

transform human nature; and by sharing the unchanging principles of the *law of God* as the means God uses to show human beings their sin, restrain them from fuller expressions of depravity, and teach them how He wants them to live. Our obligation to do this rests on our Lord's command to love our neighbor as ourselves. Christians are bound by their love to Christ to love their neighbors, by helping them obey God's law and by sharing with them the good news of the Christ's deliverance from sin and its effects.

Second, Christians have a responsibility to try to stop or at least slow down the secularization of their culture and society. They can do this by attempting to prevent the continuing erosion of those biblical principles that have shaped western culture. Why should they do this? It becomes especially important when Christians think of their children and, if the Lord tarries, of future generations of believers who must live in the world and be affected by its culture, particularly the mass media. One does not need to be overly observant to notice that the content of more and more television programming is becoming more immoral, or that some radio programming is communicating immoral values by the lyrics of its music. And many newspapers, magazines, and books are becoming more and more blatant in their portrayal of immorality, especially in the tacit or open approval of casual sex, promiscuity, living together without marriage, divorce, abortion, homosexuality (and other "alternate sexual preferences"), and enticing modes of dress and behavior.

Christians can and should attempt to screen out these harmful influences, but they cannot screen out all of them. In fact, as our culture becomes more and more saturated with sex, corruption, dishonesty, injustice, lawlessness, hedonism, and materialism, it becomes increasingly difficult to find television and radio programming, periodicals, and books that are decent, wholesome, and relatively free from destructive influences.

What, then, should Christians do? Should they simply stand by and allow their culture to slide toward greater corruption and immorality? Is it our Father's will that we turn over His world to Satan, to do with it as he pleases? Shall believers stand back and say, "These are simply signs of the world's growing immorality, signs of the nearing of the Lord's Return. I have nothing to do with them, nor they with me!"? Or shall they step forward and cry out, "These are violations of the law of God, and are evil and wicked God hates sin, and does not delight in its growth and