

JUST SHOW ME
"THOU SHALT NOT"



THAT WHICH PROVES TOO MUCH...

- **When discussing complicated, controversial subjects, it can be easy to resort to “conversation enders” such as “The Bible never said I can’t do it...” or “Just show me the ‘thou shalt not’ and I’ll agree with you.” To be clear, I agree in some sense and applaud anybody who insists on keeping a healthy debate firmly in the scriptures.**
- **However, we all concur that the Bible is NOT a cold, antiseptic book of boring rules. It is complex and challenging, not a manual or employee handbook! So the absence of a “thou shalt not...” actually proves nothing. You can’t have it both ways — if we all agree that the Bible is not just a rulebook, then the fact that there isn’t a specific rule that tells you “no” is irrelevant.**





SO, IS IT SINFUL?

- Sometimes determining right and wrong is a complicated process that requires us to understand a lot of different factors, such as:
- **WHAT IS THE CONTEXT OF A SCRIPTURE?** Do culture or time matter when applying a passage? Concepts such as the “holy kiss” (Rom. 16:16), eating meat sacrificed to idols (1 Cor. 8, 10), keeping Holy Days, circumcision, etc. all have a culture/time component to them. Same is true if we work backwards from today (internet porn, civil disobedience, voting, human cloning, etc.).
- **WHAT IS THE TOTALITY OF THE BIBLE’S TEACHING ON A SUBJECT?** Take a step back and consider the entire counsel of God (Acts 20:27). Don’t rely on one or two verses, cherry-picked to prove your point, while a dozen other passages inconveniently undermine your position.

An open Bible is shown on the left side of the image, with a yellow bookmark visible. The text on the pages is partially legible. The main content of the image is a list of three bullet points on the right side, each starting with a question underlined in bold. The background is dark.

SO, IS IT SINFUL?

- **IS THE BEHAVIOR DRIVEN ONLY BY APPETITE?** Physical appetite is not necessarily evil, but several scriptures address the problem of making appetite the “final say” in how we live (Rom. 16:17ff, Phil. 3:17ff).
- **IS THE BEHAVIOR OFFENSIVE OR HARMFUL TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?** Rom. 14:13ff and 1 Cor. 8 & 10:32 are clear on this point. If any behavior puts a stumbling block in the way of another Christian, it is sin (1 Cor. 8:12). Being “factious” (divisive) is a sin (Ti. 3:10–11). Aside from God Himself, nothing is more important than each other.
- **DOES THE BEHAVIOR MAKE US MORE LIKE GOD OR LESS?** Anybody who is born of God overcomes worldly things (1 John 5:1ff, 2:15–17, 4:5–6). We are told to “keep seeking the things above” as we put away worldly behavior and attitudes (Col. 3:1ff).



SO, IS IT SINFUL?

- **DOES IT UNDERMINE MY INFLUENCE?** If we act just like the world, our ability to make a difference is diluted or neutralized altogether. Light and salt only matter if they're actually distinctive (Matt. 5:13). "Abstinence" from fleshly indulgence and "excellence" in behavior impact unbelievers (1 Pet. 2:11-12, Col. 4:5-6).
- **IS IT PART OF A PROGRESSION TOWARD DESTRUCTION?** James 1:13-16. Some things, in isolation, seem harmless. But is that behavior the catalyst or the first step down the road to destruction? Murder started with anger, and adultery started with lust (Matt. 5:21-22, 5:27-28). "Love of money" is a root of evil that leads to ruin (1 Tim. 6:9ff).
- **IS IT MORE OBVIOUS THAN YOU WANT TO ADMIT?** Some things are complicated, but most sins are not (Gal. 5:19-21, 1 Tim. 5:24-25).



SOCIAL DRINKING

- It is addictive (1 Cor. 6:12, Rom. 6:14)
- It is physically destructive (1 Cor. 6:19–20)
- It is offensive to many (1 Cor. 10:32–33)
- It is a stumbling block to others (1 Cor. 8:12)
- It undermines sobriety (1 Thess. 5:6–8, 1 Cor. 15:34)
- It undermines our influence
- It represents a double-standard to our children

IS IT SINFUL?



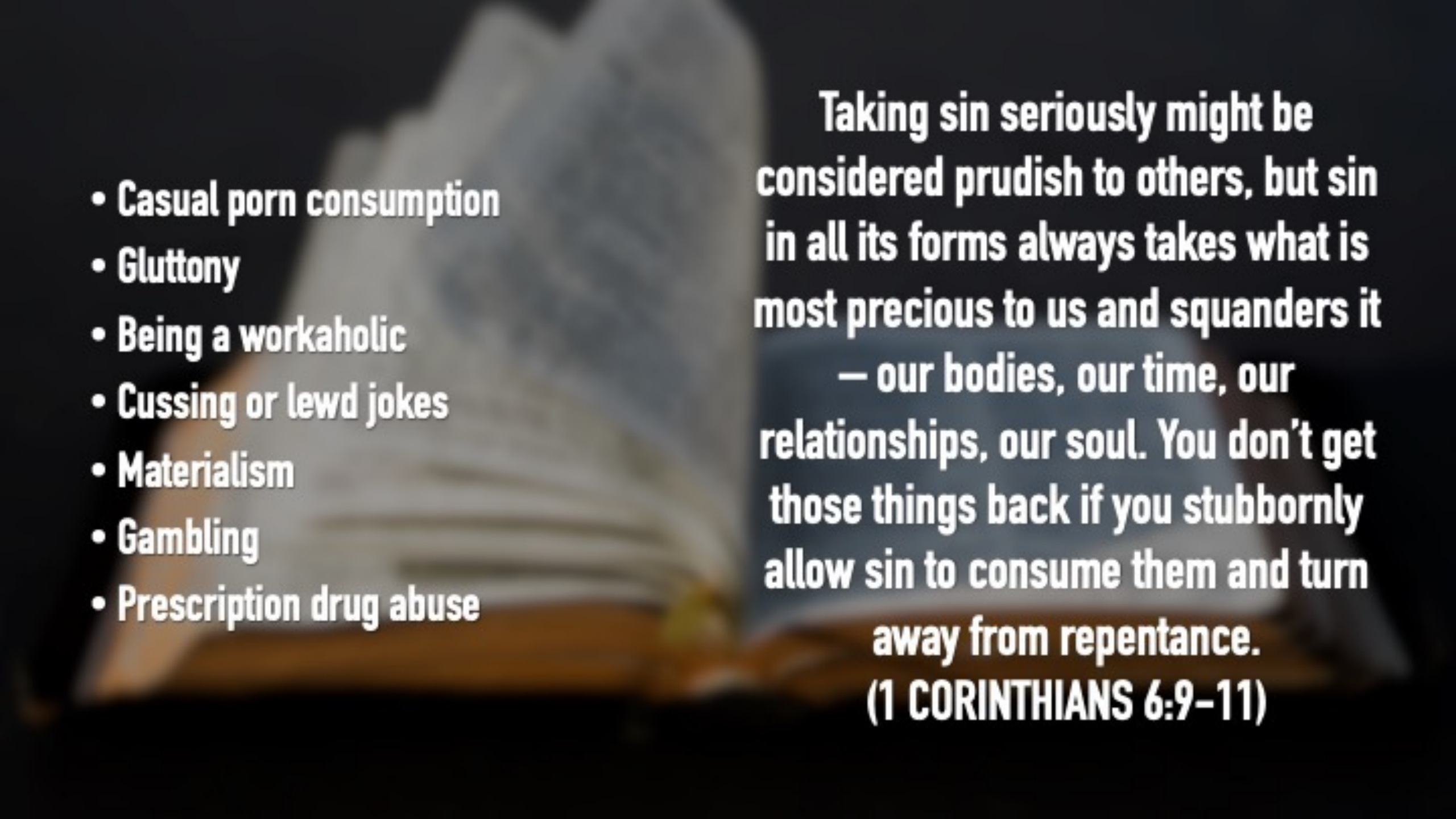
The Bible never says
"Thou shalt not..."

**SOCIAL
DRINKING**

**IS IT
SINFUL?**

- It is addictive (1 Cor. 6:14)
- It is physically addictive (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- It is offensive (1 Cor. 10:32-33)
- It is a stumbling block to believers (1 Cor. 8:12)
- It undermines sobriety (Eph. 5:6-8, 1 Cor. 15:34)
- It undermines our influence
- It represents a double standard to our children



- 
- An open book is shown in the background, slightly out of focus. The pages are white with some faint, illegible text. The book is open to a spread of two pages. The overall lighting is soft, and the colors are muted, giving it a serious and contemplative feel.
- Casual porn consumption
 - Gluttony
 - Being a workaholic
 - Cussing or lewd jokes
 - Materialism
 - Gambling
 - Prescription drug abuse

Taking sin seriously might be considered prudish to others, but sin in all its forms always takes what is most precious to us and squanders it — our bodies, our time, our relationships, our soul. You don't get those things back if you stubbornly allow sin to consume them and turn away from repentance.
(1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11)