

**New Caney  
Church of Christ**

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**Assembly Times**

*Sundays*  
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
*Wednesdays*  
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

***Retaining The Standard  
Of Sound Doctrine***

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**Know Your Bible: Answers**

1. Two (Matthew 26:57-66)
2. His father-in-law, Jethro (Ex. 18)
3. The lame man Peter and John healed (Acts 4:14)
4. That he had taught that Jesus had aimed to change the customs taught by Moses (Acts 6:11-14)

**This Week's Assignments & Events**

**Sunday Worship**

Greeter: Corwin Richardson  
Announcements: Josh Emerson  
Encouragement Talk: Eddie Bowen  
Opening Prayer: Billy Lovell  
Scripture Reading:  
Philippians 3:1-11  
Song Leader: John Franks  
Table Talk: Brad Smith  
Contribution: Todd McAdams  
Helper: Theo Edge  
Fruit of Vine:  
Helper: Jonathan Lovell  
Helper: Jacob McAdams  
Closing Prayer: Tyler Blazek

**Sunday Afternoons**

Apr 16 4PM Devotionals (Men, Women, Youth)  
Apr 23 5PM Worship: Casey Thomas to Preach  
Apr 30 3PM Classroom Work (Quarter Change)  
May 7 4PM Parenting Class and  
Children's Drill Class

**Wednesday Evening**

Song Leader: Harper Flores  
Speaker: Tyler Blazek



# Standing Firm

“Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”  
Ephesians 6:13

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## Abstain From Every Form Of Evil

In English, the word abstain is defined as “to refrain deliberately and often with an effort of self-denial from an action or practice” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). If you are going to physically diet to lose weight you must abstain from some foods (not eating any of them). If you want to avoid catching a contagious disease, we understand the importance of abstaining from coming in contact with an infected person. In the world, the concept of abstinence is most often associated with sexual temptation and drinking alcohol. Scripture applies the concept to “every form of evil”, and we must listen and do what God says.

Sexual sins are easily identified in Scripture. All sexual sin is understood from the generic word “fornication.” Within this word are several specifics identified as sin. God told the Israelites “*You shall not commit adultery*” (Exodus 20:14). In the covenant of Christ we find “*adulterers God will judge*” (Hebrews 13:4). God says “*If there is a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death they have committed incest*” (Leviticus 20:12). Incest (in Scripture) condemns sexual acts with any family member who is not your spouse. God is very specific about homosexuality saying, “*If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death*” (Leviticus 20:13). In the covenant of Christ both the males in a homosexual act are condemned, the “*effeminate*” and “*homosexual*” (1 Corinthians 6:9). God even condemns the heinous act of relations with animals saying, “*if there is a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death*” (Leviticus 20:16). Having physical relations outside the marriage covenant (pre-marital sex, or living together without marriage) is condemned since the “*marriage bed is to be undefiled*” (Hebrews 13:4). Marriage is the ONLY place where God approves of sexual relations between a husband (man) and a wife (women). “*Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God*” (1 Corinthians 6:9). God says all of these are immoral, and “*immorality*” is a deed of the flesh which is condemned in Galatians 5:19-21. Verse 21 ends saying “*those who*

*practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”.*

*“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:3). Abstain requires no participation at all. We exercise self discipline to keep ourselves from sin. “I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:27). This law of God is for all people, and is frequently taught in Scripture to the children of God. “Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body” (1 Corinthians 6:18). “But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints” (Ephesians 5:3). God has not purchased us with the blood of His Son that we might commit sexual immorality. No matter how common this sin is in the world, no matter what we might think about this sin, God says it is not “proper” for a Christian. “The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord” (1 Corinthians 6:13). After our baptism we are to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). So Peter says, “I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11).*

Drunkenness is condemned in the New Covenant in Christ Jesus. *“Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Romans 13:13-14). “Carousing” is drinking parties, and “drunkenness” is not some government legalized blood alcohol level, but simply “intoxication.” Everyone recognizes that such behavior is not exhibiting self control, it is sinful, and leads people to commit further sin while intoxicated. “Do not be drunk with wine, for that is dissipation” (Ephesians 5:18). “Dissipation” is connected to a “wastefulness” (Vines Expository Dictionary), and “of an abandoned man that cannot be saved” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon). It is common knowledge how alcohol is addictive and many succumb to this sin. So if we as Christians are to “make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Romans 13:14), we “abstain from every form of evil” (1 Timothy 4:3). Even further the Apostle Paul said, “I will not be mastered by anything” (1 Corinthians 6:12), and Peter said, “By what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved” (2 Peter 2:19).*

## **Know Your Bible**

### **Courts**

1. When Jesus was brought before the Council, how many false witnesses were brought to accuse Him?
2. Who suggested to Moses that he appoint judges so that he would not have to judge all cases himself?
3. What person’s presence at the trial of Peter and John kept the rulers from punishing them?
4. When Stephen was brought to trial, what was the charge laid against him?

*Answers On Back*

### **Sunday Sermon**

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



There is good reason why societies still refer to abstinence as things connected to sexual temptation and drinking alcohol. But as we have already seen in some of the references cited, abstinence applies to many other things: *“idolators...thieves...covetous...revilers...swindlers” (1 Corinthians 6:9). Truly it involves all sinful things: “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness” (2 Timothy 2:19). “Consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry” (Colossians 3:5). “Since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin” (1 Peter 4:1).*

As referenced earlier, we are to *“make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Romans 13:14). We cannot provide any avenue for lusts to be fulfilled. We must keep ourselves holy and pure. Because God knows this He has provided for us: “because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband” (1 Corinthians 7:2). Marriage is how we avoid the temptation of immorality. Any other avenue (such as living together without marriage) is a provision to fulfill the lusts of the flesh which is condemned by God. We must abstain from sexual immorality. This concept is true for all lusts. We must work to remain righteous and abstain from all things that would result in God’s condemning us. Paul statement in Romans 13:14 (above) is very similar to Romans 6: “Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace” (Romans 6:12-14).*

Not every form of evil is listed in Scripture because man keeps inventing new forms. But sin is common and the avenues through which Satan tempts us have not changed: *“the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life” (1 John 2:16). So you cannot find a passage that says watching a film for mature audiences is wrong, however we can see many things in such films that are lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life. We can expose ourselves to such things to such an extent they become our habit and way of thinking. The film and television products become a “provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Romans 13:14). It will not be long before we violate Ephesians 4:29 “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth”, or Matthew 5:28 “everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

The concept of abstaining is all-inclusive for the Christian. We cannot limit it to any one sinful thing, but must apply it to all things condemned by God. We must avoid sin, flee from it, do not desire to get close to it, look at it, or participate.

*“Abstain from every form of evil” (1 Timothy 4:3).*

(by Charles Willis)