



## Christians in a Changing World

by A. L. Parr

The world is always changing. Change is one element of the definition of living organisms, and in human societies it is almost universally true that moral change is toward the worse. With Friday's announcement of the Supreme Court decision that states may not forbid homosexual marriages the door has opened wider for further moral degeneration of American society.

If you are over 30 years old you don't need to be told that society's morals of your childhood are no longer the norm. A Gallup poll in 1982 received only 34% affirmative answers to the question, "Do you think homosexuality should be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle or not?" In 2007 that number was 54%. During the week of May 6-10, 2015 Gallup received approving answers from 60% of respondents to the question, "Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?" In 1996 that percentage was only 27%. The rate of moral decline in America is rapid by any measure.

Perhaps more than at any other time in America's history there is all around us a clear illustration of the need for the apostle's call to "come out from among them and be ye separate" (II Cor. 6:17). Christians who have traveled widely are aware that the church usually reflects in some respects the community in which it lives. But from the beginning the church was seen to have "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). If foul language is the world's routine, should the church speak as the world speaks? When the community accepts indiscriminate divorce and remarriage, is that the standard the church should use? When our neighbors take their clothes off to expose half of their skin in the summer time, should Christians copy them? When fornication is legal and celebrated, should the church join in the jubilation?

No, no, no and no. The church of Jesus Christ walks in the steps of Jesus (I Peter 2:21), follows the pattern of His apostles (I Cor. 11:1), and obeys His "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). If the church comes to be indifferent from the world, what need is there for the church? Shall we be "of Christ" or "of the world?" "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"; "choose you this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15).

*for Confirming the Churches*  
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