

4. What is wrong with such behaviour if it 'natural'?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 5:22-6:2

1. The Holy Spirit changes our life and lifestyle
2. We set out to keep in step with the Spirit
3. Christians who have the fruit of the Spirit sometimes fall into sin
4. One thing Christians can do for those who sin are to restore them gently
5. What does 'gently' mean?
6. How would a Christian set out to amuse him, or herself, based on these words?

The New International Version of the Bible is used throughout

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 14 CHRISTIAN AMUSEMENTS

“While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and `sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: `I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Matthew 9:10-13

1. Jesus specifically went out to call sinners into His kingdom
2. Jesus sought to change the lives of sinners
3. What is a sinner?
4. Is it sensible for Christians to maintain relationships with non-Christian friends?

“But your iniquities have separated you from God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear”

Isaiah 59:2

1. Sin is at heart about broken relationships
2. Sin has consequences upon relationships

“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

Genesis 3:8

1. God used to meet freely with Adam and Eve—but after choosing to disobey God Adam and Eve chose not to meet with God
2. Does a Christian seek to make sure that amusement can include God’s presence?

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

Acts 2:42-46

1. This is a picture of how former sinners behaved
2. The apostles recognised a need to teach these people
3. The apostles performed signs and wonders
4. Relationships between the new believers developed rapidly
5. The disciples had a lifestyle with happiness at its heart.
6. The call for the Christian was to live in community

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day

will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.”

Luke 21:34,35

1. Jesus reminds the Christian of the need to be careful about how we live our lives
2. We are not to live a drunken lifestyle
3. Jesus suggests that such a life arises when the anxieties of life become the centre of our thoughts—and we lose hope
4. How can I take my mind off my own problems and needs?

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

Colossians 3:1-10

1. As a Christian I am to focus my thoughts on Jesus
2. The change from being a sinner to being a Christian is described as ‘dying’
3. As a result of this death we aim to leave certain behaviours behind