Why Would You Oppose Yourself?

(2 Timothy 2:25 and Selected Scriptures)

5/16/2010

Introduction:

2 Timothy 2:25 - *In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*

All sin is opposition to God. But did you ever realize, it is opposition to yourself as well?

Why would people oppose themselves?

1. Due to Ignorance (They don't realize the damaging effects of sin)
2. Due to Demonic Control (They are in many cases under the influence of evil spirit entities) **See: Mark 5:1-15**

What sins do people commit that bring immediate or eventual damage to themselves?

I. Consuming Harmful Substances

(Opposing your Temple – 1 Corinthians 6:19)

- **Cigarettes** (leading you to Cancer & Lung Disease)
- **Drugs** (leading you to Chemical Dependency & Poverty)
- **Alcohol** (leading you to Misery and Ruin in every way)
- **Gluttony** (leading you to Obesity, Diabetes, and Heart Failure)

II. Entertaining Destructive Thoughts

(Opposing your Soul - (1 Peter 2:11)

- **Lust** (leading you to perversion & obsession)
- **Anger** (leading to bitterness & vulnerable to Satanic attack)
- **Worry** (leading to Stress)

III. Engaging in Illicit Sex

(Opposing your Body – Romans 1:27)

- **Fornication** (leading to premarital sex)
- **Adultery** (leading to emotional turmoil & physical disease)
- **Homosexuality** (leading to confusion, disease & death)

IV. Fighting your Relationships with Others

(Opposing Needed Help, Mutual Assistance & Divine Blessing)

- **Children Fighting Parents** (leading to ruined quality & shortened quantity of life)
- **Spouses Fighting their Mates** (leading to unanswered prayer, divorce & family disintegration) *Ephesians 5:28-29)*
- **People Fighting God** (leading to Eternal Separation from God in Hell)

**** The Biggest Abuse/Opposition to yourself is to reject God's Salvation***

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In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

The word "opposing" – is a present tense, middle voice, plural, participle.

- *The present tense implies an ongoing opposition*
- *The middle voice indicates that they receive the ill effects of their own opposition (They are actively opposing themselves)*
- *The Plural – indicates that many do this*

All sin is opposition to God. But did you ever realize, it is opposition to yourself as well?

Why would people oppose themselves?

1. Due to <u>Ignorance</u> (They don't realize the damaging effects of sin)
   Sin has a way of deceiving it's victim (making him/her dumb)

   The victim of sin really does <u>not believe</u> that the damaging effect of sin will outweigh the temporal anticipated benefit of the sin.

2. Due to <u>Demonic Control</u> (They are in many cases under the influence of evil spirit entities) **See: Mark 5:1-15**

No one can defy God or His Principles and succeed! (you defy gravity and you lose; you defy God's will & ways and you lose!)

(The principle of sowing & reaping - ***Galatians 6:7***

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.)

Don't spit into the wind! It always comes back into your face!

Sin does nothing good for us (it only ruins and kills)

Sin promises something advantageous, but always kills in the end (Romans 6:23)

Example: how an Eskimo kills the wolf

What sins do people commit that bring immediate or eventual damage to themselves?

I. Consuming Harmful <u>Substances</u>

(Opposing your Temple – 1 Corinthians 6:19)

- **Cigarettes** (leading you to Cancer & Lung Disease)

Cigarette Smoking

The 1982 United States Surgeon General's report stated that"Cigarette smoking is the major single cause of cancer mortality in the United States." This statement is as true today as it was then.

There were more cigarette smokers in the younger age groups. In 2008, the CDC reported almost 23.7% of those 25 to 44 years old were current smokers, compared with 9.3% of those aged 65 or older.

High school and middle school students

Nationwide, 20% of high school students were smoking cigarettes in 2007. The most recent survey of middle school students shows that about 6% were smoking cigarettes. In both high schools and middle schools, white and Hispanic students were more likely to smoke cigarettes than other races/ethnicities. (For more information, see our document, Child and Teen Tobacco Use.)

How does smoking cause illness and death?

About half of all Americans who keep smoking will die because of the habit. Each year about 443,600 people in the United States die from illnesses related to tobacco use. Smoking cigarettes kills more Americans than alcohol, car accidents, suicide, AIDS, homicide, and illegal drugs combined.

Cancer caused by smoking

Cigarette smoking accounts for at least 30% of all cancer deaths. It is linked with an increased risk of the following cancers:

* lung
* larynx (voice box)
* oral cavity (mouth, tongue, and lips)
* pharynx (throat)
* esophagus (tube connecting the throat to the stomach)
* stomach
* pancreas
* cervix
* kidney
* bladder
* acute myeloid leukemia

Smoking is responsible for almost 9 out of 10 lung cancer deaths. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women, and is one of the hardest cancers to treat. Lung cancer is a disease that can often be prevented. Some religious groups that promote non-smoking as part of their religion, such as Mormons and Seventh-day Adventists, have much lower rates of lung cancer and other smoking-related cancers.

Other health problems caused by smoking

As serious as cancer is, it accounts for less than half of the deaths related to smoking each year. Smoking is a major cause of heart disease, aneurysms, bronchitis, emphysema, and stroke.

Using tobacco can damage a woman's reproductive health and hurt babies. Tobacco use is linked with reduced fertility and a higher risk of miscarriage, early delivery (premature birth), and stillbirth. It is also a cause of low birth-weight in infants. It has been linked to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), too.

Smoking can make pneumonia and asthma worse. It has been linked to other health problems, too, including gum disease, cataracts, bone thinning, hip fractures, and peptic ulcers. Some studies have also linked smoking to macular degeneration, an eye disease that can cause blindness.

Smoking can cause or worsen poor blood flow in the arms and legs (peripheral vascular disease or PVD.) Surgery to improve the blood flow often doesn't work in people who keep smoking. Because of this, many surgeons who work on blood vessels (vascular surgeons) won't do certain surgeries on patients with PVD unless they stop smoking.

Some studies have found that male smokers may be more likely to be sexually impotent (have erectile dysfunction).

The smoke from cigarettes (called secondhand smoke or environmental tobacco smoke) can also have harmful health effects on those exposed to it. Adults and children can have health problems from breathing secondhand smoke. (See our documents, Secondhand Smoke and Women and Smoking.)

Effects of smoking on how long you live and your quality of life

Based on data collected from 1995 to 1999, the CDC estimated that adult male smokers lost an average of 13.2 years of life and female smokers lost 14.5 years of life because of smoking.

But not all of the health problems related to smoking result in deaths. Smoking affects a smoker's health in many ways, harming nearly every organ of the body and causing diseases. According to the CDC, in 2000 about 8.6 million people had at least one chronic disease because they smoked or had smoked. Many of these people were suffering from more than one smoking-related problem. The diseases seen most often were chronic bronchitis, emphysema, heart attacks, strokes, and cancer. These diseases can steal away a person's quality of life long before death. Smoking-related illness can limit a person's daily life by making it harder to breathe, get around, work, or play.

What is in tobacco?

Cigarettes, cigars, and spit and pipe tobacco are made from dried tobacco leaves, as well as ingredients added for flavor and other reasons. More than 4,000 different chemicals have been found in tobacco and tobacco smoke. Among these are more than 60 chemicals that are known to cause cancer (carcinogens).

Many substances are added to cigarettes by manufacturers to enhance the flavor or to make smoking more pleasant. Some of the compounds found in tobacco smoke include ammonia, tar, and carbon monoxide. Exactly what effects these substances have on the cigarette smoker's health is unknown, but there is no evidence that lowering the tar content of a cigarette lowers the health risk.

Nicotine addiction

Addiction is defined as physical and psychological (mental and emotional) dependence on the substance.
How powerful is nicotine addiction?
About 70% of smokers say they want to quit and about 40% try to quit each year, but only 4% to 7% succeed without help. This is because smokers not only become physically addicted to nicotine; there is a strong emotional (psychological) aspect and they often link smoking with many social activities. All of these factors make smoking a hard habit to break.
http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/content/PED_10_2X_Cigarette_Smoking.asp?sitearea=PED

- **Drugs** (leading you to Chemical Dependency & Poverty)

  Amphetamines
  Amphetamines are stimulants that accelerate functions in the brain and body. They come in pills or tablets.

  How They're Used: Amphetamines are swallowed, inhaled, or injected.
  Effects & Dangers:
  • Swallowed or snorted, these drugs hit users with a fast high, making them feel powerful, alert, and energized.
  • Uppers pump up heart rate, breathing, and blood pressure, and they can also cause sweating, shaking, headaches, sleeplessness, and blurred vision.
  • Prolonged use may cause hallucinations and intense paranoia.
  Addictiveness: Amphetamines are psychologically addictive. Users who stop report that they experience various mood problems such as aggression, anxiety, and intense cravings for the drugs.

  Cocaine

  1. Absorption
     Cocaine enters the body in one of three ways: injection, smoking, or snorting.

  2. Metabolism/Elimination
     Cocaine is a strong stimulant to the central nervous system. Its effects can last anywhere from 20 minutes to several hours, depending on the content, purity, administration, and dosage of the drug.

  3. Brief Overview
     a. Cocaine users become dependent on the drug.
     b. Crack is a form of the drug that is highly addictive.
     c. Exposure to the drug can harm a developing fetus.
     d. It produces short-lived senses of euphoria, the length depends on how the drug was administered.

  4. Short-term Effects
     a. May cause extreme anxiety and restlessness.
     b. May experience the following medical conditions: twitches, tremors, spasms, coordination problems, chest pain, nausea, seizures, respiratory arrest, and cardiac arrest.

  5. Long-term Effects
     a. May cause extreme alertness, watchfulness, impaired judgment, impulsiveness, and compulsively repeated acts.
     b. May cause stuffiness, runny nose, tissue deterioration inside the nose, and perforation of the nasal septum.

6. Special Hazards Involving the Driving Task

a. Cocaine may successfully mask fatigue, however, high dosages impair judgment and interfere with the ability of the driver to concentrate.

b. Coordination and vision are impaired.

c. There is an increase in impulsive behaviors with tendencies to take more risks and create confusion within the user.

7. Effects with Other Drugs

a. Additive effects are noted when cocaine is combined with over-the-counter products, such as diet pills or antihistamines.

b. Cocaine taken with psychotropic drugs, especially antidepressants, can be extremely detrimental.

c. A person who has extremely high blood pressure and uses cocaine may suffer from a stroke or heart attack.

d. Some users combine cocaine with alcohol and sedatives to cushion the "crash" or feeling of depression and agitation that sometimes occurs as the effects of cocaine wear off.

e. A person using cocaine maintains the illusion of being alert and stimulated, although physical reactions are impaired.

f. Further research indicates that additive and antagonistic effects can be produced when cocaine is mixed with alcohol.

g. If cocaine is used in high doses, as in the case of overdose, alcohol will probably have an additive effect on the symptoms that eventually contribute to death.

h. When cocaine is injected in combination with heroin, sometimes called "speedballing," there is an increased risk of toxicity, overdose, and death.

- **Alcohol** (leading you to Misery and Ruin in every way)

  Alcohol

  The oldest and most widely used drug in the world, alcohol is a depressant that alters perceptions, emotions, and senses.

  * Alcohol seriously affect judgment and coordination. Drinkers may have slurred speech, confusion, depression, short-term memory loss, and slow reaction times.
  * Large volumes of alcohol drunk in a short period of time may cause alcohol poisoning.

  Addictiveness: Teens who use alcohol can become psychologically dependent upon it to feel good, deal with life, or handle stress. In addition, their bodies may demand more and more to achieve the same kind of high experienced in the beginning. Some teens are also at risk of becoming physically addicted to alcohol. Withdrawal from alcohol can be painful and even life threatening. Symptoms range from shaking, sweating, nausea, anxiety, and depression to hallucinations, fever, and convulsions.

- **Gluttony** (leading you to Obesity, Diabetes, and Heart Failure)

It's almost as if many people have a "death wish" (they know they are involved in destructive behavior, yet persist in it anyway)

A girl onetime wore a tee-shirt which said "Live Wild, Die Young"

"Partying" led to the demise of most of my Senior High School Classmates.

II. Entertaining Destructive Thoughts

(Opposing your Soul - (1 Peter 2:11)

1 Peter 2:11

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

"Fleshly" - (*sarkikos)* - that which pertains to the flesh; i.e. the impulses which belong to the selfish and lower side of man's nature (Reinecker, p. 752).

"Lusts" - (*epithumia* - lit. to be hot toward something; to passionately desire something)

NOTE: This word basically refers to strong desires or appetites. To have desires and appetites is not necessarily sinful; they are sinful when they are *fleshly"* appetites - that is, the old nature crying out for that which is against the will of God.

An "appetite" becomes sin when we seek to satisfy it outside of the boundaries or limits that God has established for our benefit.

A fleshly lust is an obsession to satisfy any appetite to an extreme (too much) or in a twisted (perverted) manner [wrong way]).

--A covetousness toward something not belonging to you (Exod. 20:17 - *"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's."*

--An obsession with sexual matters

--An uncontrollable appetite for food (gluttony)

--An uncontrollable appetite for sleep (laziness)

--A greed for money or material goods

--Substance abuse of alcohol or drugs

--A desire for revenge

--A thirst for fame or success

The motive behind most obsessive fleshly lusts is self-pleasure (which is a prime characteristic of society in the last days - II Tim. 3:4).

"War" - to wage a military campaign (be ready for continual warfare).

Lust leads to <u>sin</u> and sin leads to <u>death</u> (James 1:15).

"War" - to fight, battle, combat against. The fleshly lusts fight against the inner soul of man.

The world ***"soul"*** here is used practically synonymously with the world ***"spirit."***

When we don't have the discipline to abstain from the lusts of our old nature (and we give in and yield), we strike at and wound our spiritual life (this attacking does not rob of us our salvation; but it does rob us of victory in living the Christian life).

Whatever nature you feed the most will dominate in your life (ILLUS: the Indian and the 2 dogs).

These fleshly lusts are enemies to your <u>growth</u>, <u>service</u>, <u>witness</u>, <u>joy</u>, <u>worship</u>, etc.

When we give in to a fleshly lust, we feel most miserable because we have grieved the Holy Spirit and have opened the door for the accuser of the brethren tot stir up doubt and discouragement in our hearts.

"Our real battle is not with people around us, but with passions within us" (Wiersbe, p. 404).

D. L. Moody said: "I have more trouble with D.L Moody than with any man I know": (cited by Wiersbe, p. 404).

- **Lust** (leading you to perversion & obsession)

  A Christian has no business reading material which…
  1) uses <u>vulgar language</u>;

  2) Ridicules <u>God's standards</u> for purity;

  3) breeds on new sensations such as obscene <u>violence</u>, <u>bestiality</u>, <u>incest</u> etc.[note: Leviticus 20];

  4) Dishonors the <u>love relationship</u> of marriage [Pornographers leave committed love out of sex; Love is deeper than a physical act];

  5) breeds <u>discontentment</u>;

  6) Leads to covetous <u>lustful passion</u>; <u>masturbation</u> etc.
  Note: Masturbation is sin because it is selfish in nature; It is a manifestation of a covetous spirit. A lustful desire to have that which is not yours. Fornication or adultery is not merely committed by the act but by the thought.)

Don't settle for a <u>cheap substitute</u> for the real thing, which God will give in His way and in His timing.
(Beware: Pornography fills the mind with distortions about sex and unrealistic expectations)

- **Anger** (leading to bitterness & vulnerable to Satanic attack)

  Anger is sin when:

  1. It is motivated by wrong reasons (EX: pride, selfishness, etc.)

  Most anger is sinful. Why? It is not motivated by a love for God but a selfish love for ourselves. It is not spurred on by a hatred for sin, but by a selfish love for yourself.

  Ex. I am not angry that did wrong, I am angry that did me wrong (emphasis on "me")

  Many times the only reason we are angry at someone else...the reason we put others down is so as to lift up ourselves.

  Our pride is hurt. I do not deserve to be treated this way. I am right and he/she is wrong.

  Sometimes we get angry when someone does not take our Biblical advice. Ask yourself "Why are you angry?" Is it because they did not take Godly advice, or is it because they did not take your Godly advice? Are you angry because God's word goes unheeded, and He is offended, and His cause hurt, or are you angry because you feelings go hurt when they did not accept what you had to say?

2. It is expressed in a wrong manner (bottling up or blowing up)

BOTTLING UP - destroys one's own self. Harmful to one's physical health. Makes a person irritable, miserable, and tense (Eph. 4:26).

Note: We are to hold back anger. Remember however that "holding back" anger does not mean holding it in.

Anger when turned inward can lead to depression. Internal anger is paralyzing. It zaps you of strength; It eats out your insides like cancer. It is a cause for illnesses - such as ulcers, migraine head aches etc. It may keep you from work, sleep, relating to others.

As long as anger is inside a person the Holy Spirit cannot control. Therefore the flesh is in control. Some people thrive on being angry. If you feed the flesh (anger) enough and you increase your appetite for it like anything else.

Remember: Anger turned inward will build up pressure and eventually blow outward! Internal anger is life a tank filled with oxygen or a flammable gas just waiting for a spark to ignite it.

BLOWING UP - aims to hurt others. It also hurts the one who blew up. Results in loss of friendships. Destroys significant relationships.

EX: It is wrong to "let out frustrations." (ill. secular psychologists who recommend letting out your frustrations on a pillow etc. is wrong. The person is learning that it is OK to vent anger in an uncontrolled violent manner.)

Anger is unBiblical when it is not controlled (out of the Spirit's control)

When anger is an emotional condition that bypasses a Spirit controlled mind, it is violent and destructive. (It is irrational. One cannot see the real picture. One sees a distorted view of things when angry.

Two warnings about anger:

1. Don't go to bed angry (Eph. 4:26)

Bitterness will result. (See Col.3:19)
(Unresolved anger has kept many family members from speaking; being close etc. Sinful anger is a bad as murder - Matthew 5:22)

2. Don't give Satan a foothold (Eph. 4:27)

All it takes is a "root of bitterness" to give Satan an open door (Heb. 12:15) (Most church splits, divorces, etc. are caused by unresolved anger)

"It's murder!" (Mt. 5:22)

"Wrath" is in the same list as adultery, idolatry, witchcraft, murder, drunkenness, etc. (Ga. 5:20).

"Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous..." (Prov. 27:4).

"Let not the sun go down upon your wrath" - Never go to sleep with anger toward anyone.

Like taking off filthy clothes, God wants us to "put off" anger!

--Col. 3:8 - "But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."

--Eph. 4:31 - "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice."

- **Worry** (leading to Stress)

  The Symptoms of Worrying:

  1. Physical symptoms - disturbed breathing, increased heart activity, inability to accomplish normal tasks, organic problems (aching back, stiff neck, headaches), perspiration.

  2. Emotional Symptoms - Nervousness; withdrawal (isolation), etc.

  The Focus of Worrying:

  Worry is focusing on self rather than on God.

  Worry is focusing on the unknown rather than the known.

  Worry is focusing on the possible (potential) rather than the actual (real).

  Worry is focusing on the negative rather than the positive.

  Worry is focusing on problems rather than solutions.

  Matthew 6:25-34

  1. Worry keeps you from enjoy what is really important (v. 25)

     Human nature tends to worry about lower priorities or at times non-essentials.

  2. Worry is inconsistent with God's care for you (v. 26)

  3. Worry accomplishes absolutely nothing at all (v. 27)

     Worry is actually destructive to our thinking processes, so we end up making matters worse.

  4. Worry fails to believe that God is in control of things (v. 28-30)

  5. Worry is characteristic of the unsaved, nor the child of God (v. 31-32a) Our security should be in the Provider (God) not in the provision (material goods).

  6. Worry forgets that God remembers (v. 32b-33)

  7. Worry about tomorrow's troubles leads to failure in solving today's (v. 34)

III. Engaging in Illicit <u>Sex</u>

(Opposing your Body – Romans 1:27)

- **Fornication** (leading to premarital sex)

- **Adultery** (leading to emotional turmoil & physical disease)

  Proverbs 7:6-27

  For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him, *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life. Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by her. Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

- **Homosexuality** (leading to confusion, disease & death)

"Natural use" = the natural function; or natural sexual relations in marriage with a husband.

The natural is changed into unnatural.

Lesbianism and homosexuality is unnatural. It is against nature. Even animals instinctively know better!

Rom. 1:27

Perversion is a "leaving of the natural"

"Leaving" - aorist participle - After leaving (forsaking, abandoning) God's plan for sexual satisfaction.

When God created the family unit, they were named "Adam and Eve" - not "Adam and Steve!"

Perversion is doing the unnatural

"Burned" = became inflamed or set on fire in their lust ("reaching out; grasping at") toward one another.

Like the flames of a fire shoot out straining after oxygen to feed the fire's unsatisfied appetite, homosexuals burn with an insatiable lust toward one another.

When ever you attempt to satisfy a sexual desire other than by God's plan and will, you will become more contorted and twisted from the proper mode and satisfaction that God made you for - more and more degenerate (Bookman).

"Men with men" - lit. males in or among ( ) males

"Working" - to work with great effort; to toil

The raging madness of a homosexual drives him to go to great lengths to do that which is "unseemly" (shameful, indecent, unpresentable, disgraceful; that which should cause embarrassment).

Homosexuality is a perversion of God's law.

1. It is an abominable sin -

   "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" (Lev. 18:22).

2. It is a sin that calls for the judgment of God.

   a.The O.T. Law required stoning - Lev. 20:13 - "If a man also lie with mankind as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

   b.God judged Sodom and Gomorrah for this sin - Gen. 19. Gen. 13:13 - "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly."

   c.No one who is a practicing homosexual will go to heaven.

   God said, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither . . . the effeminate (those who allow themselves to be abused unnaturally), nor abusers of themselves with mankind (those who are the active homosexual) . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God (I Cor. 6:9-10).

   Is this sin unforgivable ? No (v. 11). It is pardonable, but only to those who are washed, sanctified, and justified.

Unnatural passions <u>end</u> with a <u>pay-check</u> (punishment)
("Receiving...that recompense")

"Receiving" = to <u>get back</u> one's due.

"In themselves" = a reflexive pronoun. What you do comes back to haunt you, personally.

Sin always hurts the sinner!

V. 27

"Recompense" = lit. "substitute payment" for what was done (wages, requital, or reward).

"Of their error" = delusion, for going astray.

"Which was meet" = necessary.

In a context of sexual immorality (harlotry), Solomon said: "Can a man take fire into his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?" (Prov. 6:27, 28).

Is AIDS the judgment of God? Yes & No.

Yes, because God established the law that "You reap what you sow"; or as the contemporary saying goes: "What goes around comes around."

No, because God did not create the AIDS virus, rather it is a natural result of breaking His Law.

(AIDS, like other sexually transmitted diseases is the natural result of immorality)

Asking the question, "Is AIDS God's judgment?" is like asking "Is someone's hitting the ground after leaping out of a 50-story building God's judgment?"

Yes & No - Yes, because God created gravity. No, because the person is facing the consequences for his own defiance of God's Laws.

IV. Fighting your Relationships with Others
(Opposing Needed Help, Mutual Assistance & Divine Blessing)

- **Children Fighting Parents** (leading to ruined quality & shortened quantity of life)

- **Spouses Fighting their Mates** (leading to unanswered prayer, divorce & family disintegration) *Ephesians 5:28-29)*

- **People Fighting God** (leading to Eternal Separation from God in Hell)

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