

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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## Moral Recession

The front headline of the Tuesday, December 02, 2008 Times Record News read, “**Its official, Economy now in Recession.**” A recession is identified as, “A moderate and temporary decline in economic activity” (AHD). All indicators had been pointing at a recession for quite some time. New home sales have declined, existing mortgages are defaulting, homes are being foreclosed on, credit is harder to come by, banks have little to no money to loan, auto sales are down, and the auto industry is in need of government aid. One may also look to morality in our country and say that it is in recession as well. Abortion, same sex marriages, and exposed extortion are rampant. These days remind us of the Prophet Isaiah’s statement, “*The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! For they have done evil unto themselves*” (Isa. 3:9). To some it seems that the times we live in are the most evil of all. A simple walk through history; however, proves that the current ungodly days we live in are no different than any other time in the past. Man has been wicked from the beginnings of time.

During Noah’s day, “*Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*” (Gen. 6:5). Hundreds of years latter Moses writes of the people of God saying, “*Ye have been rebellious against Jehovah from the day that I knew you*” (Deut. 9:24). During the days when the church was newly established Peter said, “*Save yourselves from this crooked generation*” (Acts 2:40). Time and history prove that man has walked in

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

**Rachel Bender** intended to have induced labor this past Thursday; however, there was not enough room in the hospital. She has been rescheduled for Monday (Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>).

**Kari Jackson** is doing very well. We thank God for answering our prayers on her behalf.

**Quincy Adams** will be going back to Dallas on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and then again on the 18<sup>th</sup> for his eye surgery.

**Tom Witherspoon** has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Tom will be undergoing surgery within the next few months. Please keep him in your prayers too.

**Missy Cronin** has had some complications with her recent shoulder surgery. Please pray that she heals up quickly.

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

gross sin from the beginnings of time until now. **Moral recession** occurred when Satan deceived Adam and Eve and sin entered the world. The apostle Paul wrote, *“Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned.”* (Rom. 5:12).

The world has seen wickedness in the hearts of men from the dawn of creation. Truly nothing is new under the sun (Eccl. 1:9). Lest we get too discouraged during these days of economic and moral decline and think that there is no hope for mankind let us remember that God has always had His remnant of those who love Him. Paul wrote, *“Or know ye not what the scripture saith of Elijah? How he pleaded with God against Israel: Lord, they have killed thy prophets, they have digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have left for myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace”* (Rom. 11:2-4). We are not alone. God has many saints around the world that have not bowed their knee to the hedonistic society in which we live.

God’s grace and mercy never ceases to amaze me. Man has lived in a wicked state practicing the vilest of violations against God’s will yet the Lord forgives. The Corinthian brethren were convicted of a list of very gross sins yet the apostle Paul writes, *“And such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our Lord”* (I Cor. 6:11). We ought to all seek out the Lord’s forgiveness. Those who humble themselves before the Lord by admitting the error of their ways and seeking God’s mercy will not be disappointed (see Matt. 5:3ff). Forgiveness, heaven, and eternity are at stake in all of our lives. Let us press through this generation of moral recession as the faithful have always done.

*John C. Robertson*

# Handling Problems in the Church

## Introduction:

Problems in the NT church began at Acts 6:1 and continue today. The Bible gives examples of church problems and reveals how they were handled. This lesson shall explore Bible examples of church members going astray, discuss how to handle these problems, and look to solutions so that we may prevent troubles among ourselves and God in today's church.

## I. Bible Examples of people going astray from the Church:

- A. The Corinthian fornicator (I Cor. 5:1ff).
- B. The Corinthian faction (I Cor. 11:17-19).
- C. The backsliding Galatians (Gal. 3:1ff; 5:4).
- D. Enemies of the cross in Philippi (Phil. 3:1-2, 17-19).
- E. Church members who are guided by the doctrines and precepts of men (Col. 2:8, 20-22).
- F. Disorderly Thessalonians (I Thess. 5:14).
- G. Men who make shipwreck of not only their own but other's faith (I Tim. 1:18-20; 4:1-3; II Tim. 2:15-18).
- H. The unruly (Titus 1:10) and factious (Titus 3:10) of the church at Crete.
- I. The spiritually knowledge deficient Hebrew Christians (Heb. 5:11-6:2).
- J. The spiritual adulterers of James 4:4
- K. The false teachers of II Pet. 2:1ff
- L. The worldly (I Jn. 2:15-17) spirit of antichrist (I Jn. 2:18-19) found in the churches of Asia.
- M. Those who had gone onward (i.e., away from truth) of II Jn. 9ff
- N. Diotrefes loved to have the preeminence among the brethren (III Jn. 9-10).
- O. Those who show no respect for the authority of God (Jude 8, 11-12).

## II. How do we Handle such problems in the Church (Col. 3:17)?

- A. The Corinthian fornicator: We ought to mourn, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, and purge out the old leaven (I Cor. 5:2ff).
- B. The factious of I Cor. 11 and Titus 3:10: (warn / refuse and avoid / see Titus 3:10-11)
- C. The backsliding Galatians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Cretans, churches of Asia and others: exercise patience and a spirit of longsuffering as we admonish (I Thess. 5:14). Those who refuse the sound doctrine, after loving patience has been exercised, are to be marked and withdrawn from (II Thess. 3:6, 11-15).
- D. False teachers (their mouths must be stopped – Titus 1:10-11 / expose their wickedness and bring it to the remembrance of all (Eph. 5:11; III Jn. 9-10 / do not give heed to their teachings even for a moment [Gal. 2:3ff]).

## III. Preventative Maintenance for Sound Brethren:

- A. Remain fruitful in truth (Titus 3:14).
- B. Uphold the word of God (guard, bear, maintain, and keep doing) (Heb. 13:22; I Tim. 6:20f).
- C. Take note of those who do not love the truth (I Cor. 16:22).
- D. Keep studying and growing in the knowledge of Christ (Col. 4:16; I Thess. 5:27; II Pet. 3:17-18).
- E. Do not partake in the evil works and teachings of those who go onward (II Jn. 10-11)
- F. Keep yourself without blemish by the precious blood of Christ (Jude 24).
- G. Patiently await the coming of the day of the Lord (James 5:7ff)

## Conclusion:

We find that problems arose in the early church just as there are today. There were unruly brethren who did not share a love of truth then and now. These unruly brethren often taught false doctrines, became factious, and demanded a following. One can scarcely go through a NT book without a reference to these incidents. The Bible reveals that the early church was instructed to identify problem areas and to take swift action. Let the people of God act when the ungodly of our day make their move. To tarry will be fatal to men's souls.