



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**---FEATURES**

produced by Baptist Press

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
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October 7, 1968

PROBLEMS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE  
(Fiftieth in a series)

### OUR PERMISSIVE SOCIETY

By T. B. Maston  
Retired Professor of Christian Ethics  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

There is widely prevalent in contemporary America a more or less contagious spirit of permissiveness. This spirit is both a product and a producer of the "New Morality."

There have been reports of unmarried men and women university students who live together. Girls check out of dormitories for overnight or week-ends and give their boy friends' address.

The impact of such contemporary permissiveness is felt in practically every area of American life. For example, things are permitted in the news media that were unheard of only a few months ago. Obscenity, nudity, and a frankness that approaches crudeness is prevalent in newspapers, news magazines, movies, and on radio and television. Recently a news magazine referred to ours as "a Babylonian Age."

The shift to a predominantly permissive society has come with unusual rapidity. It has been suggested that America has changed more in the past year than in the preceding fifty years. Pearl Buck recently said that the people of the United States have changed more than any other people in the world except the Red Chinese.

One phase of our increasingly permissive society is the challenge to traditional values and standards. In some areas there is almost a complete transvaluation of values. Old virtues such as thrift and modesty are considered out of date if not actual sins by many people. Really, "sin" itself is considered by many to be out of date.

The authority of the home and the church, the major protectors and promoters of traditional values, has been sharply decreased. Many people, particularly young people, are drifting without a rudder or a compass. A ship that drifts at sea is a real danger not only to itself but to all the other ships.

It would be wise for all of us, young and old, to consider seriously the statement Paul Tillich made to a group of college students. He said: "If you jump out of the experience of mankind, you court tragedy--and you should know it." This tragedy may come not only to the individual but also to society as a whole.

It should be remembered that traditional values and standards have a history back of them. Some may need up-dating, but at least they should be treated with respect.

Is the increasing permissiveness of our society a sign of decay and the approaching collapse of our nation? It should never be forgotten that periods such as the present one have in the past frequently been a forerunner of the decline and fall of nations and civilizations. This has been particularly true when that permissiveness had permeated the area of sex, and in the contemporary period there is no area where it is more prevalent than in the area of sex.

It is possible, of course, that the wheel will turn or the pendulum will swing back, at least part of the way. There may be a reaction to the present permissiveness. People may discover that it is not the way of self-fulfillment and genuine happiness. They may conclude that true freedom does not result from no restraint but from the proper restraint.

It seems clear that the reactions within the next few years to our contemporary permissive morality will determine the destiny of our nation for the indefinite future.



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PROBLEMS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE  
(Forty-ninth in a series)

## UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

By T. B. Maston  
Retired Professor of Christian Ethics  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

My copy of Uniform Crime Reports-1967 came a few days ago. It is the annual report released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). If you are interested in crime facts and figures, this is the most complete and authoritative source available. A letter from you will place your name on the mailing list to receive the reports free of charge.

This latest report reveals a continuing increase in crimes of all kinds. There were more than 3.8 million serious crimes in 1967, a 16% rise over 1966. The "crime clocks," a regular feature of the annual reports, shows that there were seven serious crimes committed in the United States every minute with a violent crime (murder, rape, robbery, or assault to kill) every minute. Other "clocks" reveal one murder every 43 minutes, a forceable rape every 19 minutes, a robbery every 2½ minutes. In addition there was an auto theft every 48 seconds and a burglary every 20 seconds.

The report includes a number of comparisons of 1960 and 1967. Crime increased 89% during the eight years while the population increased only 10%. There were striking increases in some types of crimes. For example, auto thefts increased 101% and purse snatching 145%. Nighttime burglaries of residences increased 64% while daytime burglaries increased 187%.

When so much has been said about police brutality, some of which may be justified, it would help to complete the picture if people generally knew that over 26,000 police officers were assaulted last year, an 11% increase over the preceding year. More than 10,000 of these were injured. There were 76 officers killed by "felons." Of the 411 police officers who were killed by felons from 1960 through 1967, 96% were killed with firearms.

Another thing that should concern all Christians is the continuing increase in juvenile crime. The crime problem in the United States in many ways is primarily a youth problem. For example, in the period 1960-1967 the increase in the number of arrests for those 18 and above was only .8% while for those under 18 the increase was 68.5%. Of all persons arrested in 1967, 9.6% were under 15, 24.3% under 18, and 47.4% under 25.

Still another trend that should be a source of real concern is the marked increase in the number of arrests of girls and women, particularly those under 18. For all males the increase in number of arrests for 1960-1967 was nine per cent while it was 24.8% for females. For those under 18 the percentage increases were 63.9% for males and 95.0% for females.

One other rather startling fact revealed by the report is the arrest for drunkenness. The arrest of males from 1960-1967 actually decreased 6.3% while for those under 18 it increased 78.6%. For females the contrast was even more marked, a decline of 21.2% for all females but an increase of 90.7% for those under 18.

If you want to receive regularly the Uniform Crime Reports send your request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C. 20535. A letter from J. Edgar Hoover says, "We furnish a copy of this publication free of charge to individual citizens on request."

CORRECTION

(10-7-68)

On story headlined "Panel Asks New Approaches To Help Mentally Retarded", (10-4-68)  
change the word in graph 12, line 2 "hotels" to "hostels," making it read "such as hostels,  
group homes,...."

--Baptist Press





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October 7, 1968

### Police Chiefs Urge Christian Ethics Among Teen-age Drivers

NASHVILLE (BP)--In a statement directed to teen-age drivers, internationally-known police chief Daniel S. C. Liu has urged study of material concerning Christian ethics in driving.

"As chief of police for the City and County of Honolulu in Hawaii, I am most aware of the disasters which do result from the use and driving of an automobile. As a Christian and one who is active in our Southern Baptist Church (Olivet Baptist Church, Honolulu), I am also deeply concerned for the present high rate of injuries and deaths so often caused by careless and inconsiderate drives of our vehicles on the streets and highways," Liu said.

"I urge a serious study of the unit 'Rules of the Road' in 'The Intermediate Leader.' Then I advocate that all live up to the information gathered therein! I believe it will be time well and profitable spent!" Liu commented, after reviewing Training Union study material in the fourth quarter (Oct., Nov., and Dec.) issue of The Intermediate Leader.

The unit, written by Suzanne Dale Ezell of Nashville, deals with proper Christian conduct while driving a motor vehicle. Designed for a four-session study period, the unit has as its aim: What is the need for applying principles of Christian ethics to driving? How does my conduct as a driver reflect my beliefs about the value of life, about the value of property and about love for fellowman?

H. O. Kemp, chief of police, Nashville, when queried about the unit said, "I am very encouraged after reading your article to learn that organizations such as yours are seriously interested in helping young people to be safety conscious on the highway."

Kemp is a member of Park Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville.

Liu serves both the Hawaii Baptist Convention and the 63rd Session of the International Association of Chiefs of Police as president.

In commenting about the challenge and aim of the unit, Liu said, "I am firmly convinced that if each individual while behind the wheel of an automobile would demonstrate all the Christian principles of living so much of the death and destruction caused through accidents would be avoided."

In further endorsement of the material, Kemp offered to the board's church training department "any assistance that you may need, such as speakers, etc., in developing this program."

-30-

Southern Seminary Names  
Dobbins As Emeritus Professor

(10-7-68)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The trustees and faculty of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here have named Gaines S. Dobbins as emeritus professor of religious education and church administration in honor of his pioneer efforts in the field. The Baptist educator is 82 years old.

Dobbins was on the faculty of Southern seminary for 36 years and was the first dean of the School of Religious Education. After his retirement in 1956, he served for ten years as distinguished professor of church administration at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. He is now director of spiritual services for South Haven Nursing Home in Birmingham, Ala., where his wife is receiving care.

In 1966 Southern seminary gave Dobbins the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award, recognizing the fact that he was the first Southern Baptist to teach Christian journalism, pastoral care, psychology of religion and church administration.

The only other emeritus professor elected by the Southern seminary trustees is R. Inman "Prof" Johnson, who taught speech from 1938 to 1964. He now lives in Virginia.

-30-

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Brill Assumes Duties  
At Oklahoma Convention

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--John Brill, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Tahlequah, Okla., since 1961, has been named an associate in the department of missions of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma here.

Brill will assume his new responsibilities as director of work with National Baptists in Oklahoma on Nov. 1, it was announced Monday by Dr. J. T. Roberts, state missions secretary for the convention.

Brill had previously been pastor of the Second Baptist Church, of Pnca City, for three years. Prior to that time, he had served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Stigler, and First Baptist Church, Wagoner, all in Oklahoma.

Born in Holdenville, Okla., Brill received a B.A. degree from East Central State College, Ada, in 1945.

Work with National (Negro) Baptist churches in Oklahoma is an area of state missions activity supported jointly by the Oklahoma convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, of Atlanta, Ga.

-30-

Southwestern To Send  
Study Team To Ohio

FORT WORTH (BP)--The emphasis will be on the contemporary as Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here sends a faculty team to Ohio Nov. 18-21 to hold the fifth in a series of Continuing Theological Studies.

Both the method and the topic will be contemporary. The idea of "continuing study" off the campus has been promoted by Southwestern at four previous sessions held in Denver, Chicago, New York and at Carson-Newman College in Tennessee.

This latest study will emphasize contemporary church leadership and will be open to pastors, church staff members and denominational leaders in Ohio and surrounding areas regardless of their previous training.

Setting for the study will be the 200-acre Seneca Lake Assembly near Senecaville, Ohio, an encampment owned and operated by Ohio Baptists.

T. M. Bennett Jr., professor of Old Testament, will teach the book of Isaiah in preparation for the January Bible study. Charles Tidwell, associate professor of church administration who formerly was consultant in church administration and director of editorial series with the Baptist Sunday School Board, will discuss contemporary trends in church leadership.

The message of the early church as it applies to contemporary church life will be interpreted by Curtis Vaughan, professor of New Testament and general editor of the new Zondervan publication, The New Testament from 26 Translations.

The Southwestern Alumni Association of Ohio is joining the seminary in sponsoring the four-day study.

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Baptist Book Store Located  
In Norfolk, Virginia

(10-7-68)

NORFOLK (BP)--The 51st Baptist Book Store owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board was dedicated here Oct. 1.

The new store building is owned by the downtown Freemason Street Baptist Church and is leased to the board.

Described by Reuben Alley, editor of the Religious Herald as "a symbol of man's search for truth," the new store traces its history back 14 years. In a resolution adopted April 5, 1955, the Norfolk Baptist Association invited the Sunday School Board to locate a book store in the Norfolk area.

The Norfolk store brings to three the number of stores located in Virginia. Other stores are located in Richmond and Roanoke.

Noland Houston serves as manager of the Norfolk store.



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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