

HEATHEN CULTURE

Paul described the characteristics of a heathen culture as godless, evil, depraved, idolatrous, and sexually perverted in Rom.1:18-32.

Based on this description, USA is becoming a heathen culture. “In 2005, there were an estimated 3,600,000 million investigated by Child Protective Services in USA; and of these, 899,000 were substantiated. Of the substantiated abuse reports, 9.3% of the cases showed 83,000 children to have been sexually abused.”

“According to the US Dept. of Education nearly 9.6% of students are targets of educator sexual misconduct sometime during their school career.”

Sexual abuse of USA children is a sign of a heathen culture that is affecting socioeconomic, racial, education, and religious families.

There is a pro-pedophile activism group attempting to normalize “adult-child sex.” They are seeking to gain social and legal acceptance of pedophilia. They are working to redefine and restrict the legal term of “child sexual abuse” to “adult-child sex.”

Is it any wonder that they people are engaged in the culture revolution that is occurring in USA against Judao-Christian culture?

The Christian church must not remain silence and sit on the bench and let heathenism continue to destroy our culture. What is the answer? What can we do? **Paul gave the answer in Rom.1:14-17.** One family at a time, beginning with you and your neighborhood.

If this doesn't work, how will God deal with the heathen culture? (Answer - Rom.1:18) This is the story of our lesson today. This is the story of Lot and his family found in Genesis 19. Peter gave a cliff-note version of it in 2 Pet.2:7-9.

Today's lesson will study four aspects of why Lot chose to rear his family in the heathen city culture of Sodom and do nothing to change it or himself or to protect his family from it.

1. Lot's Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) belief system was developed as a child growing up in the heathen city culture of the Ur of the Chaldees (Gen.11:27-32; Josh.24:2).

It is interesting that both Lot and Abraham grew up in this same heathen city culture but with different results in life as believers.

Abraham chose to leave it behind both physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

When Abraham left the heathen city culture of Ur of Chaldees, he worked on putting off his OMCD beliefs and putting on his New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) beliefs. When the boy left the country, the boy worked on the country leaving him (Gen.12:1; Acts 7:2-4; **Heb.11:8-10**).

This was not true for Lot. It is a volitional issue in each person's life.

2. In Peter's cliff-note version, he identifies Lot as a believer with imputed righteousness (dikaios).

“Even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction.” (Rom.3:22; 2 Cor.5:21).

He also identifies Lot as a believer who chose for himself and for his family to live in the heathen city culture of Sodom: “For that righteous man (imputed / saved), living among them (egkatoikeo / p.a.ptc)” (2 Pet.2:8).

Egkatoikeo means to be at home and comfortable with this heathen city culture. In other words, there was a trade off and compromise and complacency (OMCD) with the truth of God's word in his soul (NMDV) that Lot was unwilling to change in order to live among them.

3. Peter also identifies the inner conflict between OMCD and NMDV thinking in Lot living in the heathen city culture of Sodom.

“Oppressed (kataponeo / a.a.ptc) by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men” and “tormented (basanizo / impf.a.ind) day after day with their lawless deeds” (2 Pet.2:7-8).

Oppressed (kataponeo) means to become mentally and emotionally and spiritually exhausted or worn down from the conflict between OMCD and NMDV.

Tormented (basanizo) means to have your self-consciousness and conscience tortured by the conflict between OMCD and NMDV.

When push became shove by this heathen city culture, Lot folded and offered his two daughters to be sexually abused by evil people described as ungodly, sensual, unprincipled, and lawless (Gen.19:6-8).

What should Lot have done? Why couldn't he do the very thing he knew to be right? (**Rom.7:14-25**) – “For the good thing that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.” (Rom.7:19)

4. Lot should have done what God did when God shut down the heathen city culture of Sodom (Gen.19). He should have left Sodom body, soul, and spirit.

He should have left it before being forced by God's wrath and Abraham's prayer. He should have left it as soon as being rescued as a POW (Gen.14). How many chances for change does the mercy of God need to give us?

But he didn't because Sodom was in his soul as OMCD. It had been in his soul since a child of heathen city culture of Ur of Chaldees.

Even after he was finally forced out of Sodom, he still didn't want to think NMDV. God told him to take his family to the mountains but he begged to be allowed to go to a smaller heathen city culture called Zoar (Gen.19:20). After the death of his wife, out of fear and not out of faith, Lot went to the mountains with his 2 daughters (Gen.19:30).

How does Lot deal with stress of OMCD even when it comes from the hand of God? He evades, avoids and runs away and gets drunk! (Gen.19:33) WHAT A MISSED UP FAMILY OF BELIEVERS!

- Remember Lot's wife? She became in death what she was unwilling to become in life – salt of earth (Matt.5:14; Luke 17:32; Gen.19:17, 26)
- Remember Lot's future son-in-laws? They thought he was a big spiritual joke and jerk! (Gen.19:14)
- Remember Lot's daughters? They had incestuous relations with Lot and birthed two children (Gen.19:30-38)