

## Alarming Moral Trends

### **On casino**

Another ST writer reiterated the statement that the casino issue should not be confused with morality. Morality, she said, has nothing to do with it. Referring to the case of the father who committed suicide because of his gambling debts, she argued that a gambling addict could even be a good person in Church. My response to this is twofold: first of all, the father could be better spiritually and morally. But his gambling addiction has deprived him of greater sanctification, and even his basic sanity. His gambling addiction drove him to act irrationally. The case should make us realize that gambling has the power even to disfigure the life of someone who is otherwise helpful and kind. It is simply not correct to say that gambling has nothing to do with morality. When the craving in the addiction takes over, it vandalizes a person's sanity and disfigures his moral life. Gambling is not an amoral issue. Sadly, this is how the pro-gambling camp packages it in its hard-selling tactics.

### **On homosexuality**

Local HIV cases rose to an reach an alarming figure, and our health minister was driven to expose the source. He said, "Blame it on the gays and their parties." This sparked a controversy and made brought the gays into the open to protest against such a bias. Whatever sides you take in this controversy, the figures in the medical cases are not exaggerated to curb the gay lifestyle. We are facing a HIV problem. That is only the physical disease. My real concern is a more spiritual and moral one. We are facing a powerful gay movement that is influencing our young adults. When I visited the local gay and lesbian website, I felt sad after looking at their pictures and profiles of these young men and women. Many of these gays and lesbians are educated individuals who have both brains and brawns to be successful and influential in life. But come August, like the American School Spring break, all hell breaks lose. They party, match up, and end up in a hotel room. Many of these people are disoriented. Some are defiant. But they all need the gospel. The government's task is limited. They can only campaign for health, raise the budget and broadcast the dangers. But we can offer them counsel from the Word of God and lead them to be a new person in Jesus Christ.

What strikes me is that both of these vices are located in one place – our sunny resort island Sentosa. Once a family outing place, it will soon, I fear, turn to become a den of vice.

### **On television**

Channel U really spiced things up to promote its Chinese news programmes. I am sure you have seen the sexually provocative introductions – one that is sure to raise the temperature before we hear from the news of another terrorist attack. What on earth is Channel U doing with such overly charged sexual introductions before the news? What has that got to do with the news? (Well maybe I lack an aesthetic mind to appreciate the connection.) Then parents, do you know that there is on TV now a new comic superhero in town – a female striptease! She dances on poles in bikinis, works as a striptease and then puts on a superhero ego when the bad guys come to wreck havoc. What else can I say? Children in Sunday school are taught the song at a young age, "O be careful little eyes what you see..."

While we are alarmed at things like these, we should never over react and stop getting a tan at Sentosa, or buy that new 40 inch LCD. What we need is not a world-flight attitude, but an antithetical lifestyle, in which we consciously life for God and not for the world. And to do this, we need to pursue the fear of the LORD as our chief and highest good. (Eccl 12v13) In his speech to his young son, Solomon repeated his admonition to stay away from the wicked woman who seduces any person who walks by her path. The woman is the world. We are in the

world, but we have to steer away from the corruptions of the world. And Proverbs time and time again tell us that we need to fear God in life.

Our censors use the term “parental guidance” for films that could possibly distort children’s mind. But if parents are losing their moral compass, how are parents going to guide their children?

**By Pastor Cheah Fook Meng**