

GOD'S RULER FOR CHRISTIANS

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"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." I John 2:15-17.

If you are one of those believers who have trouble deciding right from wrong, you are simply living in rebellion or indifference. It is not that hard to classify what path a Christian should not follow, in the midst of this present storm of temptation. There is an ever increasing, swirling, atmosphere of evil, on every side. We must be aware of its dangers and on guard against it. My advice in all this is to simply follow the Bible as it clearly measures what to do in the midst of our evil surroundings. Many thousands of teens have seen my chart and considered God's Ruler Of Christian Living. Now it is your turn. Perhaps you don't want to understand, but there is no excuse if you don't obey simple instructions of the Bible. A kid can understand this so dear adult you can too. My teaching chart shows 3 inches of a ruler and 3 one inch measurements. With a knowledge of this you can solve any temptation you face, spot the evil, and flee its power to ruin you. There are many other warnings in the Bible but these 3 will start you on a pure path of victory. **(1) Is It Of The World?** Our text warns us not to love the world. The world is a staggering sin crazed globe of God hating humanity. This world has made it a practice to ignore God, refuse His direction, and disobey His commands. Even our government is banning God, and making it easier for the immoral crowd to do evil. God's

word is crystal clear and His instructions warn believers not to love the world. Our text exposes the dangers. It even tells us what is meant by the world. First, the love of the flesh. Pornography, filthy portrayal of nakedness and open exposure to lust is now featured in TV, on computers and in the presentation of Rock and Roll. All of these sprinkled with sexy language and cursing form the basis of modern entertainment. Worldly stuff is always fleshly stuff which destroys Godly thinking and decent living. Every Christian needs to win this battle and avoid any action that allows that area of your life to dominate and ruin you. Then it further warns about the lust of the eye. Most believers have difficulty in this area. We often look at things we say we would never do. The truth is that looking destroys your conscience and causes you to visually accept the perverted things being portrayed. This weakens your resolve, grieves the indwelling Spirit, and makes it easier for you to get hooked back into sin. A spiritual young man needs to reserve everything sexual until marriage. A Christian girl must protect her virginity and not subject herself to the world's cheap presentation of lustful popularity. Your eyes are like a camera and what you look at will develop within you. No one can feast on the scenes of evil and walk in victory before God. Shut off TV garbage programs, read good books, and major in that which does not feature evil. Also the pride of life is mentioned. Teens are constantly surrounded by peer pressure to look and act out what God calls evil. Adults make gods out of money, social status and the things of life that have no eternal lasting value. The Bible urges *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you."* I Cor. 6:17. Nothing worthwhile can be gained and every earthly thing can be lost by loving the world. To be wise, block out all worldly things, and live a life undefeated by Satan's attempts to influence you toward evil. Now lets think

about inch #2 on The Ruler Of Christian Living. **(2). Will It Hurt My Body Or Grieve The Holy Spirit:** *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* I Cor. 6:19-20. One has only to look upon the body of a little baby to see a beautiful, clean, God shaped beginning to life. How long before it will manifest the fact all is not right, since the fall of man? If you parents are not diligent it will fall into all kinds of traps of evil, as it moves through it's teens and beyond. I know you have heard it, but please believe it, You are not your own. Every action of your body should glorify God. You are precious to the Father and to His Son who died for you. Since the Holy Spirit lives within, you must do nothing to cheapen, injure, or contaminate His house. You cannot stick a cigarette in your face, or use alcohol or drugs, without hurting your body. Loose, immoral activities breed Aids and other sexual diseases. You can destroy your present body, and ruin your future, by what you put in your mouth. Dear young person, your virginity is the key to a loving marriage, and if you are married you must preserve that bond of pure relationship. Again let me plead with you to guard your TV viewing. Ask yourself if Christ would sit with you and view what you are watching? It is so important to know our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."* Eph. 4:30. Careless watching will not only tempt toward immoral living but actually grieve the Holy Spirit within your body. How can you expect God to bless you, when you deliberately foul up your thoughts and actions in His presence. We become so careless and brain washed, by allowing our focus to dwell on evil. Be very careful of complacency, which will gradually trim away

the standards you at some time established. The last measuring inch is **(3). Will It Hurt My Testimony:** *"Ye are the light of the world., A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* Matt. 5:14-16. As a light shines out in darkness, so must our lives show righteousness and expose evil. The most precious earthly possession you have to influence others, is a victorious life. It is impossible to alert sinner friends of the danger of sin, when you still like some of it. I often hear the phrase, "Jesus saves and keeps, and satisfies." It is a beautiful thought but easily the satisfaction will be missing if sinful desires are still clinging. Remember your testimony is a treasure to hang on to. You are probably the only Bible your unsaved friends read. *"Abstain from all appearance of evil."* I Thess 5:22. Put this little ruler in your pocket and observe it's commands. Stand up to His measurements and learn the joy of total Godliness.

Points to ponder.....Questions to ask.

- (1). Will doing this hurt my body?
- (2). Will doing this hinder my testimony?
- (3). What effect will this have on my health?
- (4). Will it misguide my children?
- (5). Will it endanger my family?
- (6). Is it time well spent?
- (7). Does doing it show obedience to God?
- (8). Can I encourage others to do it?
- (9). Will doing it bring glory to God?
- (10). Will I wish afterwards I had not done it?
- (11). Will it add to my character?
- (12). Will association with it brand me?
- (13). Will doing it lift my church?
- (14). How will it affect my service for God?
- (15). In eternity will I be thankful I did it?

Follow this ruler to please Our Ruler!