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## Are You Moving Up the Ladder of Set Apartness?

February, 2008

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### Shalom!



Yes, it's still winter here! How about where you are?

Bob was in Madison the day 16 inches fell and 2,000 cars were stuck

on the freeway. (He was safe in the hotel by then.) Several of us have said that winter this year looks more like we remember it always *was*. (Time for us to head off to the Mitchell Park Domes in Milwaukee where we can walk around in a jungle, a desert and a flower garden in the dead of winter!)

Looks like we will be pleased to welcome **Dave Gipson of Sheep of Israel Ministries** in March, though we will miss the company of Theresa Bates and Steve and Shirley Rees who came with him last year about this time. Dave is currently coordinating the development of groups of people interested in developing Messianic communities and is spending a lot of time in Mexico assisting several Messianic groups

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there.

Today we have **Marsha Van's second part in her series on moving up toward greater "set apartness."** She writes in a "friend to friend" style which several readers have commented they appreciated. Do you have any feedback for Marsha? Did she hit the mark for you? Let her know at our email address below!

Our February **For Women Only teleconference** is scheduled for February 24th.

Our subject this month is:

## The Straw has been Removed.

More information is listed below.

This past **Messianic Community Development Leadership Teleconference** centered on discussion of a [study on Judges by Dr. C.R. Oliver](#). This study can be found at his [archived site](#) if you are interested. We went through the main 8 points as they relate to Messianic community leadership developing today.

It is a sobering yet honoring responsibility to be called to shepherd others, and one that none of the participants in this conference take lightly. We discussed the phenomenon of the struggle with personal "reluctance" many who are called into leadership feel: knowing it is necessary but finding it a challenge to both identify and walk out the authority given by Him in a YHWH pleasing way.

Our next subject will be a follow up on this; discussing what to do when people of similar maturity and understanding still do not see eye to eye.

A community Janell and I will be visiting again soon has been having teleconferences for a month or so already. It has been exciting for us to see them face obstacles and prayerfully find a way over or around them as they establish their group's identity, name and mission.

If your community leadership would like to establish a similar teleconference please let us know.

Just a quick update on the **Christians and Depression** book is also included.

In Service to Him, the Gatherer of the Flock;

Barb Klika

## Part 2 of 4 Sex in the Cinema

by

*Marsha Van,  
A.D.N., G.N.*

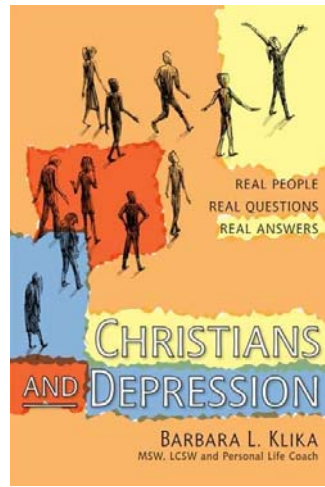


*I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside: it shall not cleave to me. Psalms 101: 3 (KJV)*

In my last article, I talked about violence in movies and on TV. I shared a bit of my journey up the ladder of holiness/set apartness with you and told you how I came to recognize a need to scrutinize what I was watching on my TV.

One of the first steps I had to take to scrutinize my cinematic choices was to define the term "unacceptable." But by what standard? In the past, leaning on my own understanding had left me short of the mark, as did making choices based on worldly opinions. The mark I'm referring to is the goal of being holy or set apart, and the instruction manual I now use is the Bible. Hitting the mark isn't an easy task, no matter what the subject. Today the subject is sex in the cinema.

When I was a child, naked tummies were considered indecent exposure on TV and married couples slept in separate beds. What was unacceptable then has today become commonplace, as a result of the gradual sexualization of all aspects of entertainment. It seems that the world has been lulled into a state of complacency and acceptance of indecency. And as long



## Christians and Depression: Real Questions & Real Answers

By Barbara L. Klika, MSW, LCSW, Personal Life Coach

*With grateful thanks to Rob Marnocha's End Zone for the cover graphics!*

*Christians and Depression is a thoughtful, well researched resource for the many questions that arise when a Christian struggles with depression. Especially appropriate for therapists, coaches, and those who need Biblically sound answers for common questions about an often taboo subject. The author's gentle and encouraging tone make this a book of hope for all readers.*

~ Lynne Klippel, author, publisher, coach  
<http://www.lyneklippel.com/>

[Now Available! Click here for further information please!](#)

## Teleconferences

### **FOR WOMEN ONLY**

Our next monthly teleconference will be held on February 24, 2008 at 9:00 am CST. Watch for the announcement in your email box or contact us if you'd like to receive an invitation. [info@setapartmingb.org](mailto:info@setapartmingb.org) and ask to be included!

### The Straw Has Been Removed!

Pharaohs' first response to Moshe's request to let the people go to worship YHWH was to conclude they weren't busy enough and to direct the masters to no longer provide the necessary straw to make the bricks. He also required them to make the same number of bricks. His building program had to go on! And he intended to keep them

as "sex sells," it will remain a tool of advertisers and movie-makers.

There is an abundance of evidence, from multiple sources on line, that cite the negative effects of sex on TV to our children and our society in general. One result is the increase in the number of sexual crimes and diminished sensitivity to sexual crime victims. (1)

The American Family Association reported in 1995 that the top four networks aired, on average, 45.58 incidents of sex, violence and profanity each hour during prime-time viewing. Broken down they show 8.5 incidents of violence each hour, 14.15 of sex and 22.93 of profanity. And 91 percent of all sex was depicted outside marriage. Projected over a period of one year, the networks air 14,313 sex incidents, 8,333 violent incidents, and 23, 556 profanity incidents during prime-time. (2)

And according to the American Psychological Association the number of sexual scenes on television has doubled since 1998. (3)

In 2007, a report by the Parents Television Council estimated there were 12.48 incidents of sex per hour of viewing, which reflected an increase of 22.1 % since 2001. (4)

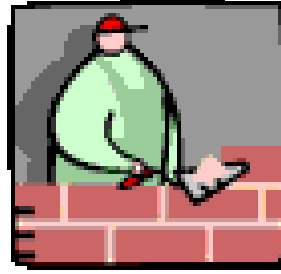
The Parents Resource Center cited in a 2005 report that 2/3 of all television shows contain some sexual content. (5)

We can't change the way the world revolves around sex, but we can change our little corner of it, and stand firm in our personal battle against it in our lives. But I recommend that you don't forget your armor.

In Ephesians 6: 11 we are told to put on the full armor of God so that we can stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Verses 14-18 list the different parts of the armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit.

When I understood that the armor was

enslaved.



As I speak with people across the country, Canada and the Philippines, it seems many of us are being asked to do more with less, even though we ARE doing what we are led to do.

This has been discouraging for many, wondering if we've lost the way somewhere? As in Moshe's example, the first steps he was directed to take toward redemption only **worsened** the situation for those in captivity and the people complained and feared! *Maybe redemption is just too much trouble...*

- What do we recognize as **straw** in our lives? (*Make hay while the sun shines?*)
- As our "**straw**" is removed, will we, too, fall into the snare of complaining?
- Who is our "Moshe" to blame?
- Will we continue *our* enslavement?

Or by His grace, will we recognize this pressure as part of the light and momentary affliction that can only mean our Redemption is getting closer!

What does walking in Torah and "paths of righteousness" have to do with **straw** and bricks today?

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## MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP

### LEADERS TELECONFERENCES

We have two current teleconference groups. Would your leadership team benefit from a consultation opportunity?

(You can arrange for a conference with **ONLY** your own team, rather than with leaders of other groups if you prefer.)

[Click here for more information.](#)

representative of the written word (Holy Bible), the living Word (our Messiah), and the Holy Spirit, I also learned what it meant to put it on.

What it boils down to is my relationship with them and how I walk that out in my life. I didn't learn how to do this over night though. It has taken many years to get to this point and I know I am still a work in process. But He will complete the work He has begun in me because He is faithful even when I am not.

In my work search of the Bible to define sexual sin, I found

- sexual perversion
- bestiality
- promiscuity
- premarital sex
- prostitution
- adultery
- whoring
- lust
- fornication
- homosexuality
- indecency

all listed as sexual sin. Unfortunately, sex is often presented in a cute, fun, or romantic way that can take your focus off the presence of the underlying sinful nature of the message being sent.

Prostitution was made romantic in *Pretty Woman*; homosexuality, lust, sexual perversion, and adultery were made fun in *Will and Grace*; and premarital sex and whoring were made a sport in *Sex in the City*. I bring these particular shows up because I used to watch them. At the time, I found them very entertaining. Today I am pretty disgusted with what they represent.

My relationship with *Will and Grace* ended when I understood that by watching this show, I was accepting and even promoting homosexuality. The movie, *Pretty Woman*, was tossed out shortly after *Will and Grace* were ousted, because I realized that even though Julia Roberts played a nice person, she was still a prostitute. By watching this movie, I had made prostitution acceptable in my home. *Sex in the City* was the next to go. I

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### Quick Links

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For the past several years, the Set Apart Ministries community has been studying and implementing [The Life Model: Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You](#) (©1999, 2000, 2004 Shepherd's House, Inc.), which includes E. James Wilder, Ph.D. as author. If you have browsed through our website and read our newsletters, you will find that the *Life Model* does have an important role in our community.

During an especially intense time of prayer, we came to understand that just as we mature in our personal lives, we also go through a maturing process in our Prayer Lives. This audio CD is the result of the understanding we gained through this time.

Efforts to assess our own or another's prayer life usually consist of such things as: suggesting daily regular times of prayer, a specific devotional tool or process, keeping a prayer journal and so forth. While all of these suggestions are good, they do not present a measure by which to determine the growth and quality of the relationship itself between the pray-er and the Hear-er!

Included in the CD is an overview of the different maturity levels from *The Life Model* and what each level entails. Also included is a teaching on Love and Fear Bonds and how

think its title says it all.

I found that in the Bible, sexual immorality is lumped together with idolaters, murderers, liars, drunkards, adulterers, slanderers, swindlers, prostitutes, homosexuals, greedy people, and those who practice magic arts. Revelation 21: 8 says: *"Their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."* And Ephesians 5: 5 says that *"none of these has any inheritance in the kingdom."*

- ***I don't know about you but I want my inheritance, and a little so-called pleasure in this life is not worth the cost of losing my place seated by my Messiah.***

When I am in doubt about a movie or TV show, I pray for discernment and seek wise counsel from the elders of my spiritual community. I have also found that when I am weakened by illness, stress, loneliness, pain, or fatigue, it is harder to stand firm in my convictions. This is when it is very helpful to spend time with people of like mind, who will exhort and support me in my faith.

So friends, be encouraged and remain diligent in the quest for purity in your life and don't be seduced by worldly opinions of what is righteousness and what is sin. And remember, this is not a race that can be run in just one day. It is a life-long pursuit, full of challenges and complications, which when overcome, will bring you that much closer to the goal of being set apart for Him.

Next time I will dig a little deeper into the subtleties of profanity in the cinema. I encourage you to seek out what it means to be holy/set apart (Kadosh in Hebrew) [by checking out the article titled Kadosh - Word Study.](#)

(1) Edward Donnerstein, "What the Experts Say," a forum at the Industry-wide Leadership Conference on Violence in Television Programming, 2 August 1993, in National Council for Families and Television Report, 9.

(2) Excerpt from page 6 of the April 1995 "Expression" <http://evangelicaloutreach.org/tv.htm>

they affect our relationships.

These teachings are followed by a discussion on each of the prayer life levels as we see them tied into the maturing process. We pray this CD teaching will be as much a blessing to others as it was to us in preparing it.

(3) <http://www.med.umich.edu/1libr/yourchild/tv.htm>

(4) Parents Television Council. Alarming Family Hour-No Place for Children, 2007; <http://www.parentstv.org/PTC/publications/reports/familyhour/exsummary.asp>

This daily reading devotional resource is now available through our [website homepage!](#)

(5) Parent Resource Center, 2005  
<http://www.cfoc.org/Facts/index.cfm?ID=2655&InShowBack=True&idContentType=673>



*My Utmost for His Highest*

by Oswald Chambers

This is a classic devotional and one that is deeply challenging for all who desire to get to know our Messiah ever more fully.

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[You may also be interested in these audio programs on our website.](#)

*What to Say when They say, "So, You're Jewish?"*

*How the Ruach works through us in Creativity*

*Theresa Bates of Adonai Dance Ministries and Shirley Reese of Perigrinnati*

*Go Through the Gates discussion*

**Blessings of strength and peace to you all!**

*Barb Klika & Marilyn Zierhart*

Set Apart Ministries Inc.

[info@setapartmingb.org](mailto:info@setapartmingb.org)

P. O. Box 5584  
De Pere, WI 54115

(920) 336-7005

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