

Chapter 13

Away From The Noise Of Your Songs!

BIBLE

It happened in the morning, that their rulers, elders, and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem.¹

“My son, listen to your father's instruction, and don't forsake your mother's teaching.² You shall observe to do all the statutes and the ordinances which I set before you this day.³

“An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.⁴ He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is contemptuous in his ways shall die.⁵

“Whoever despises instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command will be rewarded.⁶

“Let every soul be in subjection to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God.⁷

“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this pleases the Lord.⁸ Servants, be in subjection to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the wicked.⁹

COMMENTARY

¹ **Acts 4:5** Salman Rushdie: “Rock and roll music – the music of freedom frightens people and unleashes all manner of conservative defense mechanisms.”

² **Proverbs 1:8**

³ **Deuteronomy 11:32** Timothy Leary: “Think for yourself and question authority.”

⁴ **Proverbs 17:11**

⁵ **Proverbs 19:16**

⁶ **Proverbs 13:13** Respect for authority, purity, and loyalty are the most important moral values for Christians who interpret the Bible literally, according to a 2015 study published in the journal *Personality and Individual Differences*. The same study found that Christians who interpret the Bible metaphorically however are more likely to place a higher priority on values such as fairness and care.

⁷ **Romans 13:1**

⁸ **Colossians 3:20** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: “There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.”

⁹ **1 Peter 2:18** The Dalai Lama: “The ultimate authority must always rest with the individual's own reason and critical analysis.”

“In all hard work there is profit, but the talk of the lips leads only to poverty.¹⁰ By the sweat of your face will you eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.¹¹

“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps.¹²

“Wives, be in subjection to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.¹³ For man is not from woman, but woman from man.¹⁴ A wife is bound by law for as long as her husband lives; but if the husband is dead, she is free to be married to whoever she desires, only in the Lord.¹⁵

“Now she who is a widow indeed, and desolate, has her hope set on God, and continues in petitions and prayers night and day.¹⁶ But she who gives herself to pleasure is dead while she lives.¹⁷

“Let a woman learn in quietness with all subjection.¹⁸ If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home, for it is shameful for a woman to chatter in the assembly.¹⁹ But I don't permit a woman to teach, nor to exercise authority over a man, but to be in quietness.²⁰

¹⁰ **Proverbs 14:23**

¹¹ **Genesis 3:19** The belief that we have to be miserable first before we can be happy is just another idea that has been forced upon us by our conditioning. In “Girl” John questions whether this belief has any validity: “Was she told when she was young that pain would lead to pleasure. Will she still believe it when he’s dead?” John: “[I was] trying to say something or other about Christianity...I was just talking about Christianity in that- a thing like you have to be tortured to attain heaven.”

¹² **1 Peter 2:21** Pain can help motivate us to look for relief, but this is not the only way to become enlightened. Suffering can be part of our spiritual path, but so can joy.

¹³ **Colossians 3:18** The Beatles, with their music and philosophy, helped to promote the cause of women and minorities, who were starting to demand more freedom and rights in the Sixties. This was a challenge to those in authority who wanted to protect the status quo.

¹⁴ **1 Corinthians 11:8**

¹⁵ **1 Corinthians 7:39**

¹⁶ **1 Timothy 5:5**

¹⁷ **1 Timothy 5:6**

¹⁸ **1 Timothy 2:11**

¹⁹ **1 Corinthians 14:35**

²⁰ **1 Timothy 2:12**

“In the same way, that women also adorn themselves in decent clothing, with modesty and propriety; not just with braided hair, gold, pearls, or expensive clothing.²¹

“A woman shall not wear men's clothing, neither shall a man put on women's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to Yahweh your God.²²

“I desire therefore that the men in every place pray, lifting up holy hands without anger and doubting.²³ Neither shall they shave their heads, nor allow their locks to grow long; they shall only cut off the hair of their heads.²⁴

“Flee sexual immorality! Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.²⁵

“Know this for sure, that no sexually immoral person, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God.²⁶

²¹ **1 Timothy 2:9** The Beatles had a tremendous influence on fashion and hair styles, challenging existing ideas of what was appropriate. They inspired young people to grow their hair longer and wear more colorful and expressive clothing, first with their mod suits and Prince Valiant hairdos, then later in the decade with their hairy, bearded, more casual “hippie” look.

²² **Deuteronomy 22:5** John’s “Polythene Pam” is “good looking but she looks like a man.”

²³ **1 Timothy 2:8**

²⁴ **Ezekiel 44:20** When young men started to wear their hair longer, many parents considered this a sign of disobedience.

²⁵ **1 Corinthians 6:18** The Beatles helped to bring about the “sexual revolution” that began in the Sixties. People started to reconsider what was morally and socially acceptable. More conservative members of society did not welcome this discussion, and often used the Bible itself to argue for maintaining existing standards of behavior.

²⁶ **Ephesians 5:5** English poet and philosopher Herbert Read: “Morality, as has often been pointed out, is antecedent to religion-it even exists in a rudimentary form among animals.”

“If a man lies with a male, as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”²⁷

“Or don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's Kingdom? Don't be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexuals,²⁸ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor extortioners, will inherit God's Kingdom.”²⁹

“Don't be drunken with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.”³⁰ Prostitution, wine, and new wine take away understanding.³¹

“Woe to him who gives his neighbor drink, pouring your inflaming wine until they are drunk, so that you may gaze at their naked bodies!”³²

“Woe to those who rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; who stay late into the night, until wine inflames them!”³³ Let burning coals fall on them. Let them be thrown into the fire, into miry pits, from where they never rise.³⁴

“Take away from me the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.”³⁵

²⁷ **Leviticus 20:13** Trevor D.

Richardson: “How can we pick and choose which parts of the Bible to follow? One thing is God's will and another is just cultural differences? What if it's all cultural? What if homosexuality or saving yourself for marriage is as outdated as women staying silent in church or Leviticus forbidding tattoos?” (From *Dystopis Boy: The Unauthorized Files*)

²⁸ **1 Corinthians 6:9** Conan O'

Brien: “Rev. Pat Robertson says that if more states legalize gay marriage, God will destroy America. He did say that afterwards, gays will come in and do a beautiful renovation.”

²⁹ **1 Corinthians 6:10** H.L. Mencken: “Puritanism – the haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be happy.”

³⁰ **Ephesians 5:18**

³¹ **Hosea 4:11** Many blamed the Beatles for much of the increase in drug use by young people in the Sixties.

³² **Habakkuk 2:15** David Horowitz: “The sixties are responsible for the AIDS epidemic.”

³³ **Isaiah 5:11** Don Irvine: “[The Sixties] tore the fabric of America with this drug culture and the free love stuff... We're still fighting a lot of these moral issues today.”

³⁴ **Psalms 140:10**

³⁵ **Amos 5:23**