

Christian parents can attempt to censor or screen out some of these evil influences, but they cannot screen out all of them. In point of fact, as our culture becomes more and more saturated with sex, corruption, dishonesty, injustice, lawlessness, hedonism, and materialism, it becomes more and more difficult to find television programming, periodicals, and books that are decent, wholesome, and even relatively free from destructive influences!

Although Christians are not "of the world-system of evil," they are nevertheless "in that world-system," and are affected by it in many ways.

Should they simply stand by and do nothing, and simply allow their culture to become more and more corrupt and immoral, and more and more of an evil influence on their neighbors, their children, and themselves?

Is doing nothing to stop or slow down immorality in one sense helping it along? For example, if we do nothing to try to stop or slow down a fire or an epidemic or corruption in a limb or a crime, are we in some sense accessories to the damage or destruction accomplished by these things? If we can do something to preserve life or limb or property from destruction and do nothing, are we in some sense blameworthy?

E. But should Christians attempt to do what God says He is going to do in the end-time?

Some Christians object to doing anything to stop or slow down the spread of evil because of their understanding of God's prophetic program. They say,

"But doesn't the Bible teach that evil men will grow worse and worse, and that the world will get worse and worse, until the Lord returns to make all things right? Then if we struggle against the development of evil in the world, will we not seem to be fighting against God and His Word and delaying the Coming of the Lord?"

If we refuse to struggle against the development of evil in the world on this basis, then we need to realize two great truths.

First, it is not our Father's will that we simply turn over His world to Satan, to do with it as he pleases. God hates sin, does not delight in its growth and development, and wants His children to hate all forms of moral evil, whether in themselves or in other human beings. God is not in favor of having His children wink at and do nothing about idolatry; the profaning of His name, His Word, His works, or His Day; the lawless disrespect of authority; murder; stealing or extortion; adultery or fornication or lasciviousness; dishonesty or perjury or lying or slander; and the satisfaction of man's evil desires.

Shall Christians stand back and say, "These are but signs of the world's growing immorality, signs of the nearing of the Lord's Return; they have nothing to do with me, or I with them."? Or shall they step forward and cry out, "These are violations of the Law of God! They must be stopped or at least slowed down as much as possible! They are evil and wicked!"

If Christians are to be salt and light in the world, are they to be such only by the example of their holy lives? Or are they to try to hold back the corruption in the world and to shine the light of truth upon wickedness by their words as well?