

cross over them into sin just so our friends will feel more comfortable. The life of Lot provides a sad lesson.

Lot had chosen the land of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13). Although he had Uncle Abram as an example of faith, Lot apparently had little influence on the people in his home town. By Genesis 18, God was ready to destroy the two towns because of their wickedness.

As you read Genesis 19, notice how Lot's immoral neighbours disrespected him (especially verses 5-9). Even Lot's sons-in-law, who should have known him pretty well, thought he was joking when he warned them of the coming destruction.

Ultimately, only Lot and his daughters escaped. Even Lot's wife didn't survive. Looking back at her former home, perhaps longing for what she was leaving behind, she was turned into a pillar of salt.

Sometimes, in trying to stay in contact with our non-Christian friends, we act like Lot. We compromise, hoping to stay culturally relevant to dead culture. But we lose in two ways. Our friends are no closer to God, and they have no respect for us either.

I'm not suggesting that you dump your non believing friends. God can use you to reach them. But don't forget who your best Friend is.

Otherwise, you might end up a two-time loser like Lot. —JC

## REFLECTION



*standards.*

- Have I compromised my obedience to Christ because of my relationships with non-Christian friends?
- How can I make sure that I put God first in my friendships with non-Christians?
- *Lord, I want all my friends to begin a personal relationship with You through Your Son Jesus Christ. But I don't want to compromise. Give me the discernment to know when I'm in danger of lowering my*

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# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## AUGUST 23, 2015

### View From the Middle

If you have non-Christian friends, you may face a tough choice. How much time can you spend with them before it starts hurting you more than it helps them?

In answering that question, you can be too soft-hearted. Afraid to appear judgmental, you are reluctant to neglect these friendships, even when it becomes obvious that the friendships are pulling you down rather than lifting others up.

Within such friendships, it's a must that we draw firm lines, refusing to





# People

## Standards of a Godly Man I

Before we can discuss any standard or issue there are three imperatives:

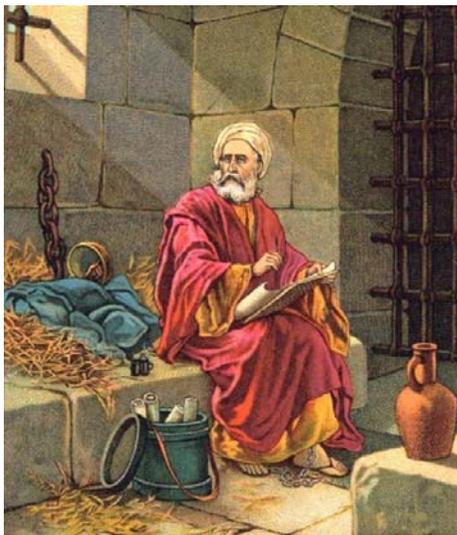
**1. We must be \_\_\_\_\_ Christians; seeking \_\_\_\_\_, 1 John 2:15**



**(James 4:4)** "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."



**2. We must be \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Christians; seeking \_\_\_\_\_, 1 John 2:15**



**(Hebrews 5:12-14)** "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. {13} For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. {14} But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

**(Colossians 4:14)** "Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you."

**(Philemon 1:23-24)** "Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, {24} as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers."

**(2 Timothy 4:10)** "for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica; ..."



**3. We must long for His \_\_\_\_\_; seeking \_\_\_\_\_, 1 John 2:16, 17**

**(Titus 2:11-12)** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, {12} teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,"

**(Romans 12:2)** "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

**(1 Corinthians 10:31)** "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

**(James 1:27)** "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

**(Genesis 19:17)** "... "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.""

**(Genesis 19:26)** "But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

**(Luke 17:32)** ""Remember Lot's wife."

**(Luke 9:62)** "... "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.""

**(1 Corinthians 7:31)** "... For the form of this world is passing away."

