

VIEW

"THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD IS PURE,
ENLIGHTENING THE EYES." PSALM 19:8

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From my files...

From time-to-time, people give me articles or send me e-mails and I find things that are interesting on the Internet or in my daily reading. Here are a few things from my files that may be of interest. — dp

This Year's Forecast

REPUTATIONS will continue to be made by many acts and be destroyed by one.

GO-GIVERS will become the best go-getters.

THE "EXTRA MILE" will have no traffic jams.

ENTHUSIASM will be as contagious as ever.

KNOW-HOW will surpass guess-how.

TRUST, not tricks, will win souls to Christ.

PERFORMANCE will be prized over promises.

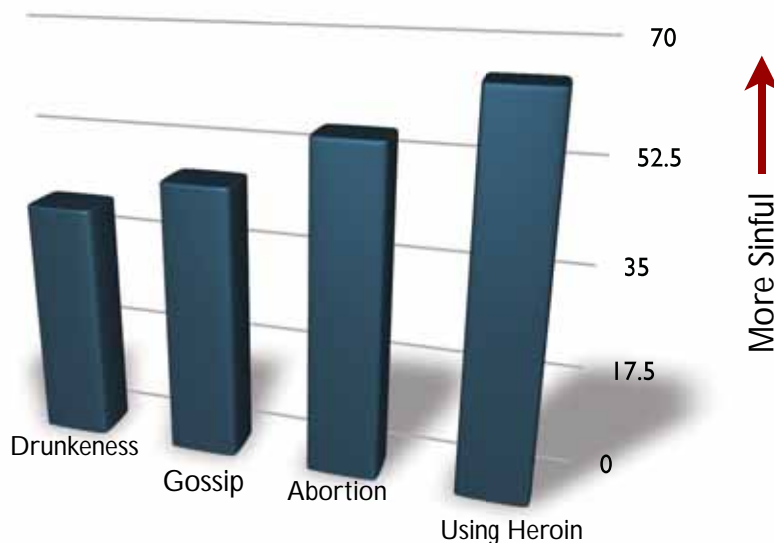
Adapted from management seminar material by the Kinder Bros in 1977.

"87% of Adults Believe in the Existence of sin!"

A survey by Ellison Research in Phoenix finds 87% of US adults believe in the existence of sin, which is defined as "something that is almost always considered wrong, particularly from a religious or moral perspective."

Topping the list are adultery (81%) and racism (74%). But only 45% think premarital sex is wrong and only 30% believe gambling is sin.

Conclusion: "Sin is relative; we tend to view sin not as God views it but how we view it." Michael Horton, professor of theology at Westminster Seminary says, "'Being good is enough' is the drift of American preaching today in a lot of churches. People know what sin is, they just don't believe in it anymore. We mix up happiness and holiness and God is no longer the reference point."



Don't Let Your Past Limit You!

An elephant can easily pick up a one ton load with his trunk. But have you ever seen an elephant at the circus or amusement park standing quietly while chained to a small wooden stake?

When young, they are attached by heavy chains to large stakes driven deep into the ground. They pull and yank and strain and struggle, but the chain is too strong, the stake too rooted. One day they give up, having learned that they cannot pull free, and from that day forward they can be "chained" with a slender rope.



When this enormous animal feels any resistance, though it has the strength to pull the whole circus tent over, it stops trying, because it believes it cannot.

"You'll never amount to anything"; "you can't sing"; "you're not smart enough"; "you're a loser"; "you should have more realistic goals"; "you're the reason our marriage broke up"; "you're worthless."

This sad opera is being sung in homes all over America right now, the stakes driven into the ground, the heavy chains attached, the children reaching the point they believe they cannot pull free. And at that point, they cannot."

"Unless and until something changes their view, unless they grasp the striking fact that they are tied with a thread, that the chain is an illusion, that they were fooled, and ultimately, that whoever so fooled them was wrong about them and that they were wrong about themselves — unless all this happens, these children will never mature into productive adult Christians."

The Bible teaches a different message. Regardless of your background or past, it affirms that you were made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26), just a "little lower than the angels" and crowned you with glory and honor (Psalm 8:5) and that you are a child of God (1 Jn. 3:1). Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

Don't let the chains of the past determine your present and future!

How to Quit a Bad Habit

A man who had the bad habit of using chewing tobacco (euphemistically called "smokeless tobacco") and couldn't quit, finally did quit.

Why? He was listening to the radio one day when a voice came on, distorted and troubled. The man sounded as if part of his face was missing — his speech was low and muffled and slobbery. It was a man who had chewed tobacco for many years and "couldn't stop." He said half his jaw had been removed, he had no lower lip.



This man did not list any facts or give any statistics or mention dying of cancer. He just spoke, in his low, muffled, slobbery tone. The man listened to him and never used chewing tobacco again.

By the way, I suggest you do not Google "chewing tobacco" — the images of the faces that have been destroyed by it are gross.

But I wonder... what activity would we stop doing if we got a visit from a person in hell? (See Luke 16:27-28).

Gambling

I play the lottery and gamble because...

- "It makes me appreciate the value of hard work?"
- "It puts me in a benevolent frame of mind?"
- "It draws me closer to the Lord?"
- "It helps me understand the Lord's words, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'?"
- "It helps me resist the temptation to be greedy for gain?"
- "It fights covetousness?"
- "It helps me be a good example to the young?"
- "Risking my money in the hope of a great return is spiritually rewarding?"
- "It helps me avoid the 'root of all evil' — the love of money?"
- "I am convinced that God wants me to gamble?"