

delinquency have all been increasing at an alarming pace. The cost to taxpayers has been astronomical. In order to stop this reckless haste of moral decay that is destroying our nation we must return to Biblical censorship.

#### THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF CENSORSHIP.

Much of the so called "adult entertainment" of videos, pornography and TV ends up in the hands and minds of youth and children. Jesus gives a severe warning to those who become stumbling blocks to youth. "...whosoever shall offend one of these little ones who believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). It is the responsibility of all adults, especially parents and teachers to keep our children from temptation and sin through censoring the evil. Parents must control the programs children see on T.V. or videos. Hard rock music, pornography, alcohol, occult literature and abusive drugs must be forbidden and removed from the home.

#### THE FOUNDATION OF CENSORSHIP

The foundation of Biblical Censorship must begin with the message of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Parents are responsible before God to bring up children "...in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 5:4). This includes attending Church as a family, but there is even a greater responsibility to instruct children in God's Word in the home (Deuteronomy 6:7).

#### SERVICES

Sunday School ..... 9:45 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 11:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting ..... 7:00 P.M.

# **CORNERSTONE**

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT

## CENSORSHIP

CENSORED

**Greenwich Baptist Church**

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## BIBLICAL CONCEPTS OF CENSORSHIP

God told Adam and Eve: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). The results of their disobedience was devastating! Sin entered the world (Romans 5:12) and consequently, spiritual and physical death (Ephesians 2:1-4, Romans 6:23). Furthermore, man now has an insatiable desire for the knowledge of evil (Proverbs 27:20). To have the knowledge of evil is to fall prey to evil. Whatever man puts into his mind will come out in his life (Proverbs 23:7). Something is not a temptation unless we know of its existence and availability to us. We enter into temptation when we have the knowledge of evil. This is precisely why Jesus warned his disciples to "watch and pray that they enter not into temptation..." (Matthew 26:41). God's concept of censorship is clearly spelled out in Romans 16:19. God wants us to be "...wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning that which is evil."

### FACTORS DETERMINING CENSORSHIP

In order to have effective censorship, there must be an absolute standard of right and wrong. God has given to man this standard through the inspired Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. All that man needs to determine right or wrong in any situation is given to us in the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16,17). Truth is not determined by exposing yourself to all knowledge and then determining for yourself what you want to be right or wrong. God warns man not to learn the knowledge of the evil ways of men (Deut. 18:9 Ephesians 5:11,12). God's standard of truth is pure (James 4:17) Jesus made it clear that all truth is to be found in God's Word (John 17:17).

The concept of censorship becomes distorted when a person rejects God's standard of truth. The Scriptures reveal four stages in this rejection. God has put the witness of the truth of His word within the heart of every man (Romans 1:19 2:14,15) Romans 1:19 reveals that men purposely suppress or reject this truth written in their conscience. Secondly,

man then establishes his own standard of truth (Romans 1:25). This standard is described in Judges 21:25 as "...every man doing that which was right in his own eyes". Thirdly, right and wrong is then determined by the situation (situational ethics). There are those who would justify lying in some situations, but God emphatically declares that "...no lie is of the truth" (1 John 2:21). The fourth step is most devastating. Persistent rebellion towards, and rejection of, God's truth results in "delusion"; so that a man's mind is so blinded to the truth, even to the point of "reprobation" (2 Thess. 2:11 2 Cor. 4:4 Rom. 1:28,32 1 Tim. 4:2).

### WORST KIND OF CENSORSHIP

The worst kind of censorship exists in the classrooms of our public schools. Teacher organizations and civil right groups adamantly oppose those Christians who desire the removal of textbooks and courses that are in contradiction with the eternal truth of God's Word. These civil right groups insist on an education that excludes the absolute standards of the Bible. Sex and drug education courses are taught without the Biblical morality of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). Evolution is taught without equal time being given to the Biblical account of a unique creation. The Bible tells us that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7). The fact that God is excluded from the educational process may explain while the test scores have consistently dropped. The real treasure of any educational subject can only be found in the person of Christ. In Him, "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 3:3).

### THE NEED FOR CENSORSHIP

In the last 30 years, the humanists in our country have made appalling inroads towards destruction. Through the courts they have managed to strike down many good laws of censorship. The result has been an ever increasing flood of obscenities and immoralities in our literature, videos, and music. The filth going into man's mind is coming out in his life. The abuse of drugs, teen-age pregnancies, divorces, alcoholism, teen-age suicides and juvenile