REMONDS THE CORINTHIANS THAT THEY HAVE "HOUSES TO EAT AND DRINK IN." AND IN ACTS 5:4,ANNANIAS IS TOLD OF HIS POSSESSION HE HAD SOLD:"WHILES IT REMAINED,WAS IT NOT THINE OWN? AND AFTER IT WAS SOLD,WAS IT NOT IN THINE OWN POWER? WHY HAST THOU CONCEIVED THIS THING IN THINE HEART?THOU HAST NOT LIED UNTO MEN,BUT UNTO GOD." THERE IS,THEN,SCRIPTURALLY NOTHING WRONG IN POSSESSING HOUSE OR LANDS, SO LONG AS WE CAN AFFORD IT,OF COURSE,JUST LIKE THESE OTHER THINGS;THE FOOD,DRINK,CLOTHING.BUT TO LONG FOR AND DREAM OF A BIGGER,BETTER HOUSE, JUST BECAUSE SOME ONE ELSE HAS ONE,SEEMS VERY LIKE COVETUOUSNESS,WHICH IS LUST.UNLESS,OF COURSE WE TRULY HAVE NEED.AND WE MUST REMEMBER THAT WHAT WE ACTUALLY NEED,AND WHAT WE WANT,CAN BE TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THINGS.

I WOULD LIKE TO GO A LITTLE MORE IN DETAIL ABOUT THE DRINK PART REMEMBER NOAH AND LOT WERE BOTH GOOD,RIGHTEOUS MEN.BUT REMEMBER ALSO THAT WHEN THEY DRANK INTOXICATING WINE,THEY FELL INTO SHAME AND DISGRACE (GEN.9:20-24,AND GEN.19:30-36).IN HAB.2:15,THERE IS A WOE PRONOUNCED ON SERVING WINE TO OUR NEIGHBOR.IN ISA.28:1THERE IS A WOE PRONOUNCED ON THE DRUNKARDS OF EPHRIAM.PROV.20:1,"WINE IS A MOCKER,STRONG DRINK A RAGING:AND WHOSOEVER IS DECEIVED THEREBY IS NOT WISE." PROV.23:29-35,"WHO HATH WOE? WHO HATH SORROW? WHO HATH CONTENTIONS? WHO HATH BABBLINGS?WHO HATH WOUNDS WITHOUT CAUSE? WHO HATH REDNESS OF EYES? THEY THAT TARRY LONG AT WINE;THEY THAT GO TO SEEK MIXED WINE.LOOK NOT UPON THE WINE WHEN IT IS RED,WHEN IT GIVETH HIS COLOUR TO THE CUP,WHEN IT MOVETH ITSELF ARIGHT"(IS FERMENTED)."AT THE LAST IT BITETH LIKE A SERPENT,AND STINGETH LIKE AN ADDER.THINE EYES SHALL BEHOLD STRANGE WOMEN, AND THINE HEART SHALL UTTER PERVERSE THINGS.1(IT IS THE SAME WITH L.S.D D.,AND ALL OTHER PSYCHODELIC PRODUCTS OF OUR TIME.)"YEA,THOU SHALT BE AS HE THAT LIETH DOWN IN THE MIDST OF THE SEA,OR HE THAT LIETH UPON THE TOP OF A MAST.THEY HAVE STRIKEN ME,THOU SHALT SAY,AND I WAS NOT SICK;THEY HAVE BEATEN ME,AND I FELT IT NOT:WHEN SHALL I AWAKE? I WILL SEEK IT AGAIN." AND IN AMOS 6:4-6,WE HAVE SOME MORE ABOUT SOCIAL DRINKING,BESIDES THE ADMONITION WE HAVE ALREADY STUDDIED THAT TELLS US NOT TO SERVE THAT TO OUR NEIGHBOR THAT MAKES DRUNK."THAT LIE UPON BEDS OF IVORY,AND STRETCH THEMSELVES UPON THEIR COUCHES,AND EAT THE LAMBS OUT OF THE FLOCK,AND THE CALVES OUT OF THE MIDST OF THE STALL;THAT CHANT TO THE SOUND OF THE VIOL,AND INVENT TO THEMSELVES INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC, LIKE DAVID;THAT DRINK WINE IN BOWLS,AND ANOINT THEMSELVES WITH THE CHIEF OINTMENTS;THEY ARE NOT GRIEVED FOR THE AFFLICTION OF JOSEPH." THESE PEOPLE WERE SOCIALLY,GAILY DRINKING WINE BY THE BOWLFULL,NOT BESTIRRING THEMSELVES ABOUT THE SINS AND AFFLICTIONS OF THEIR PEOPLE. DEUT.21:20-21,"AND THEY SHALL SAY UNTO THE ELDERS OF HIS CITY,THIS OUR SON IS STUBBORN AND REBELLIOUS,HE WILL NOT OBEY OUR VOICE;HE IS A GLUTTON AND A DRUNKARD.AND ALL THE MEN OF THE CITY SHALL STONE HIM WITH STONES,THAT HE DIE." IN 1 COR.6:10,WE ARE WARNED THAT DRUNKARDS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.GOD HAS ALWAYS HATED DRUNKENNESS.AND EVE EVEN FOR GOOD,RIGHTEOUS PERSONS TO DRINK INTOXICATING DRINKS HAVE A HAZZARD,BESIDES THE HARM THEIR EXAMPLE CAN HAVE.REMEMBER NOAH AND LOT. REMEMBER ALSO,THERE IS A WOE PRONOUNCED ON SERVING IT.

LEV.10:8-11,"AND THE LORD SPAKE UNTO AARON,SAYING,DO NOT DRINK WINE NOR STRONG DRINK,THOU,NOR THY SONS WITH THEE,WHEN YE GO INTO THE TABERNACLE OF THE CONGREGATION,LEST YE DIE:IT SHALL BE A STATUTE FOR EVER THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS:THAT YE MAY PUT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOLY AND HOLY;AND BETWEEN CLEAN AND UNCLEAN;AND THAT YE MAY TEACH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL ALL THE STATUTES WHICH THE LORD HATH SPOKEN UNTO THEM BY THE HAND OF MOSES." IN THOSE DAYS THE TRIBE OF LEVI,AARON AND HIS SONS WERE THE PRIESTS UNTO THE LORD.WHEN THEY WERE MINISTERING ON THE PRIESTS' OFFICE,WHEN THEY WENT INTO THE TABERNACLE THEY WERE TO BE HOLY AND CLEAN,NOT DRINKING WINE OR STRONG DRINK.THEY WERE TO BE IN A CONDITION TO TEACH THE LAW OF GOD TO THE PEOPLE.TO SEPARATE THE CLEAN FROM THE UNCLEAN.TODAY ALL CHRISTIANS ARE PRIESTS UNTO THE LORD.WE LIVE EVERY MOMENT OF OUR LIVES IN THE TABERNACLE,THE CHURCH OF THE LORD,IF WE HAVE OBEYED THE GOSPEL AND BEEN ADDED TO IT.WE WILL ENTER THE HOLIEST OF ALL WHEN CHRIST COMES AGAIN,HEAVEN ITSELF.(HEB.9:3,8,AND 24;AND HEB. 10:1921).CHRISTIANS ARE ALWAYS ON DUTY AS PRIESTS IN THE CHURCH,OUR TABERNACLE,OR THEY ARE ERRING CHRISTIANS OUT OF DUTY.WE MUST BE HOLY AND CLEAN AT ALL TIMES.WE MUST ALWAYS BE IN CONDITION TO TEACH.IF A PRIEST UNDER MOSES' LAW COULD NOT DRINK WINE OR STRONG DRINK WHEN GOING INTO

THE TABERNACLE TO SERVE:HOW CAN WE ASSUME THAT A CHRISTIAN PRIEST,A CHRISTIAN,CAN EVER DRINK FERMENTED DRINK? REMEMBER NOAH AND LOT.

THE JEWS ACCUSED CHRIST OF BEING A GLUTTONOUS MAN AND A WINEBIBBER,A FRIEND OF PUBLICANS AND SINNERS.BUT JUST HOW WAS CHRIST A FRIEND OF PUBLICANS AND SINNERS? HE WASN'T TOO HIGHHEADED TO TALK TO THEM AND EAT WITH THEM.BUT WE KNOW BY READING THE BIBLE,HE WAS NOT A FRIEND OR PARTAKER WITH THEIR SINS.HE REPROVED SINS;ALWAYS FORGIVING THE FAITHFUL AND REPENTANT ONES.HE TAUGHT THEM NOT TO SIN,AND SHED HIS BLOOD TO SAVE US ALL FROM SIN.AND WE KNOW THAT HE WAS NEITHER GLUTTONOUS NOR A DRUNKARD BECAUSE THOUGH,"IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED LIKE WE ARE,HE WAS YET WITHOUT SIN"(HEB.4:14-15).HE LIVED UNDER THE LAW,SO HE KNEW THE SCRIPTURE NOT TO LOOK ON WINE WHEN IT MOVETH ITSELF ABOUT (FERMENTED WINE).AND HE TELLS US US NOT TO EAT WITH THE DRUNKEN(MATTH.24:49).THE JEWS WERE ALWAYS FINDING FAULT AND FALSLY ACCUSING HIM.JOHN HAD FASTED A LOT AND WAS ABSTEMEOUS IN HIS HABITS;CHRIST ATE AND DRANK WITH THE PEOPLE.MATTH.11:16-19.KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES,AND THAT CHRIST WAS SINLESS,IT IS AN UNCALLED FOR PRESUMPTION,TO SAY THE WINE HE DRANK WAS INTOXICATING.THE BIBLE CALLS THE PURE FRESH JUICE OF THE GRAPE,WINE;ISA.65:8,1THUS SAITH THE LORD, AS NEW WINE IS FOUND IN THE CLUSTER,AND ONE SAITH,DESTROY IT NOT;FOR A BLESSING IS IN IT".SURELY IT IS THE NEW WINE FOUND IN THE FRESH CLUSTER OF GRAPES THAT IS THE BLESSING;NOT THE LEAVENED AND FERMENTED WINE THAT CAUSETH BABBLINGS AND DISGRACE.

IN 1 TIM.5:23,PAUL INSTRUCTED TIMOTHY TO USE "A LITTLE WINE FOR THY STOMACH'S SAKE AND THINE OFTEN INFIRMITIES".A LITTLE WINE FOR THE INFIRMITIES OF HIS STOMACH;USEING IT AS A REMEDY,FOR HIS HEALTH.A FOOD, DRINK,OR REMEDY FOR OUR HEALTH'S SAKE THE LORD HAS GIVEN US.BUT AS CHRISTIANS,WE CAN'T USE SOMETHING THAT AFFECTS OUR MINDS,AND CAUSES US TO LOSE OUR SELF CONTROL;AS STRONG DRINK(INTOXICATING LIQUORS),LSD,OR SOME SUCH THING,AS MAN MAY INVENT,OR PRODUCE.

ECCL.10:17,"BLESSED ART THOU,O LAND,WHEN THY KING IS THE SON OF NOBLES,AND THY PRINCES EAT IN DUE SEASON,FOR STRENGTH,AND NOT FOR DRUNKENNESS." IN MARK 5:43,AFTER JESUS HAD RAISED THE DAUGHTER JARIOUS FROM THE DEAD,"HE CHARGED THEM THAT NO MAN SHOULD KNOW IT;AND COMMANDED THAT SOMETHING BE GIVEN HER TO EAT".AND IN MATTH.6:25-34,THE LORD TELLS US THAT HE KNOWS WE NEED FOOD,DRINK,AND CLOTHING.THEREFORE THESE THINGS ARE NEEDS,NOT LUSTS CLASSED WITH THE THINGS THAT ARE CONDEMNED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. 1 COR.10:31,"WHETHER THEREFORE YE EAT,OR DRINK,OR WHATSOEVER YE DO,DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD." SPEAKING OF FOOD,PAUL SAID IN 1 TIM. 4:4-5FOR EVERY CREATURE OF GOD IS GOOD,AND NOTHING TO BE REFUSED,IF IT BE RECEIVED WITH THANKSGIVING:FOR IT IS SANCTIFIED BY THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER." IT WAS MORE ALONG THIS SAME LINE WHEN THE SAVIOUR SAID IN MATTH.15:17-20,"DO YE NOT UNDERSTAND,THAT WHATSOEVER ENTERETH THE MOUTH AND GOETH INTO THE BELLY,AND IS CAST OUT INTO THE DRAUGHT?"(NOTICE HE IS SPEAKING ONLY OF FOOD AND DRINK;THINGS WE SWALLOW.)"BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH PROCEED OUT OF THE MOUTH COME FORTH FROM THE HEART;AND THEY DEFILE THE MAN".(REMEMBER THAT IT WAS IN THE HEART OF EVE THAT LUST WAS BORN.) ALSO IT WAS LUSTING AFTER THINGS THAT BROUGHT THEM PLEASURE THAT CAUSED THE FALL OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.)"FOR OUT OF THE HEART PROCEED EVIL THOUGHTS"(ANY LUST OF THE FLESH IS AN EVIL THOUGHT.)"MURDERS,ADULTERIES,FORNICATIONS,THEFTS,FALSE WITNESS,BLASPHEMIES:THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT DEFILE THE MAN:BUT TO EAT WITH UNWASHEN HANDS DEFILETH NOT A MAN." AND IN ACTS 27:34,PAUL SAID,"WHEREFORE I PRAY YOU TAKE SOME MEAT:FOR THIS IS FOR YOUR HEALTH."

BESIDES THE THINGS WE HAVE ALREADY STUDDIED,IT IS WRONG TO EAT, DRINK,OR USE ANY REMEDY,OR FOR ANY HABIT THAT IS IN ANY WAY HARMFUL TO OUR BODIES.IF IT DISAGREES WITH US,AFFECTS OUR MINDS,OR CAUSES ILL SYMTOMS;THEN IT IS EVIL FOR US,EVEN IF OTHERWISE IT WOULD BE A LAWFUL FOOD OR DRINK FOR US.1 COR.19:20,"WHAT? KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU,WHICH YE HAVE OF GOD,AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN? FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE:THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY,AND IN YOUR SPIRIT,WHICH ARE GOD'S." 1 COR.3:16-17,"KNOW YE NOT THAT YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD?IF ANY MAN DEFILE"(MARGIN SAYS "DESTROY T ROY)"THE TEM-LE OF GOD HIM SHALL GOD DESTROY:FOR THE TEMPLE OF GOD IS HOLY,WHICH TEMPLE YE ARE." HOW CAN ANYONE READ THESE TWO SCRIPTURES,AND CONTINUE A LUST OF THE FLESH HABIT THAT INJURES,EVEN TO A SMALL DEGREE HIS BODY? TO THE DEGREE THAT HIS HABIT CAUSES SYMPTOMS OR SIGNS OF ILLNESS,OR EVEN LESS STRENGTH:TO JUST THAT DEGREE HE IS DESTROYING THE TEMPLE OF GOD.THIS IS AS IMPORTANT AS ANY OTHER COMMANDMENT.

LUSTS OF THE FLESH ARE CONDEMNED,WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.IT DOSEN'T SAY FOR EACH CHRISTIAN TO CHOOSE HER OWN PET LUST THAT GIVES HER PLEASURE,AND SEEMS HARMLESS TO HER.THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE WOULD MAKE ALL LUSTS RIGHTEOUS.BECAUSE ONE CHRISTIAN HAS AS MUCH RIGHT TO SAY THIS LUST IS ALRIGHT;AS THE OTHER HAS TO SAY HIS CHOSEN LUST IS O.K.

1 JNO.2:15-17,"LOVE NOT THE WORLD,NEITHER THE THINGS THAT ARE IN THE WORLD.IF ANY MAN LOVE THE WORLD,THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM

HIM.FOR ALL THAT IS IN THE WORLD,THE LUST OF THE FLESH,THE LUST OF THE EYES,AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE,IS NOT OF THE FATHER,BUT IS OF THE WORLD.THE WORLD PASSETH AWAY,AND THE LUST THEREOF:BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF GOD ABIDETH FOREVER." HERE INDULGING A LUST OF THE FLESH IS SAID TO BE NOT DOING THE WILL OF GOD.AND IN THINKING OF THESE THINGS AND THE FLESH LY PLEASURES THEY GIVE,LET US READ 2 TIM.3:4,"LOVERS OF PLEASURES MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD."

REMEMBER WE ARE IN A TRAINING PERIOD.A TIME OF MAKING ANEW OUR HABITS AND TASTES IN PLEASURES TO BE LIKE GOD.WE CAN DO THIS IF WE LOVE THE LORD ENOUGH.OTHERWISE HE WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN US THESE COMMANDS.HE TELLS US WE CAN REPENT AND REFORM.WHEN WE HAVE ALL REACHED THIS STATE OF REFORMATION,WE WILL BE LIKE CHRIST.WE WILL ALL THINK ALIKE,BECAUSE WE WILL THINK THE WORD OF GOD.WE WILL ALL ENJOY THE SAME THINGS.BECAUSE WE WILL ENJOY HEAVENLY THINGS,NOT LUSTS OF THE FLESH.GAL.5:17,"FOR THE FLESH FLESH LUSTETH AGAINST THE SPIRIT,AND THE SPIRIT AGAINST THE FLESH:AND THESE ARE CONTRARY ONE TO ANOTHER:SO THAT YE CANNOT DO THE THINGS THAT YE WOULD." CERTAINLY,IF WE ARE LED OF THE SPIRIT,WE CANNOT DO THE THINGS WE WOULD IN FOLLOWING THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH.THE SPIRIT LEADS IN ONE PATH;THE LUST OF THE FLESH IS ANOTHER PATH;THEY ARE CONTRARY PATHS;WE CAN'T TRAVEL BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.COL.3:3,WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE DEAD TO THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH,OUR LIVES ARE HID IN CHRIST.BUT LUSTS OF THE FLESH CANNOT BE HID IN CHRIST.IF WE ARE CLINGING TO THESE WE ARE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST HERE,NOT ABIDING IN HIM.COL.3:5-6,"MORTIFY THEREFORE YOUR MEMBERS WHICH ARE UPON THE EARTH:FORNICATION,UNCLEANNESS,INORDINATE AFFECTION,EVIL CONCUPISCENCE"(WHICH IS LUST FOR THE UNLAWFUL)"COVETUOUSNESS WHICH IS IDOLATRY:FOR WHICH THINGS SAKE THE WRATH OF GOD COMETH ON THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE." TO MORTIFY,MEANS TO PUT TO A SLOW DEATH.THESE FLESHLY LUSTS ARE CALLED OUR MEMBERS ON EARTH,AND WE ARE COMMANDED TO CUT THEM OFF.PUT THEM TO DEATH.PUT THEM OUT OF OUR LIVES.ROM.8:13,"FOR IF YE LIVE AFTER THE FLESH,YE SHALL DIE:BUT IF THROUGH THE SPIRIT YE DO MORTIFY THE DEEDS OF THE BODY,YE SHALL LIVE."

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS ALL IMPORTANT.HOW CAN WE TELL WHAT IS OF THE SPIRIT? AND WHAT IS OF THE FLESH? ALL KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE OF THE SPIRIT IS REVEALED TO US IN THE BIBLE,AND PETER TELLS THAT THROUGH THIS KNOWLEDGE WE CAN ESCAPE THE CORRUPTION THAT IS IN THE WORLD THROUGH LUSTS(1 PET.1:2-4).AS LONG AS WE ARE LIVING ACCORDING TO THIS KNOWLEDGE WE KNOW WE ARE LED OF THE SPIRIT.BUT WHEN WE DO FOOLISH,UNLEARNED THINGS TRINGS,WE ARE IN FOR TROUBLE(2 TIM.2:22-23),ROM.8:6-9"FOR TO BE CARNALLY MINDED"(FLESHLY MINDED)"IS DEATH:BUT TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE AND PEACE.BECAUSE THE CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD:FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD,NEITHER INDEED CAN BE"(GOD'S LAWS FOR DAILY LIFE ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS HIS LAWS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP)."SO THEN THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD.BUT YE ARE NOT IN THE FLESH FLESH,BUT IN THE SPIRIT,IF SO BE THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLS IN YOU. NOW IF ANY MAN HAVE NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST,HE IS NONE OF HIS.----- THEREFORE BRETHREN,WE ARE DEBTORS,NOT TO THE FL ESH,TO LIVE AFTER THE FLESH.FOR IF YE LIVE AFTER THE FLESH,YE SHALL DIE:BUT IF YE THROUGH THE SPIRIT DO MORTIFY THE DEEDS OF THE BODY,YE SHALL LIVE.FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD,THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD." GOD'S SPIRIT DOES NOT LEAD US TO INDULGE IN ANY LUST OF THE FLESH.BUT CONDEMNS LUST.

THE BIBLE DOES NOT SAY,"DO NOT DO SO AND SO." NAMING EVERY LUST INDIVIDUALLY THAT HUMANS CAN THINK OF TO LUST OF.FOR INSTANCE,IT DOES NOT SAY,"DO NOT WATCH DIRTY SHOWS.DO NOT TAKE LSD.DO NOT JOIN THE HIPPIES LEWDNESS AND NUDENESS." THE LIST COULD BE ENDLESS IF WE ASSUME THAT ALL LUSTS NOT SPECIFICALLY NAMED ARE ALLOWED.BUT GOD CONDEMNED ALL THESE THINGS,AND ALL OTHER LUSTS OF THE FLESH,UNDER THE HEADING OF THE CARNAL MIND:LUSTS OF THE FLESH,CONTRASTED TO THE LEADING OF THE SPIRIT. ROM.13:14,"MAKE NOT PROVISION FOR THE FLESH TO FULFILL IT IN THE LUSTS THEREOF." IT IS OUR CONSTANT,MOMENT BY MOMENT DUTY TO STRIVE TO CHANGE OUR DESIRES,OUR PLEASURES,AND OUR HABITS,AND WAYS OF THINKING SO THAT THEY ARE HID IN CHRIST.WE HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE OF CHRIST TO INDULGE IN WORLDLY LUSTS.AND THIS IS NOT A SAFE PLACE TO BE FOUND.THE SO-CALLED PLEASURES OF THE WORLD,SHOULD BE JUST THAT TO US."SO-CALLED PLEASURES." WWE SHOULD ABHOR THEM;ABSTAIN FROM THEM;PASS FROM THEM,AVOID THEM.REMEMBER THAT "THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMETH RIGHT UNTO A MAN,BUT THE END THEREOF ARE THE WAYS OF DEATH"(PROV.14:4).

EVEN IN THINGS LIKE FOOD AND DRINK,THAT ARE NOT LUSTS,BUT LAWFUL DESIRES FOR BLESSINGS GOD HAS GIVEN US WE ARE COMMANDED TO BE TEMPERATE(1 COR.9:25;TIT.1:8;TIT.2:2;PHIL.4:5,"LET YOUR MODERATION BE KNOWN KNOWN TO ALL MEN."

SOME PEOPLE WILL USE EVERY OBJECTION IN THE BOOK TO TRY TO JUSTIFY A LUST OF THE FLESH.SOME EVEN WILL CALL IN QUESTION THE NORMAL GOD-APPROVED DESIRE OF MAN AND WIFE FOR EACH OTHER,AND CALL THIS LUST. BUT LET US REMEMBER,"WHAT GOD HAS CLEANSED,WE ARE NOT TO CALL UNCLEAN." I WON'T ATTEMPT TO GO INTO ALL THE SCRIPTURES TO PROVE THAT GOD-GIVEN MARRIAGE IS NOT LUST INSPIRED.1 COR.7:1-2,"---IT IS GOOD FOR A MAN NOT

TO TOUCH A WOMAN.NEVERTHELESS,TO AVOID FORNICATION,LET EVERY MAN HAVE HIS OWN WIFE,AND LET EVERY WOMAN HAVE HER OWN HUSBAND." NORMAL DESIRE BETWEEN MARRIAGE PARTNERS,THEREFORE IS NOT LUST.THIS GOD GAVE US WITH HIS BLESSING(GEN.1:28).BUT TO LOOK ON SOME ONE,NOT OUR MATE WITH DESIRE, IS EVIL LUST.THIS VERY TYPE OF LUST IS ONE REASON GOD DESTROYED THE WORLD BY FLOOD(GEN.6:1-2).THIS ALSO CAN BE CONTROLLED,OR GOD WOULD NOT CONDEMN IT,AND COMMAND US TO "WALK IN THE SPIRIT,NOT FULFILLING THE LUST OF THE FLESH"(GAL.5:16).

WOMEN AND GIRLS CAN DO MORE THAN SOME OF US SEEM TO REALIZE IN CONTROLLING THE LUST THAT IS SO RAMPANT IN OUR WORLD,TODAY.WHEN A WOMAN OR GIRL WEARS REVEALING,TIGHT,OR SKIMPY CLOTHING;WHEN SHE BEHAVES IN A BOLD,FLIRTATIOUS MANNER;WHEN SHE ALLOWS MEN OR BOYS TO CARESS HER IN ANY WAY,TOUCHING HER UNNECESSARILY,SHE IS PUTTING HERSELF IN A POSITION OF ENCOURAGING LUST FOR HERSELF.EVEN THOUGH HER THOUGHTS MIGHT BE CLEAN.WHEN WHEN SHE DOES THESE THINGS SHE PUTS HERSELF ON THE LEVEL OF THE SOLICITING HARLOT.AND IS IN DANGER OF BEING JUDGED AS GUILTY OF THE ACT OF ADULTRY ITSELF(MATTH.5:26-27,READ WITH,1 TIM.2:9-10).

I HAVE BEEN ASKED MORE THAN ONCE,"ISN'T IT GRATIFYING A FLESHLY LUST TO PLAN A VACATION,AND SPEND MONEY ON VACATION EQUIPMENT AND SO ON?" OF COURSE,IF OUR SPENDING IS EXTRAVAGANT,THAT IS ANSWERED ALREADY IN OUR STUDIES ON FOOD,CLOTHING,AND SO ON.A CHRISTIAN JUST ISN'T A WASTER OR EXTRAVAGANT.

THE WORD "VACATION" LIKE THE WORD "RETIRE," APPLY ONLY TO WORLDLY THINGS WHERE A CHRISTIAN IS CONCERNED.A CHRISTIAN MAY RETIRE FROM HIS JOB:BUT HE NEVER RETIRES FROM THE OWRK OF THE LORD AS LONG AS HE LIVES.A CHRISTIAN MAY TAKE A VACATION,THAT IS A JOURNEY FROM ONE SET OF SURROUNDINGS TO ANOTHER.BUT HE SHOULD NEVER TAKE A VACATION FROM BIBLE-READING,STUDY,AND MEDITATION ON THE WORD OF GOD,PRAYER,AND OBSERVING THE LORD'S SUPPER,AS WELL AS ALL OTHER SERVICE TO GOD.

IT COSTS MONEY TO LIVE IN WHATEVER LOCATION HE MAY BE,AT HOME OR AWAY.BUT HE CAN IF HE WILL,WALK JUST AS CLOSE TO HIS MASTER AWAY ON A JOURNEY AS AT HOME.SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOSE IT MAKE WHERE YOU GO OR STAY,AS LONG AS YOU ARE CAREFUL TO FAITHFULLY READ,STUDY,PRAY,AND ASSEMBLE WITH THE SAINTS ON THE LORD'S DAY? YOU CAN LIVE AS CLOSE TO ~~CHRIST~~ CHRIST ON A JOURNEY AS AT HOME.THERE ARE MORE SCRIPTURES TELLING OF GOD'S PEOPLE WANDERING ABOUT THAN THERE ARE OF THEM STAYING IN ONE PLACE,FOR THAT MATTER. I DELIBERATELY USE THE WORD "JOURNEY" INSTEAD OF "VACATION OR "TRIP." BECAUSE IN MANY PEOPLES' MINDS VACATION AND TRIP,MEAN"GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL",AND WITH TOO MANY THIS INVOLVES LEAVING LIFE WITH GOD BEHIND ALSO.

MANY SCRIPTURES CALL ATTENTION TO THE MIGHTY AND WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD AS DISPLAYED IN THE THINGS HE HAS CREATED FOR US TO ENJOY (1 TIM.6:17).IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN HE CREATED EVERY PLANT THAT IS PLEASANT TO THE EYES,AS WELL AS GOOD FOR FOOD.OUR ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE STARS,THE SUN AND THE MOON;TO ANIMALS AND INSECTS;TO CLOUDS,MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS,RIVERS,AND DESERTS;AND SO ON AND ON.IF WE VIEW THESE WONDERFUL THINGS WITH THE LOVE AND AWE OF GOD IN OUR HEARTS;HOW CAN ANYONE SAY WE ARE NOT BETTER FOR ENJOYING THEM? GOD REPEATEDLY TELLS US TO BE GLAD AND REJOICE.BUT TO REJOICE IN THE LORD IN THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT.ROM.5:2 "REJOICE IN HOPE OF GLORY--." ROM.15:10,"REJOICE YE GENTILES." 1 COR.12 26,"OR ONE MEMBER BE HONORED,ALL MEMBERS REJOICE WITH IT." WE REJOICE WHEN CHRIST IS PREACHED(PHIL.1:18,AND PHIL.3:1),"BRETHREN,REJOICE IN THE LORD." 1 THESS.5:16,"REJOICE EVERMORE." ~~1 PET.1:3-7,"REJOICE GREATLY,AND REJOICE WITH JOY UNSPEAKABLE." PHIL.4:4,"REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAY,AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE." REV.19:7,"REJOICE AND BE GLAD."~~

BUT NONE OF THIS REJOICING IS IN THE LUSTS OF THE FL ESH.WE CAN,IF WE WILL,DO OUR REJOICING IN THE LORD ON A JOURNEY,AS WELL AS AT HOME.PAUL ALSO TELLS US OF HIS EARNEST DESIRE TO SEE THE CHRISTIANS HE WROTE TO,AND HIS REJOICING IN THEM.1 THESS.2:17;2 TIM.1:4;ROM.15:23;AND 1 THESS.2:8.ALL FLESHLY TIES,INCLUDING FAMILIES ARE ONLY FOR THIS WORLD IN HEAVEN,THEY NEITHER MARRY NOR ARE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE(MARK 12:25) .BUT THE SPIRITUAL TIES,OUR BRETHREN AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,IS A RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL ENDURE.(MATTH.12:49-50).THIS IS THE RELATIONSHIP THAT SHOULD BRING US JOY.CHRISTIANS ARE OUR BELOVED FAMILY.WE SHOULD ENJOY THEIR COMPANY MORE;WE SHOULD HAVE MORE KINDNESS AND FORBEARANCE FOR THEM;BE MORE PATIENT WITH THEM.PAUL REJOICED IN HIS FELLOW CHRISTIANS,AND SO SHOULD WE;LOVING THEM,NOT EMPHASIZING THEIR FAULTS.

AT ONE TIME WHEN THE DISCIPLES HAD RETURNED FROM PREACHING, THEY WERE TIRED,AND THE CROWDS WERE MANY,SO CHRIST SAID:"COME YE APART INTO A DESERT PLACE,AND REST AWHILE:FOR THERE WERE MANY COMING AND GOING AND THEY HAD NO LEISURE SO MUCH AS TO EAT.AND THEY DEPARTED INTO A DESERT PLACE BY SHIP PRIVATELY." THEIR MODE OF TRAVEL WAS BY SHIP,BURRO, CAMEL,OR AFOOT.WE,TIRED OUT NY THE SAMENESS OF EVERYTHING,AND THE BURD-

DENS THAT BESET US IN THE DAILY GRIND OF LIFE, MAY ALSO WISH TO GO APART AND REST AWHILE. SINCE THE LORD DID THIS, WE HAVE AN EXAMPLE FROM THE BIBLE, SO THIS IS NOT INDULGING A LUST, BUT A LAWFUL DESIRE TO BE REFRESHED. AS LONG, OF COURSE, AS WE ABIDE IN THE LORD, OUR LIVES HID IN HIM DURING THIS REST. AS LONG AS OUR PLEASURE AND REJOICING ARE IN THE LORD, NOT IN THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH. JUST LIKE ALL OTHER LAWFUL DESIRES FOR THINGS WHEREWITH THE LORD HAS BLESSED US. OUR JOURNEY (VACATION), TOO, CAN BECOME A SIN, BY MAKING IT AN OCCASION FOR INDULGING LUSTS OF THE FLESH AND "NEGLECTING OUR GREAT SALVATION" (HEB. 2:3), LETTING THE THINGS WE HAVE HAVE LEARNED "SLIP" FROM OUR MINDS (HEB. 2:1-2).

BUT WE KNOW THAT THE CROWDS FOLLOWED OUR LORD. AND WHAT DID HE DO ON HIS VACATION? HE PREACHED THE WORD OF GOD TO THEM; HE FED THEM; HE WENT APART TO PRAY. (MARK 6:31-46). NO ENTERTAINMENT ON THIS VACATION, NO FUN, NO SPORTS, NOT LUSTS OF THE FLESH INDULGED. JUST WORK FOR THE LORD IN ANOTHER LOCATION. NOT EVEN THE REST FOR CHRIST AND HIS DISCIPLES, BUT, AS FOR CHRIST, EVEN SO FOR THE CHRISTIAN, PEACE WITH GOD IS OUR REST. WHEN WE GO APART, WE GO IN OUR CARS. WE DRAG A TRAILOR TO EAT AND SLEEP IN; TAKE A CAMPER; STAY IN MOTELS, IN OUR TENT, OR WITH RELATIVES; FRIENDS OR BRETHREN. BUT AS LONG AS OUR LIVES ARE HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD, WE ARE LED OF THE SPIRIT, WHEREVER WE ARE.

SO MANY PEOPLE TODAY THINK THAT IT IS ONLY DESIRING TO COMMIT MURDER, ADULTRY, OR FREQUENT SIN DIVES THAT IS LUST OF THE FLESH. THEN OTHERS THINK ANYTHING WE MIGHT DESIRE IS LUST. THEREFORE ~~AS~~* AS LONG AS WORSHIP IS NOT NEGLECTED, MANY LUSTS OF THE FLESH MAY BE INDULGED. THEREFORE, I THINK IT GOOD TO LEARN JUST WHAT OUR NEW TESTAMENT SAYS ABOUT LUST OF THE FLESH (BEING LED OF THE FLESH).

I KNOW IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS TO BE WELL-INFORMED ON THIS SUBJECT. ALSO FOR MOTHERS RAISING YOUNGSTERS.

WE DO NOT READ OF SEPARATE GOSPELS FOR OLD OR YOUNG. A PERSON WHO OBEYS THE GOSPEL IS OBLIGATED TO LIVE BY IT REGARDLESS OF AGE. IT IS A CHALLENGE. BUT, SISTERS, WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES RELYING ON THE LORD FOR GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH. AND YOUNG SISTERS, REMEMBER, "NO CHALLENGE, NO ADVENTURE." TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE FAITHFULLY UNTO DEATH P RESENTS THE GREATEST AND THE MOST REWARDING CHALLENGE EVER KNOWN TO MAN. GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU ALL UNDER THE SHADOW OF HIS WINGS.

WRITTEN IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

LURANA MC CLUSKEY, 1829 LAUREL LANE,
WEST SACRAMENTO, CALIF. 95691