

THE HIGH COST OF BEING CONFORMED TO THE AGE

Introduction

In Romans 12:1-2 we read that as believers we are to present our bodies to God. The first step in this is to stop being conformed to the age. Lot is an example of a righteous man being conformed to the age in which he lived, and it cost him dearly. The same high cost awaits any child of God who refuses to stop being conformed to the age. Let's learn from Lot in Genesis 13:10-11, 19:1-26.

Lot Had No Desire to Separate from The World

Genesis 13:10-11 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. (11) Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

Lot was looking at things through physical eyes, not spiritual eyes.

Lot ***beheld*** the beauty of the world.

The flesh always desires the physical things of the world.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan.

Jordan means *descender, the one going down.*

Spiritually speaking that is exactly the direction in which Lot was headed.

The Bible Teaches Us to Remain Separate from the World

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Lot Was Fully Involved with The People of The World

Genesis 19:1-8 *And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. (3) And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. (4) But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: (5) And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. (6) And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, (7) And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. (8) Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.*

Lot sat in the gate of Sodom; This indicates that Lot had a position of leadership in the city.
I pray to you brethren; Lot saw himself as one of the Sodomites.

Lot Tried to Fit in with the Sodomites on the Outside, but on the Inside, He was Different

Conformed is from G4964 and means to exhibit one's self as something contrary from his or her true inner self, being patterned after some definite thing.

Do not so wickedly

Lot had a sense of right and wrong.

Lot tried to influence the men of Sodom to realize that what they were wanting to do was wicked.

Lot's morals had been compromised by living among the Sodomites.

In that time, if you took someone into your home they were under your care. You were to guard them with your life.

However, Lot's willingness to sacrifice the virginity of his daughters to these evil and wicked men of Sodom shows that Lot had been negatively influenced by living in Sodom.

Lot Lost His Witness for God

Genesis 19:9 *And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.*

Lot had lost his witness for God to the city.

Lot saw himself as one of the men of Sodom. He called them *brethren* in verse 7.

However, the Sodomites saw Lot as a visitor to Sodom.

They were angry at Lot for judging their behavior as wicked and they were ready to harm him.

Lot's conforming to the age had cost him his influence for God with the Sodomites.

Genesis 19:10-14 *But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. (11) And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. (12) And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: (13) For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. (14) And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.*

Lot lost his witness for God with his family.

As Lot spoke the word of the Lord to his sons in law, he *seemed as one that mocked* (*seemed to speaking absurdly; LXX*).

They thought he was joking.

How sad!

Lot's conforming to the age had cost him his influence for God with his family.

Lot Still Belonged to God

Genesis 19:15-16 *And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. (16) And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.*

While he lingered; Lot belonged to God, but Lot's heart was with Sodom.

The men laid hold; God had the angels forcibly lead Lot, his wife, and two daughters out of the city before its destruction.

The Greek word used in the LXX here is, according to Word Study Bible, synonymous with *harpazo*.

Harpazo is used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 to speak of the Rapture of the church.

God would not allow His children to be destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah.

God will not allow the church to undergo the judgment upon the people of earth during the Great Tribulation.

God will forcibly and quickly snatch His church off the earth before the Day of the Lord.

Lot Could Not Trust God for His Best

Genesis 19:17-22 *And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. (18) And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: (19) Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: (20) Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. (21) And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. (22) Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.*

Escape to the mountain; God wanted to take Lot totally away from the influence of the world to the mountain; but Lot was so conformed to the age that he could not completely trust God. **This city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one;** Lot still longed for the world. He wanted the city, just a **little one** instead of God's mountain top.

Lot Escaped with His Life, but His Conforming to the Age Cost Him Dearly

Genesis 19:23-26 *The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. (24) Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; (25) And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. (26) But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*

Lot entered into Zoar; Zoar means little. Lot escaped with his life, but had little to show for it. **But his wife looked back from behind him;** Lot's wife's heart was with the city and it cost her life.

52. And he overthrew these cities, all the plain and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground; and Ado the wife of Lot looked back to see the destruction of the cities, for her compassion was moved on account of her daughters who remained in Sodom, for they did not go with her.

53. And when she looked back she became a pillar of salt, and it is yet in that place unto this day. (Book of Jasher Chapter 19)

Lot's conforming to the age had cost him two daughters, two sons in law, and a wife.

Conclusion

There is a high cost to the child of God who refuses to stop being conformed to the age. That one will not be able to receive all that God has for him or her, now or in eternity. Just like Lot, that kind of living will cost us on earth and in eternity. He or she will be saved and go to heaven, but have little to show for his or her wasted life. Stop being conformed to the age.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (12) Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (13) Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. (14) If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. (15) If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Jude 1:21-23 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (22) And of some have compassion, making a difference: (23) And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.