

Sunday School Lesson

By Bessie Wilbon

INTRODUCTION

One of the most popular spots in Corinth was the temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of sensual love. There the services were especially designed to attract the sailor on leave, the businessman wanting relaxation, and the vacationer out for a lark. Worship was thoroughly blended with pleasure. For a fee a person so inclined could participate in the temple sacrifice with a sumptuous feast and entertainment. Then he could spend the rest of the night with one or more of the thousand priestesses who served in the temple for the pleasure of the worshippers.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Christian standards of sexual morality were alien to the citizens of Aphrodite's town. It was not easy to teach those high standards to Christians who had just come from paganism. Paul was teaching in Ephesus, just across the Aegean Sea east of Corinth, when he heard of one case of immorality among the Christians - such immorality as was not approved even by the permissive pagans: "that one should have his father's wife."

Our printed text broadens the thought to include other wrongdoers as well as those who defraud, and finally zeroes in again on sexual immorality.

THE LESSON

"Surely you know that the wicked will not possess God's Kingdom. Do not fool yourselves; people who are immoral or who worship idols or are adulterers or homosexual perverts or who steal or are greedy or are drunkards or who slander others or are thieves - none of these will possess God's Kingdom. Some of you were like that. But you have been purified from sin; you have been dedicated to God; you have been put right with God by the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Some will say, 'I am allowed to do anything.' Yes; but not everything is good for you. I could say that I am allowed to do anything, but I am not going to let anything make me its slave.' Someone else will say, 'Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food.' Yes; but God will put an end to both. The body is not to be used for sexual immorality, but to serve the Lord; and the Lord provides for the body. God raised the Lord from death, and He will raise us by His power," (1 Corinthians 6:9-14).

How bad can a church member be without losing his membership? Quarrelsome Christians in the Church at Corinth were immature and carnal, but Paul did not suggest putting them out. Those who filed lawsuits with fellow Christians were not expelled. The man who was having an affair with his father's wife, however, had to go.

The quarrelers were not expelled, but they were told to stop quarreling. Probably the adulterer could have remained in the church, too, if he had been willing to end this illicit affair. In fact, it seems that he did end it after he was expelled, and then Paul said the church should forgive and comfort him.

Jesus said the Kingdom is like a net that gathers worthless fish along with good ones. This is a picture of the church as it is now. There is no way to separate and cast out. But at the end of the world the angels will make the separation, (Matthew 13:47-50). The unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God in eternity, even though they now are enrolled as members of the church.

Be not deceived. Deceivers are at work in our country just as they were in ancient Corinth. Not many defend thieves and extortioners except in unusual circumstances, but there are many who deny the sinfulness of sexual sins. Between consenting adults, we are told, sexual activity is permissible and perhaps commendable, whether they are married or not. Homosexuality is being pictured as a perfectly natural "sexual preference." That is not what the Bible calls it. Paul lists ten kinds of offenders who will not inherit the Kingdom of God, and four of the ten are involved in sexual sins. Fornicators are all those who engage in sexual relations outside the bond of marriage. Fornication by or with a married person is adultery, and those who commit it are adulterers. The Greek word for effeminate originally means soft. It describes the "female impersonators" engaged in male homosexuality. Abusers of themselves with mankind is a general term for male homosexuals. Paul makes no excuse or apology for any of these. He simply says they will not inherit the Kingdom of God. If we think otherwise, we are deceived. Of the six kinds of sinners not involved in sexual sins, three are too eager for material riches. They are the thieves, the covetous, and the extortioners. Most of the deceivers do not defend drunkards, but many do defend drinkers, and drinkers are what drunkards are made of. And perhaps we Christians should think a little about revilers. To revile means to use abusive language or to rail; and rail means to revile or scold in harsh, insolent, or abusive language. Some ardent Christians seem to think that reviling is right when it is directed against something that is wrong, but Jude remarks that Michael the archangel would not use it even against the devil himself, (Jude 9).

We do not often see the world sanctified. It sounds too much like sanctimonious, which means hypocritically pious. Indeed, some people do use sanctified to describe Christians who claim to be so good that they cannot possibly do anything wrong. In the Bible, sanctified has no such meaning. It means set apart or dedicated. That is what all real Christians are: dedicated to Christ, set apart as His people. So Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth as "them that are sanctified," (1 Corinthians 1:2).

Perhaps we never worshipped a graven image, but remember that covetousness also is idolatry. And, of course, we do not have any revilers among us - only gossipers. Are they innocent? Let's watch ourselves.

Father of truth, help us to be what You want us to be, in Jesus name. Amen.

Self-Help Credit Union Will Open Office Here

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

The Self-Help Credit Union, a branch of the Center for Community Self-Help based in Durham, is in the process of opening in Charlotte. The credit union is federally insured, pays competitive rates, and makes loans for employee-owned businesses and low-income housing.

Begun in Durham in December, 1983, the credit union is a response to the serious obstacle facing many low and moderate income people, namely, obtaining adequate financing for economic development ventures.

Until recently, the Center for Community Self-Help and the Self-Help Credit Union (SHCU) have focused efforts in the eastern part of the state. The expansion to the Charlotte area was made in recognition of the need here and in parts west.

June Blotnick, Charlotte representative for the credit union, has been working hard on developing a base of support in this area. Her initial focus has been on attracting individuals able to make deposits of \$5,000 or more. So far, she's obtained commitments for \$110,000.

The goal is to have \$5 million in deposits for the Charlotte branch to become fully operational.

According to Blotnick, an advisory board chaired by Sandy Welton of LEAD Associates is helping secure deposits. Others on the board include Paul Leonard, president of John Crosland, and Bob Goodale, Harris-Teeter president.

Bill Bynum of the center's Durham office points out that the credit union has a lot of church support.



Bill Bynum and June Blotnick
...SHCU representatives

"The nature of our work is something church folk are geared toward, and we actively seek their support." In fact, adds Blotnick, it was church support and desire to help financially that stimulated the establishment of the credit union.

The Self-Help Credit Union is ideal for depositors who are concerned about how their money is being used by financial institutions. "Your money is safe and earning dividends while it supports efforts to create democratic worker-owned

businesses and foster local economic development," states the credit union's brochure.

As Bynum explains it, worker-owned businesses can come about in several ways. A plant may close, and workers believe there's still a market for the product they make; an already successful business may convert to worker-ownership; or a group of people with an idea may desire to start a business. Unlike some dramatic buyouts of large companies that have occurred in the

North, the North Carolina project has been working primarily with small groups of 10-20 workers.

In addition to financing such businesses in Charlotte and the western part of the state, SHCU plans to make loans for housing. Says Bynum, "There's a real need for low and moderate income housing. This will be our first project in Charlotte."

Housing loans will be made for mortgages, for housing cooperatives, or to rehabilitate substandard housing.

The credit union, he adds, is also interested in buying mortgages.

Business loans are made primarily to lower income individuals, minorities, or women, and only to employee-owned businesses. However, as with any credit union, regular members can also borrow.

And, naturally, the greater the deposits, the greater SHCU's ability to make loans which will ultimately benefit the community.

Notes Bynum, the Self-Help Credit Union is a program which appeals to both liberals and conservatives, because it means jobs for people. "We attract as members socially responsible individuals who care where their money is being used. They receive the same benefits as at a bank with the added social benefits."

SHCU has recently arranged to have the State Employees Credit Union handle its transactions. With the addition of those 56 branches, Bynum and Blotnick are confident more people will take advantage of becoming SHCU members. In Charlotte branch offices are located at 1130 E. Third St. and at UNCC.

Credit union membership is open to any member of the Center for Self-Help, which has a membership fee of \$15. SHCU offers regular savings accounts, limited transaction money market account, and IRAs.

For more information on the Self-Help Credit Union, contact June Blotnick at 568-1923.

CCC Schedules Team-Building Seminar

The Charlotte Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a seminar on "Team-Building" at the Guest Quarters Hotel on October 25. This seminar provides a valuable and insightful presentation on the needs for and benefits of developing a "team" approach to management within your company.

The program will include discussions on assessing the needs for team-building, such as better communications and a more effective workforce; how to establish teams within your organizations; and a series of group exercises designed to demonstrate how the "team" concept works.

The seminar will be led by Dr. Dan

Johnson of Organizational Consultants, Inc. Dr. Johnson is an industrial psychologist who has worked extensively in developing "team" management programs for large national organizations and numerous smaller firms.

The program is designed for executives who wish to consider taking a direct approach to organizing and strengthening working teams within their companies, and for managers who need to develop better cooperation and coordination among their work groups.

If you are interested in learning more about the "team" approach to management, you certainly will want to attend this excellent se-

minar on "Team-Building," a spokesman informed.

For further information, or advance reservations, please contact Laurie Fagan, Local Business Industry Division, Chamber of Commerce, at 377-6911.

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Community Activities Schedule

Children's Theatre of Charlotte - Performances are scheduled October 18-20 and 25-27 of "Peter Pan," the classic story of the boy who wouldn't grow up. Also for children in grades K through fourth, performances of "Turkey in Trouble" a tale of a turkey at Thanksgiving will be held November 15-17. For ticket information, call 333-8983.

Little Theatre of Charlotte - "Wait Until Dark," the breathtaking tale of a terrorized blind girl who outwits her attacker, to be performed November 7-10, 14-16, and 21-23. Call 376-3777.

Golden Circle Theatre - Tickets are now on sale for "To Grandmother's House We Go," a look at three generations of Thanksgiving ideas performed November 7-9, 15-17, 21-23 with a matinee on the 17th. For information or tickets, call 847-7309.

Family Outreach and Counseling Center - "We Are Family Week" will take place October 5-13 with a series of activities ranging from seminars and workshops to a fashion extravaganza to "We Are Family" Day at Freedom Park. For more information on this week's events contact your church, community agency of the Family Outreach and Counseling Service at 332-7037.

Mint Museum Antique Show - The 19th annual Mint Museum Antique Show will be held at Park Center, 310 North Kings Drive, Friday through Sunday, October 11-13. Twenty-six exhibitors will offer antiques including furniture, paintings, porcelain, jewelry, books and folk art. For additional information, call the Mint Museum at 337-2000 or Park Center at 336-2462.

Charlotte Opera - Tickets are on sale for the beginning of the season October 3 with Carlisle Floyd's "Willie Stark" at 8 p.m. in Ovens Auditorium. "Man of La Mancha" follows soon on November 14 & 16. For ticket information, call Charlotte Opera 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 372-SING.

J.C. Smith University - The Communications Arts Department will present "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," a portrait of Lorraine Hansberry in her own words October 10 - 12 in Biddle Auditorium beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2, \$1.50 for students. For information, contact J.C. Smith at 378-1177.

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