

How to Stop the AIDS Epidemic

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America has partaken of the sexual revolution and now America is engulfed in what could be the worst plague ever—the AIDS epidemic. This epidemic is truly unique in our modern history. There is no cure for AIDS. It brings a virtually certain, agonizing death. Above all, the AIDS virus is spread almost exclusively through intimate sexual contact and intravenous drug abuse. The number of people contracting the infection from blood transfusion is virtually nil since the antibody test was introduced. What does this mean? It means that if Americans repented of their sinful wicked behavior—illicit sex and drug abuse—the AIDS epidemic would be stopped dead in its tracks.

God is sovereign. He is in absolute control of all events. Why did God allow such a devastating epidemic to strike our nation? One reason is our country's approval of, embracing of, and obsession with sexual immorality, or fornication. Fornication is used two ways in the New Testament. It can mean sexual intercourse between unmarried people (I Cor. 7:1-2), but it is also used to describe sexual sins in general (Acts 15:20, Gal. 5:19). Before America can repent, we must see sexual sins as God sees them: wicked, unclean, destructive, an abomination, a sin against one's own body. "Flee immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body" (I Cor 6:18). Instead of making heroes out of homosexuals, sodomites, and wicked, fornicating, whore-mongering basketball stars, we must face the truth. God's truth.

In order to understand God's view of sexuality, we must focus on His infallible Word, the Bible. The following is a partial list describing how God feels about common sexual sins being practiced in our land. HOMOSEXUALITY is considered an abomination before God (Gen. 19:4-11, Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; Jude 1:6-7). BESTIALITY, or having sex with an animal, is wicked (Lev. 18:23; 20:15-16). ADULTERY is a sin against the family and is to be punished by death (Lev. 19: 10, 20:11, Ex. 20:14, Deut. 5:18, 22:22-25). Jesus Christ taught that even lusting after another man's wife in your heart merits hell (Matt. 5:27-32). INCEST, in all its forms, is strictly forbidden (Lev. 18:6-18, 20:12,14,17,19,21; Deut. 22:30; I Cor. 5:1-5). PROSTITUTION; male and female, is condemned in all its forms, ritualistic or otherwise (Deut 23: 17,18; Prov. 7:6-27; I Cor. 6:15). In Revelation 17:5, prostitution represents rebellion and wickedness. If a man SEDUCED an unmarried or unengaged woman, he would have to pay her bride price (equal to about three year's wages) and he would have to marry her unless her father forbids it. In the latter case, he would still pay the bride price (probably over \$30,000 in today's money; see Ex 22:16-17, Deut. 22:28-29). TRANSVESTITES and cross dressers are an abomination to God (Deut. 22:5). RAPISTS (men who physically force women to have sex) are condemned to death (Deut. 22:25). PORNOGRAPHY in every form is explicitly condemned (Rom. 1:32).

Take note that although our society views premarital sex, living together without marriage, homosexuality, and adultery as normal behavior, God does not! God will not be mocked. Do you think AIDS is bad? Hell is much worse. Every sexual sin listed above except lust and premarital sex were death penalty offenses in Israel. (Hard core pornography is a form of prostitution and would fall under the civil sanctions for prostitution.) God does not take sexual sin lightly. Premarital sex, widely accepted and practiced in our day, was viewed with such hatred by God that even after only one offense, the couple

would be forced to marry and the man to pay a huge sum of money. God has spoken. Fornicators will not enter His kingdom. “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God ” (I Cor. 5:9-19). “The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death ” (Rev. 21:8).

As in Israel of old, America is full of false prophets (the media, liberal clergy, government spokesmen and health officials), wicked priests (the clergy who have abandoned God's word for secular humanism), and evil, power hungry princes (most senators, congressmen, and government officials on the local, state, and national levels). And the people love to have it so (see Jer. 5:30-31). Why? Because the people don't want the truth. They love their sin instead of God. The message today is not believe in Jesus Christ, submit to His authority, His law. It is not repent of your sins and put on the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The message is safe sex—put on a condom. Make sure you have your protection. God will judge our wicked nation for its rampant sexual immorality.

Learn the lesson of King Ahab of Israel. Ahab was a wicked man. He forsook God's commandments and followed false gods (I Kings 18:18). He failed to execute an evil man that God had condemned to death (I Kings 20:42), and he was guilty of theft and murder (I Kings 21:16). God proclaimed judgement and disaster against Ahab (I Kings 21:19,22:23): Ahab would be killed and dogs would lick up his blood. What did Ahab do? Ahab put on a phony, temporary repentance (I Kings 21:27) and resumed his evil ways (I Kings 22:26-27). Ahab loved sin. He loved power. He did not really want to repent. So, Ahab put on a phony repentance and put on body armor when he went into battle. Ahab disguised himself (I Kings- 22:30) and trusted in his armor, his prophylactic, rather than in God and His Word. But God will not be mocked. God wants a real, lasting repentance (II Cor: 7:10) not a disguise.

“Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So the king died...and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken” (I Kings 22:34a, 37a, 38b).

How can you protect yourself? Repent! Repentance is very simple. When you repent you change your mind about your present lifestyle. You see your present lifestyle for what it is: sinful, wicked, evil, debauched, vain, carnal, futile, and worthless. You see that your life has been wasted serving your own lusts and pleasures rather than serving Jesus Christ. You see that your lifestyle is one that leads to death and hell rather than eternal life with Jesus Christ and His people. If your change of mind is real, if it is sincere, then you will forsake your wicked lifestyle. “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (Prov. 28:13). You must turn away from your sin and put your trust in Jesus Christ. If you believe in Jesus Christ then your old life is put to death with Him on the cross. Then you are raised with Christ unto a new life of hope and obedience to God' s Word. “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in you heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9).

This repentance also involves a change of mind regarding Jesus Christ, who He is, why He came to earth, and what He accomplished. Jesus can no longer be seen as just a great teacher, or a moral example, but as the unique divine-human person, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. Jesus did not come to just teach ethics, or to help people have self-esteem or self-actualization. He came to suffer and to die on the cross as a blood sacrifice for His people. If you have faith in Jesus then His blood

covers all your sins. Christ's perfect sinless life is credited by God to your life. Therefore, on the day of judgment you are clothed with Christ's righteousness and counted worthy of eternal life on account of Christ's merits (His blood and His life). We cannot earn heaven because even our best works are tainted with sin. But what we cannot accomplish, Jesus Christ accomplished. "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved by His life" (Rom. 8:5-10). If you do not believe that Jesus Christ is God, if you do not believe He lived a sinless, perfect life, if you do not believe that He was crucified and that He literally rose from a tomb after three days of being in a state of death, if you do not repent of your sins, then you are lost. You have no hope. Your eternal damnation is sure. But if you believe then you have true forgiveness, true peace. You have been adopted into the very family of God. Welcome!

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