

A few quotations will suffice to show the reality of this trend. Time magazine, October 16, 1964. p.55. "Religion." "Congregationalist Fitch advocates a code of sexual morality with its roots in reason, not revelation."

By "revelation" he means the Bible. This constitutes a rejection of the ten commandments, the teaching of Jesus, and the words of the Apostle Paul. Unbelief always leads to a lowering of the moral standards of a society.

Honest to God by John A. T. Robinson, Bishop of Woolrich. SCM Press Ltd. London. 1963. p.109,110. "The New Morality."

"The sanctions of Sinai have lost their terrors, and the people no longer accept the authority of Jesus even as a great moral teacher. Robbed of its supernatural support, men find it difficult to take seriously a code of living that confessedly depended on them. 'Why shouldn't I?' or 'What's wrong with it?' are questions which in our generation press for an answer. And supernaturalist reasons - that God or Christ has pronounced it a 'sin' - have force and even meaning, for none but a diminishing remnant."

This statement is sadly true in the West today, but Bishop Robinson does not tell us that it is modernism and the wholesale rejection of the Bible that has led to this attitude. This trend is at the very root of the present decay of the West.

The one factor that accounts for the success of Western civilization is respect for the Word of God and its teachings. Western civilization will crumble in proportion to the success of Bible-rejecting liberalism. The churches which have grown up around the world as a result of missionary efforts in past days must reject liberalism and its spokesmen or else fall into the same decay evidenced by these quotations.

(b) group two - spiritual sins

- idolatry - the worship of false gods, allowing anything to be adored and exalted above God.
- witchcraft - "a secret tampering with the powers of evil." Usually sorcery goes hand in hand with idolatry.

The natural man is given to fear of the unknown and unseen. This fear leads to an attempt to placate the gods, thus idolatry and sorcery. Christians in Paul's day were in danger of falling back into these things because it was so much a part of the civilization of that day.

(c) group three - social sins, sins against our neighbor

- hatred - enmity against another.
- variance - strife and wrangling which results from hatred.
- emulations - jealousies, rivalry.
- wrath - outbursts of wrath. Outward manifestation of an inward feeling of hatred.
- strife - "caballings." The word means "working for hire." Here it speaks of one who goes about gossiping.
- seditions - divisions, parties.
- heresies - permanent sects, distinct organized bodies.
- envying - not simply jealousy, but the desire to deprive the other of what he has.

This list is progressive. Hatred toward another is the beginning of the chain reaction. (The root of the hatred is love of self.) The hatred grows into strife and rivalry between individuals at first, and as the individuals campaign for their cause, parties are formed. These parties at first contend with each other inside the same organization, but soon a permanent split develops. After the split, the two sects "envy" each other and seek to deprive the other of whatever it possesses. That such a situation should develop among Christians is sad indeed. Church history serves to show that such a condition has developed many times. It happens because those involved allow the flesh to prevail.

We must not confuse splits of this kind with splits that have occurred because of a stand for the teaching of the Word of God (i.e., the Protestant Reformation). In this epistle Paul advocated a division, a division between the Judaizers