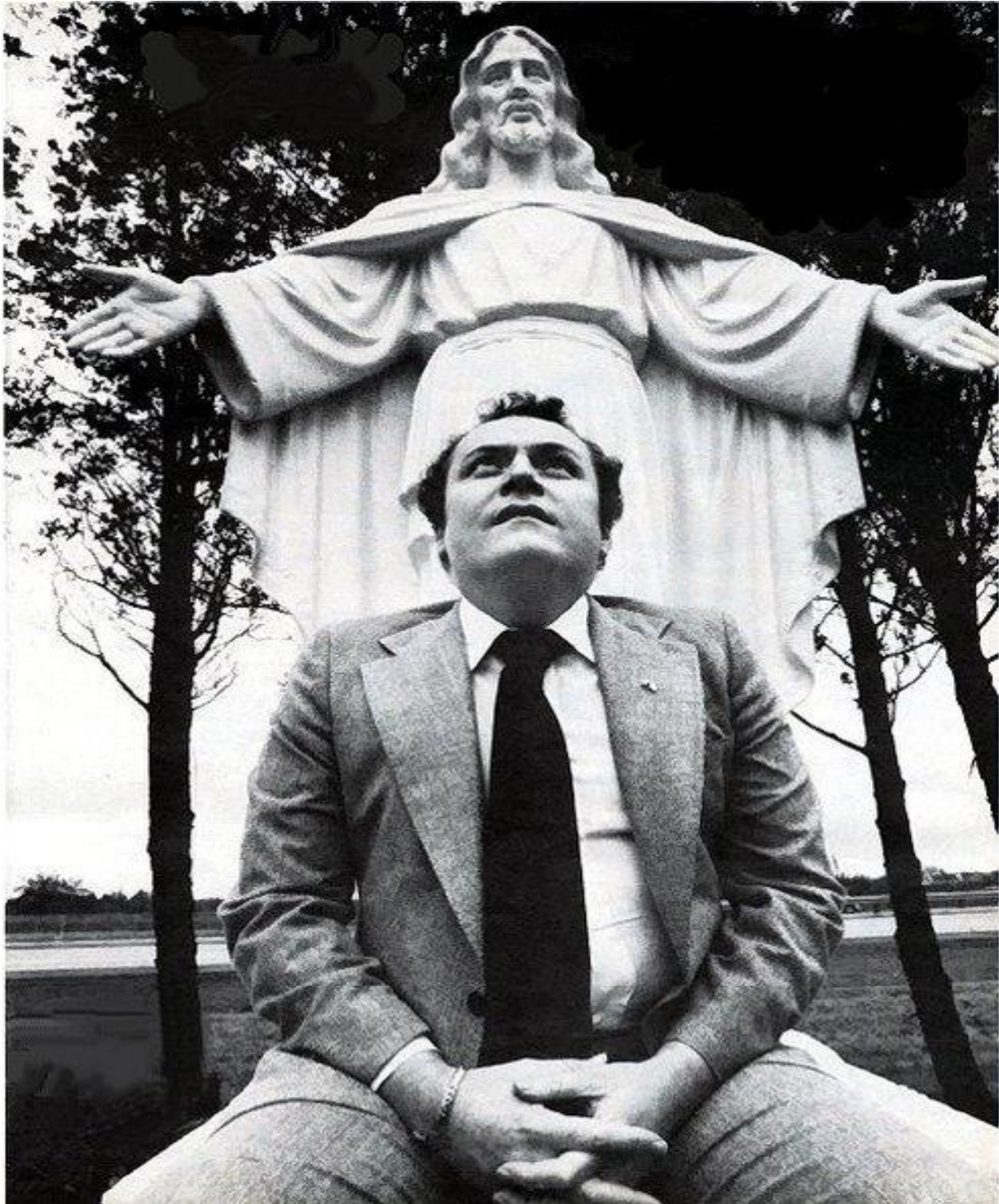


**SCREWTAPE PROPOSES A TOAST TO HEDONISM &
PLAYBOY PHILOSOPHY - A SATIRE OF REAL LIFE!**

By David Lee Burris



HE'S BAAACK! THAT INFERNAL demon, Screwtape, from C. S. Lewis's classic book, *The Screwtape Letters*, has returned. In Lewis's original masterpiece, Screwtape mentored a junior demon named Wormwood on how to apply a variety of insidious schemes to draw a human being away from God and into the clutches of Satan. In Screwtape's upside down world, God is the "Enemy," Satan is reverently acknowledged as "Our Father Below," and demons hold various positions in the underworld's "Lowerarchy." Screwtape's perspective then and now is that humans are good for nothing except to be turned away from the Enemy, turned on to their own selfish desires and, ultimately, consumed by Our Father Below. In *The Screwtape Letters*, a human is often referred to with the derogatory term "biped," "hybrid," or "spiritual animal," indicating a being that is half spiritual and half material rather than purely spiritual. A hybrid needs to be captured and devoured according to Screwtape. God, on the other hand, delights in both the materiality and spirituality of humans when rightly directed.

In Letter 4 of *The Screwtape Letters*, Screwtape is an under-secretary of a department. **In Lewis's essay, "Screwtape Proposes a Toast," Screwtape is a guest of honor at a Training College.** Since then, Screwtape has been promoted to the position of "**Supreme Strategist**" over a critical region of the world and given the mandate to devise a "**Master Plan**" that will decisively extinguish God's Light in that region. Screwtape's objectives are now much more ambitious than mentoring a protégé on how to destroy the life of an individual human; he aspires to teach legions of demons in order to corrupt human thinking and behavior *en masse*. Screwtape is also an equal opportunity deceiver; he aims to lead astray those who are part of the Christian church and those who are not.¹

¹ Anderton, C. H. (2012). [Screwtape's master plan: a satirical take on christianity and culture](#). Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books.

A Satirical Epistolary Short Story

In the form of an after-dinner address given by the veteran demon Screwtape at a graduation of the Tempters Training College.

S c r e w t a p e

Proposes a Toast.

BY

C. S. Lewis

Professor of English Literature

Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford Oxford University, 1925–1954.

Professor of Mediaeval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge University (Magdalene College), 1954–1963

Member of the “Inklings”

**Based on a character appearing
in The Screwtape Letters**

“Then there was the lukewarm Casserole of Adulterers. Could you find in it any trace of a fully inflamed, defiant, rebellious, insatiable lust? I couldn’t. They all tasted to me like undersexed morons who had blundered or trickled into the wrong beds in automatic response to sexy advertisements, or to make themselves feel modern and emancipated, or to reassure themselves about their virility or their “normalcy,” or even because they had nothing else to do. Frankly, to me who have tasted Messalina and Cassanova, they were nauseating. But now comes the point. Gastronomically, all this is deplorable. But I hope none of us puts gastronomy first. Is it not, in another and far more serious way, full of hope and promise? Consider, first, the mere quantity. The quality may be wretched; but we never had souls (of a sort) in more abundance. And then the triumph. We are tempted to say that such souls — or such residual puddles of what once was soul — are hardly worth damning. Yes, but the Enemy (for whatever inscrutable and perverse reason) thought them worth trying to save. Believe me, He did.

You youngsters who have not yet been on active duty have no idea with what labor, with what delicate skill, each of these miserable creatures was finally captured. The difficulty lay in their very smallness and flabbiness. Here were vermin so muddled in mind, so passively responsive to environment, that it was very hard to raise them to that level of clarity and deliberateness at which mortal sin becomes possible. To raise them just enough; but not that fatal millimetre of “too much.” For then, of course, all would possibly have been lost. They might have seen; they might have repented. In each individual choice of what the Enemy would call “wrong” turning, such creatures are hardly, if at all, in a state of full spiritual responsibility. They do not understand either the source or the real character of the prohibitions they are breaking. Their consciousness hardly exists apart from the social atmosphere that surrounds them. And of course, we have contrived that their very language should be all smudge and blur. The job of their Tempters was first, of course, to harden these choices of the Hellward roads into a habit by steady repetition. But then (and this was all-important) to **turn the habit into a principle — a principle the creature is prepared to defend. After that, all will go well. Conformity to the social environment, at first merely instinctive or even mechanical — how should a *jelly* not conform?”**

- SCREWTAPE

Troglodyte Brain. To the extent that we can bend the biped brain in our direction, we can accomplish the most exquisite outcomes. To do this, we aim to rouse within hybrids what is known as the Troglodyte Brain. The Troglodyte Brain has the following desirable properties: (1) it believes that it sees with perfect clarity the only things that matter, (2) it interacts mostly with bipeds who think and talk like it does because it is insecure when its ideas are questioned, (3) it views anybody outside its group as “them” and an “enemy,” and (4) it can easily imagine how the first three properties apply to others, but not to itself. It is, of course, difficult to fully prime a biped across each of the four dimensions of the Troglodyte Brain, but do the best you can because the more Troglodyte Brains that are partially or fully activated, the more opportunities there will be to create enmity between and within hybrid collectivities.²

² Anderton, C. H. (2012). [*Screwtape's master plan: a satirical take on christianity and culture*](#). Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books.

Destroying Sexuality

FOR HUMAN REPRODUCTION, THE Enemy could have equipped a biped with a self-centered ability to divide its one body into two. Instead, the Enemy created human sexuality so that two bodies would be needed to create one new body. This is highly inefficient! Evidently the Enemy preferred the sexual approach because it was supposed to produce unity, integration, and what the Enemy calls “love” among the bipeds and their offspring. We, of course, prefer that humans experience disunity, segmentation, and animosity. It would also be best if there were fewer of the brutes around, so disrupting their breeding is in our interest. Hence, our general course of action in the sexual realm is obvious. We aim to destroy sexuality. Destroying sexuality has two tactical meanings here at the Training College. First, we want to destroy sexuality itself so that it is a curse rather than a gift. Second, we want sexuality to become a destroying agent in the lives of as many hybrids as possible. Do you see the trick? In order to harm the hybrids and bring delight to Our Father Below, we distort that which the Enemy intended for good.

We have made excellent progress in our region in bending the hybrids’ view of sexuality in our direction. I am pleased to report that just last week our Intelligence Unit officially upgraded our standing in the War on Sexuality to the penultimate category: Subjugation Nearly Complete. Most of our gains are due to a series of critical ideas that we have diligently promoted in hybrid minds over the last hundred years. The first, which comes from the Enemy himself, is that sex is supposed to be a wonderful experience. It then logically follows (does it not?) that to forgo sexuality for any reason is to miss out on something very good. It is the sense of “missing out” while others are “opting in” that causes so many of the hybrids in our region to follow our lead. You see, the Enemy has it backwards; he thinks that to postpone sexuality for the right reasons is to actually gain something precious. It is because the Enemy invented sex and values the bipeds that he is incapable of judging the matter objectively. **Our aim is to block from the minds of as many bipeds as possible the notion of sexual discipline.** One way to do this is to quickly insert a word or phrase like “passé,” “old-fashioned,” or “religious fanatic” into the bipeds’ thinking if they ever encounter a speaker or a writer explaining the Enemy’s perspectives on sexuality. Make them believe that anybody spouting the Enemy’s view is a killjoy.

In my previous lecture I explained the importance of instilling the view that the bipeds are *only* material beings. From this vantage point, **we can easily insert another critical idea into hybrid minds, namely, that sex is *only* a material/biological activity.** This naturally leads to the “sex is nothing more than _____” theorem, in which the blank can be filled in with virtually any biological function. For example, sex is nothing more than eating, breathing, sleeping, or canoeing. The “sex is nothing more than” theorem can be reinforced with the idea that the sexual appetite should always be fed. Certainly bipeds cannot be expected to go for long periods of time without eating or breathing. In the same way, the sexual drive reflects a biological need and it is always healthy for a need to be met. Indeed, one has a *right* to have a biological need fulfilled. “Sex is nothing more than” has allowed us to promote a hookup culture on university campuses whereby the bipeds try out multiple sex partners much like they might sample various entrees in an all-you-can-eat buffet. Many university officials are uncomfortable with the hookup culture because they know it leads to problems later in life, but they won’t really say much about it because this would require them to affirm aspects of traditional morality. Among married bipeds, “sex is nothing more than” can be used to promote adultery, including use of pornographic materials. And of course, keep swelling the angst of those bipeds that are saving sex for later; remind them that they are “missing out” when everybody else is “opting in.” Some will not be fooled by this tactic, but most will, much to the delight of Our Father Below.

Our most formidable gains in the War on Sexuality have come from our innovative tactics for **commercializing sex**. I must confess that my ingenuity in this area has surprised even me and is partly responsible for my promotion to Supreme Strategist. We have learned how to exploit and leverage to our advantage virtually every aspect of the new technologies and market processes that have appeared over the last quarter century. This has allowed us to foster new realms of human depravity, which has impressed Our Father Below. The amazing thing is how placid and unaware the hybrids are at what is happening to them. They actually think their well-being is most threatened by an enemy from without such as terrorists or nuclear weapons. It was one of their presidents who said they could only be conquered from within, but they don't believe that. This has allowed us to slip Trojan horses the size of Mount Everest into their living rooms without them even knowing. Praise me, most of the hybrids in our region are delightfully naïve and easy to conquer.

Every market, including those for pornography and sexual services, has a demand side and a supply side. We aim to manipulate both. On the demand side of the pornography market we have younger, middle-aged, and older adults. We want them to enter the "demand for pornography escalator." Of course, the escalator moves in a downward direction toward Our Father Below. The escalator begins with sexual images that are not pornographic. We saturate magazines, commercials, movies, TV shows, billboards, catalogs, music, and computer screens with sexualized images of women and men. Do you see the ruse? We can manipulate a biped's day so that it is bombarded with images that begin to draw it onto the escalator.

For us, nothing exciting or relevant goes on in the first few steps of the demand for pornography escalator. But never forget, escalators are difficult to exit. Once on board, a biped has to do a complete turnaround and go against the flow to opt out of the escalator. Once a biped has been properly baptized into accepting and enjoying the sexual images that come its way, we can begin to do some real work. Our next steps on the escalator involve images of partially or fully disrobed bipeds that excite the viewers and begin to bend in our direction the sexual drive the Enemy put within them. We have now helped our victims cross the threshold into pornography, although it is only what those in the industry would call "soft" porn. Our tactic of course is to provide the bipeds with ever greater exposure to soft porn coupled with ever diminishing satisfaction. After a certain time, **we help the bipeds see how boring soft porn is**. The way they can boost their satisfaction is to come a little further down the escalator. We want our victims to taste and see that pornography is good, and then we want to help them become dissatisfied with what they see. We can then help them to taste and see that the next step is good, and so on *ad infinitum*. As their excitement is temporarily increased by exposure to more extreme versions of pornography, we can lead the hapless creatures into "hard" porn. But why stop there? We can then instill the view that "hard" porn is bland and draw the hybrids into even more insidious forms of pornography. In recent years, we have been able to draw bipeds down the escalator to depths that we thought impossible ten years ago.

But this is only the demand side of the market. We also need a supply of pornographic products and services that will reach the masses and foster ever more extreme depths of bipedal destruction. Fortunately for us, the profitability in supplying pornography has been re-energized with new technology. **Internet technology now allows pornography suppliers to make their images and products available to millions of bipeds at extremely low cost. Pornography business has also been mainstreamed. Many cable and satellite television companies and hotel chains now make pornography services available as part of their business portfolios, which allow us to help bipeds see that pornography is just another consumer item like clothing or golf.** Furthermore, thousands of amateur pornographers are posting their materials to their own websites or providing their materials to more established pornography businesses. An extraordinary amount of new and extreme pornographic products are now being supplied by savvy businesspeople and other innovators in our region and around the world. This allows us to keep adding new lows to the demand for pornography escalator.

What we have achieved in our region is a dynamic synergy between demand and supply. Here's how we make it work. We help tens of millions of unsuspecting bipeds enter the demand for pornography escalator. Meanwhile, we encourage thousands of pornography producers to supply free soft porn to our victims. From there, we inculcate dissatisfaction with soft porn, leading the ill-fated creatures to be willing to *pay* for harder porn as they travel further down the escalator. Some of our special suppliers develop extreme products with the express purpose of fostering new tastes and preferences for sexual voyeurism. In the pornography industry, supply really does create its own demand.

We are now at an historic moment in our region in which we can disrupt marriages like never before. For young bipeds, we can use pornography to bathe their brains and baptize their imaginations with imagery that will come back to harm them later in life. For middle-aged and older bipeds, we can leverage pornography to great effect by making them dissatisfied with the wife or husband of their youth. It is amazing how many marriages we have been able to ruin with pornography. It is usually, but not always, the man that we tap into. Men are visually-oriented creatures. By inserting pornographic images into the male brain, we can come to own its sexual life and its psyche. As the man and its wife age, the images in the man's brain will not age, and it will become dissatisfied with its wife. Remember, we always want to cultivate in bipeds a feeling of dissatisfaction and a sense that time is passing them by. With the right combination of sexual dissatisfaction and sense of "missing out," we can lead bipeds to seek gratification in affairs, more extreme versions of pornography, or both. Along the way, we want to end marriages and insert deep wounds into the souls of husbands, wives, and children.

As we come closer to achieving Complete Subjugation in the War on Sexuality, we must not underestimate the Enemy's cunning. He is always calling out to bipeds, including those who know they need him and those who think they do not. The Enemy aims to connect to bipeds in a personal way so that he can heal them of their wounds and give them a new beginning. The Enemy's unwillingness to give up on anybody is the most troubling fact in the universe. Hence, we must be equally tenacious in capturing and holding onto the vermin for the sake of Our Father Below.

If the Enemy's Light regarding sexual ethics begins to break into the minds of the bipeds, make them think they've blown it so badly that there's no use calling out to the Enemy for help. Cultivate hopelessness. For those bipeds that have experienced abuse encourage them to believe that the Enemy holds them in contempt and does not love them. Nurture within them feelings of worthlessness. For consumers of pornography products, remind them that sexual indulgence is mainstreamed, so any ping of conscience they may experience is to be considered a form of repression rooted in outmoded religion.

Keep reminding [the biped] that life is temporary and nothing really matters in the end. If the inkling of eternity should grow in the biped's heart and tilt it toward the Enemy, convince it that the hope of a new beginning is just wishful thinking.³

³ Anderton, C. H. (2012). [Screwtape's master plan: a satirical take on christianity and culture](#). Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books.

America has become the world's foremost champion of hedonism. This is the mindset in which the acquisition of pleasure and enjoyment is the highest priority in life. Responsibilities such as worship to a holy God, fulfillment of obligations, and personal improvement are deemed of secondary importance. Having fun is all that counts.

Hedonism and Pleasure

Not all things pleasurable are hedonistic. It's a pleasure to taste well-prepared food. It's a pleasure to rest after a toilsome day. It's a pleasure to know you've done a job well. In itself, pleasure is good. Pleasure is a part of God's creation, of which he himself said was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Moreover, the wise man of Old Testament times wrote that "there is nothing better for a man than that he should enjoy eat and drink, and make his soul enjoy good in his labor" (Ecclesiastes 2:24).

Yet pleasure, as a part of creation, is no more worthy of one's total pursuit than is fame, riches or power. The pursuit of pleasure may, in fact, be harmful rather than beneficial. Jesus once told a parable about how the word of God, when planted in the hearts of some people, is choked by "cares and riches and pleasures of this life" (Luke 8:14). The pursuit of pleasure apart from godliness is like serving the creature rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25.)

The philosophy most associated with pleasure is that of 'hedonism.' The name of this philosophy comes from the ancient Greek word *hedone* which indicates pleasure. In ancient times, the philosophy of hedonism was promoted in various forms by Cyrenians and Epicureans. The Cyrenians tended to stress the licentious and restricted pleasures to those of the senses whereas the Epicureans, while acknowledging pleasures of the flesh, put more emphasis on peace of mind and the absence of pain.

Modern philosophers such as Thomas Hobbs, Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mills have also defended hedonism. Hedonism is now often categorized in different ways. Psychological hedonism contends that as a matter of scientific fact, pleasure is man's only motivation. Utilitarian hedonism contends that a person's conduct should have as its goal the giving of pleasure to the greatest possible number of people. Egotistic hedonism restricts pleasure to that of a single person. Philosophical hedonism contends that moral conduct should seek the most pleasure with the least amount of pain. In any case, hedonism is not so much the doing of a specific act which grants pleasure as it is a way of life produced by the viewpoint that there is nothing more worthy of pursuit in life than that which gives pleasure.

Although Christians distinguish between those pleasures that are biblically moral from those that are Biblically immoral, there is no such distinction in hedonism. To a hedonist, whatever is considered pleasurable is considered morally good. Hedonism does not rely upon sources outside of man to determine what is pleasurable and what is not. In hedonism, as in humanism, “man is the measure of all things.” In hedonism, pleasure is the means by which man measures all things.

Modern Conditions Which Have Produced Hedonism

While hedonism has always had some adherents, its extreme popularity in recent times has not always been possible. Throughout most of known human history about all most people could do was survive. Hedonism requires leisure time and personal wealth. Unlike most people in history who have had neither leisure time nor wealth, modern man often has much of both. “America has become a nation of tremendous prosperity. No other nation in the history of the world has known such material abundance, nor enjoyed such a broad distribution of that wealth among its people . . . The affluence of the American society has elevated pleasure-intended activities from the realm of the ‘desirable’ to that of the ‘essential.’ An entire sector of the economy has blossomed to satisfy the spectrum of people’s urges. America has become a hedonistic heaven.”

Hedonism is also made possible by removal of social barriers. In rural America, everyone knew every other person’s businesses, their goings and comings; not so in modern America. The modern city provides a place of estrangement among crowds. People are free to pursue their selfish pleasures without neighbors’ awareness, or social condemnation. Moreover, the popularity of hedonism in modern times is partially the result of modern technology which has produced, advertised, and promoted new ways of acquiring pleasures of all kinds through travel, sports, drugs, etc. An interesting psychological factor now tending to produce hedonism is the prospect of doomsday. Arthur Levine calls this hedonism ‘going first class on the *Titanic*. If you’re going first class on the *Titanic*, you don’t want a worldview, an understanding of life as a whole. It would only get in the way of enjoying yourself and not thinking about tomorrow.”

Leisure time, personal affluence, urban living, scientific technology, doomsday prospects, and other factors have all contributed to the current popularity of hedonism. However, if any one person were to be singled out as the most influential promoter of hedonism in modern times, it would surely have to be Hugh Hefner. His *Playboy* magazine, first published in the mid-1950s has had an unusually large circulation – especially among college and university people – in the intellectual community. *Playboy* has also had the second largest circulation of

all American magazines in all of Western Europe, preceded only by the *Reader's Digest*. Through *Playboy*, Hefner has produced a slackening of moral standards, an excessive freedom of profane expression, and a much less disciplined world.

Because of Hefner we hear people casually using obscenities in public; we meet men and women who are openly living together outside marriage; we see young people getting high on whatever exotic substances they can obtain; we pass singles bars filled with men and women on the prowl for a one-night stand; we read in the newspaper daily of the soaring divorce rate caused by people bored and dissatisfied with the restrictions of married life; we see ads for X-rated movies or videos; we see people in T-shirts bearing suggestive or profane language; we are frequently upset by the aggressively selfish and self-indulgent attitudes we see in so many of our neighbors.

The destructive nature of Hefner's philosophy, endorsed and promoted by the networks, hasn't escaped some of the secular press. *Chicago Tribune*, columnist Bob Greene makes some startling and intriguing personal assessments in an article on Hefner. Green credits him with being one of the two most influential Americans in the second half of the twentieth century.

Green says, "Hugh Hefner let Americans know that they could behave in any way they pleased. Conventional ideas of morality didn't matter; the standards of one's parents didn't matter; the approval of one's peers didn't matter. All that mattered was that feeling good became an end in itself." To say that Hugh Hefner is the originator of the immoral revolution we've witnessed in recent decades would be incorrect. However, to say that no one person in modern times has more effectively exploited immorality than has Hugh Hefner would not be inaccurate. He took advantage of the fact that, for most Americans, moral standards had already been emptied of their Godly authority.

When a personal sense of duty, responsibility & sense of moral righteousness is no longer rooted in a belief that God holds all men accountable for their actions, then human behavior is often regulated by one's own personal pleasures. In the name of freedom, Hefner championed pleasure. By calling for individual freedom, Hefner promoted individual selfishness and social irresponsibility that worked havoc on our cultural morality and especially on the institution of marriage.

In the *Playboy Press*' 'official history' of the modern sex revolution, author Allan Sherman proved surprisingly candid. The sex revolution, he suggested, was led by 'grown men and women, determined, dedicated, and dirty-minded beyond the call of duty.' He added: 'Carefully, and often secretly, my

generation manned the battlefronts of the [Sex] Revolution. We produced and sold the rock 'n roll records with risqué lyrics; we invented the term 'wonder drug,' and LSD as the true panacea, pushing it at the kids in the allowed atmosphere at Harvard. My generation wrote and read best sellers with nothing more to recommend them than a half-dozen paragraphs of old-fashioned smut . . . We invented or at least perfected wife-swapping. We performed illegal abortions. We crowded into the dark to watch those stupid stag films.'

According to Sherman, this conscious assault on the sexual restraints maintained by Western middle-class culture was soon transformed into an attack on the whole 'incredibly clean-cut and impossibly wholesome' American world of Disney, church socials, motherhood, miniature golf, apple pie, and hot dogs. In the end, Sherman suggested, the sex revolution of the 1960s and early '70s 'removed America's backbone and revealed our awful secret: Stripped of the Puritan ethic, we have no morals at all.' When it was over, he said, 'we were coming unglued, splitting off into gaps and shards and lunatic fringes.' Sherman added that 'nothing was reduced to less recognizable rubble than the revered . . . Institution of Marriage.'

All these things have not been alone in producing the highly immoral and hedonistic climate now prevalent in modern America. More significantly have been those ideas that have prepared the way for and now support modern hedonism. If Americans are ever to be turned away from modern hedonism, then Americans must first be turned away from those ideas that have produced and currently support modern hedonism.

Modern Concepts Supporting Hedonism

Just what are these ideas. They are anti-biblical beliefs primarily about the nature of man and the source of morality. They are also false human assumptions about the acquisition of human happiness, the nature of freedom, and the role of individuals within community.

The Physical and Temporal Nature of Man

Mankind is now generally said to be the highest life form that has evolved from a self-existent universe. Mankind is considered to be the product of a natural, social, and cultural heritage and environment. Humanity is thought to be not sinners in need of salvation, but basically good and self-sufficient. Mankind is assumed to be only temporal, like all other animals.

Individuals are therefore not believed to have eternal spirits or souls. Human beings will therefore not have to stand before an eternal God to be judged for their earthly conduct. Mankind is thought to be the sole judge of all things. Mankind is said to need guidance only by reason and intelligence, and use of the scientific method, not by faith or divine revelation. It is believed that the goal toward which all mankind should strive in life is to reach their full human potential in the here and now.

The Human Origins of Morality

Regarding the foundations of morality, these anti-biblical ideas contend that moral values are not derived from God, but from human experience; that ethics stems from human need and interests; that ethics are self-made and situational. It is therefore believed that no restrictions should be placed upon sexual behavior between consenting adults, nor should the many varieties of sexual exploitation in themselves be considered evil. All individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their own lifestyles as they desire.

These ideas are the ideas of humanism. They make man to be his own god. While these ideas have been steadily gaining credibility in the Western world since the time of the Renaissance, the last century especially has seen them unleashed because the authority of the Bible, which heretofore had held them in check, was undermined by skepticism, higher criticism, and the assumed validity of Darwin's theory of evolution. When the authority of the Bible was no longer considered valid, human hearts were emptied of the relevancy of God and a true understanding of the nature of man. Into hearts emptied of God's relevance and of humanity's true nature, mankind has been only too willing to install himself as his own god and to rely upon his own intelligence to guide his life.

The Deceitfulness of Hedonism

But it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps (Jere 10:23) Because modern man knows that pleasure in itself is good, he has assumed that the pursuit of pleasure is his most worth-while goal. The hedonist seeks happiness through immediate and sensual thrills. The person who can have the most pleasures in life is judged to be the happiest. But this perspective fails to realize that man is a spiritual as well as a physical being. To think of mankind as only physical is to be "foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures" (Titus 3:3).

The spiritual nature of man cannot be satisfied with physical thrills. The quest for happiness through pursuit of personal pleasure (if we may learn anything at all from human experience and casual observation) is the surest way to unhappiness & discontentment. Man is happy only if his spiritual nature is satisfied through godliness (Psalms 40:8).

The hedonist is also deceived because he thinks he can be free without responsibility. Assuming he is free to do as he pleases, the modern pleasure seeker looks upon Christian morality as restrictive of individual rights. He does not want to be inhibited by moral codes nor to be distracted from pleasurable quests. He thinks his freedom gives him license to indulge himself in his desired pleasures. He assumes that society must tolerate his selfish quests regardless of whatever social consequences may result. He generally has little if any sense of community responsibility, and whatever responsibilities he may assume generally come after personal pleasures are fulfilled.

Consequences of Hedonism

Whenever most people in a society think that way, then, because every man seeks only his own pleasures, the structures of society begin to fall apart and people are left in a decadent world. That's what has happened in the United States.

Statistical evidence began mounting during the 1960s and 70s which suggested that American family life was malfunctioning. The nation's divorce rate, for example, tripled between 1958 and 1978, while the marriage rate in 1980 stood at its lowest level in forty years. The number of divorced persons per 1000 married persons climbed from 35 in 1960 to 100 by 1980; among black women, the increase was from 78 to 257. The U. S. fertility rate (births per 1000 women aged 15-44) fell from 122.7 in 1957 to 66.7 in 1975, reflecting a rapid American retreat from child-bearing. Over the same few years, the nation's illegitimacy ratio (illegitimate births per 100 live births) tripled. Of the 3.5 million children born in the U. S. in 1979, 17 percent were to unmarried women; among black Americans, the figure was 55 percent, almost three times the figure from the late 1950s. Four out of every ten out-of-wedlock births in 1979 were to teenage girls, who commonly became children raising children. The incidence of human abortion increased from an estimated 100,000 illegal abortions annually during the late 1950s to 615,000 in 1973 (the first year when the procedure was legal in every state) to over 1.5 million in 1982. In that year, an estimated one million American children lived on the streets, as many as a third of them supporting themselves as prostitutes."

The hard fact is that whenever people choose freedom from all restraints they become slaves to their own passions. Their passions then lead them to ruination of their communities. “Society cannot exist,” said Anglo-Irish statesman, Edmund Burke, “unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere, and the less of it there is within, the more of it there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things that men of intemperate minds can’t be free.”

If we wish really to be free to direct our own destiny, free of totalitarian domination, then we must discipline ourselves and seek the common good which is found only when all seek to obey God. Hedonism does not produce a free or stable society. The pursuit of pleasure ends not in fulfillment, but in emptiness.

A Realistic Worldview

In order to obtain fulfillment in his pursuits, mankind must pursue realistic objectives in accordance with a worldview that is realistic. Such a worldview requires recognition that man is a creature, made by an eternal Creator, and accountable to his Creator for his conduct; that man is a spiritual as well as a physical being, and that the spiritual nature of man, as well as the physical, has needs which must be fulfilled; that man is a sinner and in need of salvation from the consequences of his sin; that God cares about man and that he took the initiative in making possible man’s salvation by having his Son bear the penalty for the believers’ sins; that the word of God is given to man in order that man might know how to live; that the word of God is demonstrated by the life of Jesus, the incarnate Word, as an example for men to see how the word is to be lived.

The pursuit of objectives that give a real sense of fulfillment also requires that people act according to the reality of God’s existence and of man’s spiritual nature. This means that in order to gain life, one must lose it (Matthew 16:25). Self-denial and humility are required. Greatness is achieved through service (Matthew 20:25-28). Paul’s letters to the Ephesians and the Colossians describe both negative and positive actions of those who think realistic. Negative conduct includes repentance, the laying aside of all anger, malice, slander, lying, greed, etc. Positive conduct includes obedience to the Lord in such things as being kind, compassionate, gentle, patient, thankful, forgiving, etc. It includes being genuinely honest, speaking the truth in love, working diligently, being just and fair, forbearing with one another, etc. Husbands are to love their wives as themselves. Wives are to submit to their husbands. Children are to obey their parents in the Lord. The conduct that brings fulfillment is unselfish. It is in exact contrast to the selfishness of hedonism.

Whereas the pursuit of pleasure ends in emptiness and boredom, the pursuit of objectives based upon spiritual realities brings lasting joy, peace and happiness. It's a spontaneous joy based upon deliverance from sins, like the joy of Israel when they were delivered to the other side of the Red Sea from their Egyptian enemies (Exodus 14:30-15:21; Acts 8:5-8; Matthew 25:21). It's a joy which minimizes hardships and suffering, like the joy of Paul and Silas when they sang praises to God at midnight, even though they had just been beaten and bound in prison (Acts 16:16-25). It's a joy that sustains persecution and the loss of property for Christ's sake, like the Hebrews who took joyfully the spoiling of their goods, because they knew that they had in heaven an enduring substance (Hebrews 10:34). It's a joy that looks upon trials and hardships, not as circumstances to be endured, but as means to produce greater character (James 1:2-4).

Conclusion

In this world two conflicting worldviews compete for the minds and hearts of men. One is temporal, the other is eternal. One walks by the flesh, the other by the spirit. One is man-centered, the other is God-centered. One is pleasure seeking, the other is joy producing. You must decide which of these worldviews will determine the way you live. And whether or not you consciously decide, you will either make pleasure your God, or you will serve the God of all joy.



Many people do not realize that the term “playboy” did not originate with its present promoters. The word was first popularized by Irish playwright John Millington Synge, in 1907, when it took rare moral courage to challenge the inconsistencies of the old morality. His rollicking comedy, *The Playboy of the Western World*, was banned by Boards of Guardians in Irish towns; It caused riotous demonstrations when it was staged in London; and in Philadelphia, the entire Abbey Theatre Company was arrested under the MacNichol Law, aimed at prevention of “lascivious, sacrilegious, obscene, or indecent plays.” – *It’s A Playboy World*

Troglodyte Brain. To the extent that we can bend the biped brain in our direction, we can accomplish the most exquisite outcomes. To do this, we aim to rouse within hybrids what is known as the Troglodyte Brain. The Troglodyte Brain has the following desirable properties: (1) it believes that it sees with perfect clarity the only things that matter, (2) it interacts mostly with bipeds who think and talk like it does because it is insecure when its ideas are questioned, (3) it views anybody outside its group as “them” and an “enemy,” and (4) it can easily imagine how the first three properties apply to others, but not to itself. It is, of course, difficult to fully prime a biped across each of the four dimensions of the Troglodyte Brain, but do the best you can because the more Troglodyte Brains that are partially or fully activated, the more opportunities there will be to create enmity between and within hybrid collectivities.⁴

⁴ Anderton, C. H. (2012). [*Screwtape's master plan: a satirical take on christianity and culture*](#). Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books.

Playboy Philosophy. Mr. Hefner's *Playboy* is most widely known for the raciness of its prose and the total exposure of the female form. It is more than that, Mr. Hefner insists — and many agree, including professors and ministers and sociologists. It is a movement of sorts, and its bible is an apparently endless series, published monthly by Mr. Hefner, entitled “The *Playboy* Philosophy,” the key insight of which is that “a man's morality, like his religion, is a personal affair best left to his own conscience.” The phrase sounds harmless enough, and the tendency is to cluck-cluck one's agreement to it.

The trouble with Hefner's law is that society is composed of nothing more than a great number of individuals, and if each man's morality is defined merely to suit himself, then everyone will endure the consequences of the individual's autonomously defined ethics. Mr. Hefner's philosophy notwithstanding, there *is* such a thing as the public morality, and that morality has throughout civilized history been primarily sustained by religion.

All that is good is not embodied in the law, and all that is evil is not proscribed by the law.

The so-called sexual revolution, of which *Playboy* is the slickest harbinger, asks in effect that sanctions be removed against what used to be known as “illicit sexual behavior.” The *Playboy* group correctly skewers the conflicting and vague laws that lie in the dusty statute books of the individual states. But the modernists want to go further and, in effect, remove the moral sanctions against any such [sexually adult consensual] behavior — and that is something else again.

All that is good is not embodied in the law, and all that is evil is not proscribed by the law. A well-disciplined society needs few laws, but it needs strong mores. And the kind of solipsism that is encouraged by the sexual revolution goes further by far than to encourage a loosening of the laws. It encourages the loosening of public attitudes.

Now Mr. Hefner shrinks from the consequences of his own position, though he is quick to insist that he does not, that a general moral breakdown would not necessarily follow upon the acceptance of the *Playboy* philosophy.

Professor Benjamin DeMott of Amherst has said that the *Playboy* philosophy is “the whole man reduced to his private parts.” I do believe that he misses the larger point of the philosophy, which is not so much a call to total lubricity as **it is a renewal of the old personal Utilitarianism of John Stuart Mill and his apostles, carried to anarchical lengths.** It is a theory of ethics, by the way, to which such modern “conservatives” as Ayn Rand seem fully to subscribe. Its principal deficiency, I mean other than in the eyes of the God to whom increasingly infrequent references are made, is its neglect of the social reality.

John cannot behave exactly as he desires, because he will inevitably affect James, not to say Jane, if those desires are not contained by reference to the great prescriptions of human conduct which are the most valuable part of the national patrimony. – William F. Buckley, *National Review Magazine*

Bill Buckley's PBS Series *Firing Line* Put Guests on the Hot Seat



Banowsky's - It's a Playboy World/Chapter 2 - The Pleasure Paradox/pgs. 37-51

“The present pleasure cult appeals to men who have relieved of social inhibitions. In the past, the hedonist was often an outcast, a man of doubtful reputation standing against the *status quo*. Classical hedonism faded with the advent of Christianity because the message of self-denial provided an unfavorable climate for all egotistic philosophies. This meant from the first century until the present one, most hedonists were men willing to be branded as social rebels.

The urban style of life has delivered men from interference by their neighbors. Millions live in apartment houses where everybody is expected to mind his own business, or in tidy subdivisions where fences wall in the backyard barbecue and wall out the next-door neighbor. A husband who has extra-marital designs may take a thirty-minute drive down the freeway and off the ramp into anonymity, where choices are more numerous than if he had landed among amorous natives on a remote island.

Anonymity and mobility provide immunity from endless distraction and opportunity for selectivity in relationships & activities apart from which meaningful personal life in any large city is impossible. But not all men are prepared to live with freedom. For some men, the style of urban life is an invitation to mediocrity. The same freeway that goes past the library leads also to the topless bar...

One of the characters in a John Updike novel well stated the situation: ‘We’re a subversive cell, like in the catacombs. Only they are trying to break out of hedonism. We’re trying to break back into it. It’s not easy.’ We overeat, oversex, overplay. Why do we remain empty, insecure, and bored?

If the playboy were willing to examine his position critically, he might learn, as have many generations of thinkers, that it is more vulnerable than he supposes. Only ignorance of the past can explain the present pleasure-seeker’s implicit appeal to a widely discredited theory that all human beings are motivated only by the desire for happiness – nothing else.

Only by the most tortured line of logic may all acts of altruism, self-denial, or commitment to duty be accounted for as the pursuit of pleasure in disguise. The writings of Freud are celebrated for detailed treatment of the complexities of human motivation and most contemporary psychologists regard the pleasure-only incentive as a gross oversimplification. Our motives are complex, and in most instances, while desire for pleasant experience may be one of the elements involved, it is seldom the only element. To acknowledge that all men are frequently motivated by pleasure, or even that some men always are, is not to prove that *all* men in *all* their undertakings are pursuing pleasure and nothing else.

When one moves from the field of psychology into the study of ethics, the key verb changes from *is* to *ought*; and the theory that even if men do not seek out their own pleasure they ought to do so is *ethical hedonism*. This view of life recommends that the right action in any moment is the one which will lead to the maximum possible pleasure for the agent [not *the greatest happiness for the greatest number* as utilitarianism advanced] ...

If any common truth emerges from an examination of genuinely happy lives it is that happiness is a by-product rather than a goal. Some of the happiest people are those that have been so absorbed in some worthy undertaking, or so devoted to a cause, that they have not had the time to raise the question of whether they were personally happy.

Whatever else is problematic, we may be certain that happiness is lost if it’s made the dominate goal of a person’s life; yet it may come if it is neglected. The ethical consensus of the ages is decisive at this point!

Sex is a pleasure of life that can be compared with fire. *Playboy* magazine preaches a “gospel” that says “Enjoy all the fire you want, it won’t hurt you a bit.” But *Playboy* is wrong. A man much more experienced in matters of sex than Hugh Hefner was King Solomon. Solomon was speaking of sex and lamenting his own immoral use of this wonderful gift of God when he wrote, “Can a man hold fire against his chest and not be burned?” – *It All Depends*

Screwtape's Troglodytes' Russia Reign

Well, it's already been tried, and in of all places, Russia. In his book, *The Great Sex Swindle*, John W. Drakeford includes a chapter on "a sexual utopia" that describes the great "free love" experiment undertaken in Soviet Russia when Communism swept into power in 1917.

A series of Communist decrees brought a complete change in Russian society. All religious concepts were abandoned, along with all religious ideas on sex, marriage and family life. Marriage became a civil contract involving a simple registration, but it was "lawful and legal" even without this formality.

Abortion was legalized and adultery, bigamy, and incest ceased to be crimes. Although the Communist government frowned on free enterprise, it literally forced its people into "free love."

And so, lust had full sway in Russia. Telling themselves that their new worker's paradise was utopia itself, the Russians joyously engaged in fornication, adultery, and just about any other sexual act they wanted to try.

WHAT HAPPENED?

It seems that sex reigned supreme, but not over paradise. Sexual freedom turned to anarchy. Because the woman became the rightful property of any man who wanted to claim her, the family relationship deteriorated. Parent-child relationships hit a low ebb. The whole thing resulted in chaos. There was nothing to hold a community together.

Sex, far from being a benevolent and just leader, turned into a dictatorial tyrant that ruled an immoral and chaotic empire filled with people on the prowl for sexual pleasure and hordes of parentless bastards who were products of that prowling.

The Russians got the point. They decided that uncontrolled sex and free love were just a little more than they could handle. They halted their head-long charge into unchastity and engaged in what they called "the great retreat."

From Moscow in the middle 1930's came decrees that made divorce, once a routine operation, extremely difficult. Abortion was also outlawed. Tax exemptions were offered for large families. - Fritz Ridenour, *It All Depends*

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SEX

In 1st Corinthians 6:13, the Apostle Paul completely contradicts *Playboy's* idea that sexual behavior is like drinking a glass of water or having a good meal. Paul points out that human beings are more than bodies with physical desires and appetites. Every person is basically made for God, and that does include a person's sex drive as well as all other parts of him. Every person will find the answer to all his needs and desires (including the sex drive) through loving and obeying God.

Some advocates of the new morality claim flatly that the Bible really doesn't teach anything specific in the area of premarital sex. [Yet] the Christian only has to search the scriptures to [easily] make up his mind.

In the *Philips Translation*, 1st Corinthians 6 verse 18 warns us to 'avoid sexual looseness like the plague!' Over and over again Scriptures forbid fornication (1st Thessalonians 4:3-5, Colossians 3:5, and Ephesians 5:3-5). Webster defines fornication as more than patronizing a house of prostitution (1st Corinthians 6:15). Fornication means "(1) human sexual intercourse other than between a man & his wife; sexual intercourse between a spouse & an unmarried person; sexual intercourse between unmarried people."

The Greek word for fornication is *porneia* (and this is where we get our word pornography). There is little question that when the Biblical writers use words like *porneia* they are referring to acts that are immoral, unlawful and sin in God's sight. Christians are to avoid *any kind* of sexual looseness, *any kind* of fornication, *any kind* of premarital or extramarital sex.

The reason for this commandment from God is plain. God's word teaches that sex is rightly used when there is a genuine and definite commitment between both the parties, a commitment in which they place themselves before God in responsible marriage. Any other kind of sex-casual, with love during a period of engagement, without love, and/or "strictly for recreation" - is simply sin.

– Fritz Ridenour, *It All Depends*



How to Spot a Player

by Mark Ballenger



[Proverbs 13:20](#)

I'm sure you've heard the old saying, "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is." While our better judgment knows this, there's in each of us something that longs for perfection. This longing, however, make us very susceptible to frauds. Never is this truer than when it comes to relationships.

Players prey on people's desire for perfection. They tell you what you want to hear so they can get what they want and leave you as quick as possible. I wish those in the church didn't have anything to worry about, but unfortunately players don't discriminate. As long as there are attractive Christians there will be players roaming the halls of your church.

You will have to be on guard if you want to protect your heart and not waste your time. So here are five common signs of a player. Even if someone seems like a great person to date, if they do any of these things you will want to stay away...

A Player Will Want to Date You Without Getting to Know You

We all like to be liked. Love at first sight sounds like a really romantic idea. Players know this. So, one common strategy a player will use is to come on super strong and flatter you with praise.

I don't think two people need to be friends for years and only get to know each other in group settings before going on a date. I do, however, think it is a red flag if someone wants to date you before they even really know you at all.

I naïve person is flattered when someone likes them a lot right from the start. But you have to ask yourself, "Why does this person like me if they don't even really know me?" If they only know superficial information about you, it is logical to assume that they only like you for superficial reasons.

Stay away from people who want to date you before getting to know you.

A Player Will Send You Mixed Signals

One dead giveaway of a player will be his inconsistencies in the signals he sends you. Like a good fisherman, he doesn't just yank when he has a fish on the line. He reels in, but then gives some line out so the tension doesn't get too strong. Slowly he wears the fish out with this back and forth game so the final catch is that much easier.

One minute a player will send you a flirtatious text where it seems she really likes you. The next minute you will text her and you won't hear from her for a few days. A player will not tell you her true intentions but will dance around how much she likes you. Each interaction will keep you guessing. The tension will be building so once she finally makes a move you will feel privileged that she is finally showing you attention.

A mature Christian who is worth dating won't play these types of games. They will use clear words and be open about their intentions with you. If someone is playing games, tell them to play elsewhere.

A Player Will Want Intimacy Without Commitment

Within the Bible intimacy and commitment are always paired together. The more commitment two people make with each other, the more intimacy they should have towards one another. This is why the deepest type of intimacy between a man and a woman should be reserved for marriage, which is a covenant bond of the highest commitment levels.

A player will want both physical & emotional intimacy without commitment. A player will orbit his prey and leech emotional energy off of her. However, nowhere in his interactions with her will he commit to being around long-term.

If someone wants to be close but doesn't want to commit, keep your distance because you have a player in your midst.

A Player Will Manipulate Your Deepest Desires

As any warrior knows, the key to victory is finding your enemies weakest point and exploiting it. A player will find what you care about most and use this to his or her advantage.

If you really want to be married one day, somehow the two of you will find yourselves talking about what colors you want the tablecloths to be on your wedding day. If you are looking forward to having children, a player will drop little lines about the things he can't wait to do with his kids one day. If you have a passion for a certain social cause, suddenly he will have interesting facts to share with you about this topic dear to your heart.

None of these conversations will be overly intense. A player knows the right balance between playfulness and seriousness. The goal, however, will be to play on your emotions and make you feel closer to him than you really are.

It's great if you've found someone with similar desires as you. I'm not saying everyone you date who has similar interests is faking. But you will need discernment to know when someone is being genuine or not.

A Player Will Avoid Your Family and Close Friends

A player is not interested in getting attached to you. A guy who really likes you will want to get to know the people you care about. But a player will try to isolate you and won't have any interest in your family and close friends.

Like a wolf, the goal is to get one sheep away from the herd so the take down is that much easier. Your family and close friends are a part of the healthy defenses God has put in your life. So be alert if someone has no interest in the people who love you and care about you.

IF HE WANTS SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE...

SocialCross.org

LET HIM GO

WARRIORS | CHRIS

HE IS NOT THE ONE YOU ARE PRAYING FOR

