

setfree

Why We Renounce It

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
Prov 28:13



Set Free Ministries
Volunteer Training Resource

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STEP 1

Counterfeit vs. Real

God is not silent about counterfeit spiritual practices. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture consistently warns that there is a kingdom of darkness that mimics the spiritual experiences only God can genuinely provide — guidance, healing, knowledge of the future, and contact with the spiritual realm. These are not harmless games or cultural curiosities. They are real spiritual doorways that grant the enemy access.

Step 1 of the Freedom Appointment asks participants to renounce every area of counterfeit spiritual exposure or involvement — even things they participated in unknowingly or treated as entertainment. God takes counterfeit spirituality seriously because the counterfeits are real. Scripture's consistent, unambiguous response is renunciation. The items below are renounced because they represent real points of entry for the enemy into a person's life.

Occult Involvement

The list below covers occult practices — activities that directly engage the demonic realm through divination, sorcery, spirit contact, and related means. Many of these are dismissed culturally as games, entertainment, or ancient tradition. Scripture makes no such distinction. Deuteronomy 18:10-12 is the foundational passage: God names these practices explicitly and calls them detestable. The Deuteronomy 18 prohibition is not cultural — it is covenantal. These practices open doors that only Christ's authority can close.

Acupuncture

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:5; Exodus 20:3

"Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh." (Jer 17:5); "You shall have no other gods before me." (Ex 20:3)

Why We Renounce It: Channels healing through Eastern spiritual frameworks that attribute power to energy forces outside of God. Places trust in spiritual systems that deny Christ as Lord and healer.

Amulets / Charms / Omens

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19

"Let no one be found among you...who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens..." (Dt 18:10-11); "Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?" (Is 8:19)

Why We Renounce It: Assigns spiritual power or protection to objects or signs rather than to God. Opens the door to counterfeit spiritual influence and idolatry.

Ancestor Worship

Scripture: Exodus 20:3-5; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

"You shall have no other gods before me...for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God." (Ex 20:3,5); "Let no one...consult the dead." (Dt 18:11)

Why We Renounce It: Directs worship and prayer toward the dead rather than to God alone. Creates a spiritual doorway to demonic deception disguised as deceased relatives.

Astral Projection

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:23

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead." (Dt 18:11); God calls us to wholeness of spirit, soul, and body (1 Th 5:23).

Why We Renounce It: Deliberately separates the soul from the body through occult means. Violates the God-given integrity of the person and invites demonic access.

Astrology / Horoscopes

Scripture: Isaiah 47:13-14; Deuteronomy 18:10

"All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers...save you...they cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame." (Is 47:13-14)

Why We Renounce It: Seeks guidance and knowledge of the future from created things (stars) rather than from God. Substitutes counterfeit direction for the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Automatic Writing

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 John 4:1

"Let no one be found among you...who practices divination..." (Dt 18:10); "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God." (1 Jn 4:1)

Why We Renounce It: Opens the mind and hand to spiritual control by sources other than God. Functions as a form of mediumship that allows demonic spirits to communicate through a person.

Black / White Magic

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Galatians 5:19-21

"Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "The acts of the flesh are...witchcraft...those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal 5:19,21)

Why We Renounce It: Attempts to manipulate spiritual forces for human ends. Whether labeled black or white, magic derives power from the kingdom of darkness and not from God.

Blood Pact

Scripture: Leviticus 17:11-14; Deuteronomy 12:16

"For the life of a creature is in the blood...no one among you may eat blood." (Lv 17:11-12); "But you must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water." (Dt 12:16)

Why We Renounce It: Uses blood to establish a covenant with another person or spiritual entity outside of God. A direct counterfeit of the blood covenant God made through Jesus Christ.

Bloody Mary

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist..." (Dt 18:11); "The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons...you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons." (1 Co 10:20-21)

Why We Renounce It: Attempts to summon a spirit through ritual invocation. Even when treated as a game, it is an invitation to demonic contact.

Charlie Charlie

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"Let no one be found among you...who practices divination..." (Dt 18:10); "The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons." (1 Co 10:20)

Why We Renounce It: A divination ritual that seeks responses from a supposed spirit. Regardless of casual framing, it constitutes an intentional contact with the demonic realm.

Channeling / Chakras

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Timothy 4:1

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist..." (Dt 18:11); "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will...follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." (1 Tm 4:1)

Why We Renounce It: Channeling invites a spirit entity to speak through a person. Chakra systems are rooted in Hindu spiritual frameworks that assign power to human energy centers apart from God.

Clairvoyance (seeing the unseen)

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19-20

"Let no one be found among you...who is a seer..." (Dt 18:10); "When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists...should not a people inquire of their God?" (Is 8:19)

Why We Renounce It: Claims supernatural sight through means outside of God's Spirit. The ability may be real but the source is demonic, not divine.

Crystal Ball

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19

"Let no one be found among you...who practices divination..." (Dt 18:10); "Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?" (Is 8:19)

Why We Renounce It: A tool of divination used to see hidden things or future events. The spiritual power behind it comes from demonic sources, not from God.

Crystals

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Colossians 2:8

"Let no one be found among you who...practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...based on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: Assigns spiritual power or healing energy to physical objects. A form of animism that attributes divine properties to created things rather than to the Creator.

Demonic Tongues

Scripture: 1 John 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 14:33

"Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God." (1 Jn 4:1); "For God is not a God of disorder but of peace." (1 Co 14:33)

Why We Renounce It: Speaking in tongues under demonic influence rather than the Holy Spirit. Counterfeit spiritual gifts are real but their source is the kingdom of darkness.

Dream Catchers

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Exodus 20:3-4

"Let no one be found among you...who practices divination..." (Dt 18:10); "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath." (Ex 20:4)

Why We Renounce It: A Native American spiritual object meant to filter spiritual activity. Reliance on objects for spiritual protection is idolatry and bypasses the protection God alone provides.

Dungeons & Dragons

Scripture: Ephesians 5:11; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." (Eph 5:11); "The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons." (1 Co 10:20)

Why We Renounce It: Immerses participants in detailed occult roleplay involving sorcery, spirit contact, and demonic themes. Normalizes spiritual darkness through gameplay.

Eastern Star

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; Exodus 20:3

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers...What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?" (2 Co 6:14-16)

Why We Renounce It: A secret society with Masonic ties that uses occult symbols and rituals. The oaths and rituals establish spiritual covenants outside of Christ.

Enneagram

Scripture: Colossians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 10:5

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...based on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8); "We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Co 10:5)

Why We Renounce It: Rooted in Sufi mysticism and New Age spiritual frameworks. Seeks identity and self-understanding through a spiritually counterfeit system rather than through the truth of who God says we are in Christ.

Fantasy Role Playing

Scripture: Ephesians 5:11-12; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." (Eph 5:11-12); "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too." (1 Co 10:21)

Why We Renounce It: When rooted in occult themes, immerses the participant in spiritual darkness through identity adoption. Prolonged engagement can open spiritual doors and normalize demonic frameworks.

Fortune Telling

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Acts 16:16-18

"Let no one be found among you...who practices divination or sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); Paul cast out a spirit of divination from a slave girl (Ac 16:16-18).

Why We Renounce It: Seeks knowledge of the future from demonic sources rather than from God. Scripture treats the spirit of divination as a demonic entity that must be cast out, not consulted.

Games Involving Occult Power

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:20-21; Ephesians 5:11

"The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons." (1 Co 10:20); "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness." (Eph 5:11)

Why We Renounce It: Participates in simulated occult activity that normalizes spiritual darkness. The line between simulation and spiritual reality is not as clear as it appears.

Ghost Hunting

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Samuel 28:7-19

"Let no one be found among you...who consults the dead." (Dt 18:11); The account of Saul consulting the medium at Endor shows the severe consequences of seeking the dead (1 Sm 28:7-19).

Why We Renounce It: Deliberately seeks contact with the spirits of the dead. What presents as the deceased is in fact demonic deception. Saul's example warns of the spiritual and physical destruction that follows.

Harry Potter

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Ephesians 5:11

"Let no one be found among you...who practices sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft..." (Dt 18:10); "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." (Eph 5:11)

Why We Renounce It: Presents witchcraft, sorcery, and occult power as heroic and desirable. Normalizes spiritual darkness and creates positive emotional associations with what Scripture condemns.

Haunted House

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:20-21; Ephesians 5:11-12

"I do not want you to be participants with demons." (1 Co 10:20); "It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret." (Eph 5:12)

Why We Renounce It: Deliberately seeks out demonic spiritual activity for entertainment. Exposure to demonic manifestations is not neutral - it can create fear, spiritual bondage, and invite unwanted spiritual contact.

Horror Films

Scripture: Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 5:11-12

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable...think about such things." (Php 4:8); "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness." (Eph 5:11)

Why We Renounce It: Fills the mind with fear, graphic darkness, and glorification of the demonic. Violates the biblical standard for what we dwell on and can create spiritual footholds through repeated exposure.

Hypnosis

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Timothy 1:7

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1 Pt 5:8); "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." (2 Tm 1:7)

Why We Renounce It: Surrenders the conscious will and opens the mind to suggestion from an outside source. Creates spiritual vulnerability to demonic access and is a counterfeit of the Holy Spirit's leading.

Imaginary Playmate

Scripture: 1 John 4:1; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

"Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God." (1 Jn 4:1); "Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist." (Dt 18:11)

Why We Renounce It: What appears to be a child's imagination may be a genuine demonic entity presenting itself as a companion. Consistent interaction can create a spiritual attachment and bondage.

Levitation

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Acts 8:9-13

"Let no one be found among you...who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); Simon the sorcerer used occult power to amaze people before coming to faith (Ac 8:9-13).

Why We Renounce It: Defies natural law through supernatural power sourced in the demonic. Counterfeit spiritual power is real but its source is the kingdom of darkness.

Magic Spells

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Galatians 5:19-21

"Let no one be found among you...who practices sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft..." (Dt 18:10-11); "The acts of the flesh are...witchcraft...those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal 5:19,21)

Why We Renounce It: Attempts to exert control over people, circumstances, or spiritual forces through occult formulas. Places the practitioner in direct submission to demonic power.

Magic 8 Ball

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19

"Let no one be found among you who practices divination..." (Dt 18:10); "Should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?" (Is 8:19)

Why We Renounce It: A divination tool presented as a toy. Even casual or playful divination is an act of seeking guidance from spiritual sources outside of God.

Medium / Spiritist

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Leviticus 20:6

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead." (Dt 18:11); "I will set my face against anyone who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute themselves by following them." (Lv 20:6)

Why We Renounce It: Acts as a contact point between the living and the spirit realm. The spirits contacted are demonic, not the deceased, and the practice is among the most strongly condemned in Scripture.

Mind Control / Telepathy

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7; 2 Corinthians 10:5

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." (2 Tm 1:7); "We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Co 10:5)

Why We Renounce It: Attempts to control or read another person's mind through occult means. Violates the sovereignty and dignity of the individual and operates through demonic power.

Mind Swapping

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Timothy 1:7

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...You are not your own; you were bought at a price." (1 Co 6:19-20); "The Spirit God gave us...gives us...self-discipline." (2 Tm 1:7)

Why We Renounce It: Attempts to exchange or share consciousness with another person or entity. Directly violates the God-given integrity of the individual person as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Mystical Meditation

Scripture: Joshua 1:8; Colossians 2:8

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night..." (Jos 1:8); "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...based on the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: Eastern and New Age meditation empties the mind and opens it to spiritual influences outside of God. Biblical meditation fills the mind with God's Word - the opposite of emptying.

New Age Medicine

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Colossians 2:8

"Let no one be found among you who...practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...based on the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: Routes healing through spiritually counterfeit energy systems (chi, prana, universal life force) that are sourced in non-Christian worldviews. Places the body under spiritual frameworks that deny Christ as Lord.

Occult Books

Scripture: Acts 19:19; Deuteronomy 18:9-12

"A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly." (Ac 19:19); "Do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations." (Dt 18:9)

Why We Renounce It: Introduces occult knowledge, rituals, and worldviews into the mind. The early believers' response was immediate and public destruction, not retention. Possession invites continued spiritual influence.

Occult Music

Scripture: Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 5:19

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure...think about such things." (Php 4:8); "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit." (Eph 5:19)

Why We Renounce It: Music that glorifies darkness, demonic themes, or occult power fills the mind and emotions with spiritual content contrary to God. Repeated exposure normalizes what Scripture condemns.

Occult Games

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:20-21; Ephesians 5:11

"I do not want you to be participants with demons." (1 Co 10:20); "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." (Eph 5:11)

Why We Renounce It: Participation in games designed around occult power, ritual, or demonic themes. The entertainment framing does not neutralize the spiritual reality of what is being engaged.

Ouija Board

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead." (Dt 18:11); "The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God." (1 Co 10:20)

Why We Renounce It: A divination device designed to communicate with spirits. Regardless of whether it is treated as a game, it is a direct invitation to demonic contact and is among the most commonly cited entry points for spiritual bondage.

Parapsychology

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

"Let no one be found among you...who practices divination or sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "Test everything; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil." (1 Th 5:21-22)

Why We Renounce It: The academic study of psychic and paranormal phenomena. Legitimizes and pursues what Scripture consistently identifies as spiritually dangerous and demonic.

Palm Reading

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19

"Let no one be found among you who practices divination..." (Dt 18:10); "Should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?" (Is 8:19)

Why We Renounce It: Seeks knowledge of a person's future or character through occult reading of physical features. A form of divination that operates through demonic power rather than God's wisdom.

Pokemon

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:20-21; Ephesians 5:11

"I do not want you to be participants with demons." (1 Co 10:20); "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness." (Eph 5:11)

Why We Renounce It: Centers on capturing and commanding spirit-like entities with supernatural powers. Normalizes animistic and occult frameworks especially in children and youth.

Praying to the Saints

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:5; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Tm 2:5); "Let no one be found among you...who consults the dead." (Dt 18:11)

Why We Renounce It: Directs prayer to deceased persons rather than to God through Christ. Bypasses the one mediator God has appointed and constitutes a form of consulting the dead condemned in Scripture.

Psychic Consulting

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19-20

"Let no one be found among you who practices divination or sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists...should not a people inquire of their God?" (Is 8:19)

Why We Renounce It: Seeks supernatural knowledge, guidance, or insight from psychics who operate through demonic means. Replaces dependence on God with dependence on a counterfeit spiritual source.

Reiki / Touch Therapy

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Colossians 2:8

"Let no one be found among you who...practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...based on the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: Channels healing through a practitioner who directs universal life energy through touch. Rooted in Eastern spiritual frameworks that attribute healing to an impersonal spiritual force rather than to God.

Reincarnation

Scripture: Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:8

"People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." (Heb 9:27); "We are confident...and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." (2 Co 5:8)

Why We Renounce It: A belief system that denies the biblical reality of one life, one death, and one judgment. Eliminates the urgency of the gospel and substitutes spiritual progress through repeated lives for salvation through Christ.

Silva Mind Control

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7; 2 Corinthians 10:5

"The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." (2 Tm 1:7); "We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Co 10:5)

Why We Renounce It: A mind-programming system rooted in psychic and New Age concepts. Involves accessing altered states of consciousness to develop ESP and mental control - a direct counterfeit of Spirit-led renewal of the mind.

Spirit Guides

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 2 Corinthians 11:14

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist..." (Dt 18:11); "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Co 11:14)

Why We Renounce It: Relies on spiritual beings for guidance that present as benevolent helpers. These entities are demonic and their apparent wisdom and care is a deception designed to draw the person away from God.

Sexual Spirits

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; James 4:7

"Flee from sexual immorality...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit..." (1 Co 6:18-19); "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (Jas 4:7)

Why We Renounce It: Demonic spirits that attach to a person through sexual sin, trauma, or occult involvement. They defile the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit and must be renounced and resisted.

Seance

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Leviticus 20:6

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead." (Dt 18:11); "I will set my face against anyone who turns to mediums and spiritists." (Lv 20:6)

Why We Renounce It: A ritual gathering specifically designed to contact the spirits of the dead. Among the most directly condemned practices in Scripture and a significant point of entry for demonic bondage.

Superstition

Scripture: Isaiah 8:19-20; Colossians 2:8

"When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists...should not a people inquire of their God?" (Is 8:19); "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: Attributes power and influence to chance objects, actions, or words apart from God. Even seemingly harmless superstitions train the mind to look for spiritual influence outside of God's sovereignty.

Sorcery

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8

"Let no one be found among you...who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "The acts of the flesh are...witchcraft [sorcery]..." (Gal 5:19,21); "The...sorcerers...will be consigned to the fiery lake." (Rv 21:8)

Why We Renounce It: One of the most directly condemned occult practices in Scripture. The manipulation of spiritual forces through occult means is consistently listed among the gravest sins throughout both Old and New Testaments.

Sorority / Fraternity

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; Matthew 5:37

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers...Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord." (2 Co 6:14, 17); "All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Mt 5:37)

Why We Renounce It: Secret societies that require binding oaths and rituals. The oaths establish covenants apart from Christ and the secrecy violates the call to walk in the light. Often involve occult symbols and spiritual allegiances.

Spirit Worship

Scripture: Exodus 20:3-5; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

"You shall have no other gods before me...for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God." (Ex 20:3, 5); "Let no one be found among you...who worships other gods..." (Dt 18:10-12)

Why We Renounce It: Directs worship to spiritual beings other than God. A fundamental form of idolatry that gives to demonic spirits the honor and dependence that belongs to God alone.

Tarot Cards

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19

"Let no one be found among you who practices divination or sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "Should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?" (Is 8:19)

Why We Renounce It: A divination system using symbolic cards to reveal hidden knowledge or future events. Operates through demonic power and replaces seeking God's guidance with occult fortune-telling.

Trance (out of body experience)

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

"Let no one be found among you who...practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "We are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord." (2 Co 5:6)

Why We Renounce It: A deliberately induced altered state designed to detach consciousness from the body. Creates spiritual vulnerability and is frequently associated with demonic contact and spiritual bondage.

Using Spells or Curses

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Galatians 3:13

"Let no one be found among you who...engages in witchcraft..." (Dt 18:10); "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." (Gal 3:13)

Why We Renounce It: Attempts to direct supernatural harm or control toward others through occult formulas. Directly invokes demonic power and places the person in spiritual agreement with the kingdom of darkness.

Exposure to False Teaching & Practices

This section addresses religious systems, cults, and movements that present a counterfeit version of spiritual truth. Some are openly hostile to Christianity. Others use Christian language while replacing its core content — the person of Christ, the necessity of the cross, the authority of Scripture — with something else. All of them, regardless of their sincerity or cultural significance, offer a path to God that bypasses Jesus. Scripture is clear: there is one mediator between God and mankind (1 Timothy 2:5), and any teaching that denies or displaces that mediator is a counterfeit that must be renounced.

Bahaism

Scripture: John 14:6; Acts 4:12

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6); "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name...given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Ac 4:12)

Why We Renounce It: Teaches that all religions are equally valid paths to God. Directly contradicts Scripture's claim that Jesus is the exclusive way to the Father and that salvation comes through Him alone.

Black Muslim

Scripture: Galatians 1:8; John 14:6

"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!" (Gal 1:8); "No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6)

Why We Renounce It: Denies the deity of Jesus Christ and the gospel of grace. Any system that rejects Christ as Lord and Savior and replaces His gospel with another teaching is a counterfeit condemned by Scripture.

Buddhism

Scripture: John 14:6; Colossians 2:8

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6); "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: Denies the existence of a personal God and the need for salvation through Christ. Teaches self-effort and enlightenment as the path to release - a direct contradiction of the gospel of grace.

Cabala

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Colossians 2:18

"Let no one be found among you who practices divination or sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you." (Col 2:18)

Why We Renounce It: A Jewish mystical system that uses secret knowledge, numerology, and angelic intermediaries to access hidden spiritual power. Adds to Scripture and opens doors to occult spiritual forces.

CE-5 Protocols / UFO / UAP

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 11:14; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

"Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Co 11:14); "Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist..." (Dt 18:11)

Why We Renounce It: Protocols designed to make deliberate contact with supposed extraterrestrial beings. What presents as alien intelligence is consistent with demonic deception - these are spiritual entities, not physical ones.

Children of God

Scripture: Matthew 7:15; Galatians 1:8

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." (Mt 7:15); "If anyone preaches a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!" (Gal 1:8)

Why We Renounce It: A cult group known for spiritual manipulation, sexual abuse, and distorted teaching about love and salvation. Uses Christian language to draw people into a counterfeit system under authoritarian control.

Christian Science

Scripture: John 1:14; 1 Timothy 4:1

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (Jn 1:14); "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will...follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." (1 Tm 4:1)

Why We Renounce It: Denies the physical reality of sickness, death, and the bodily incarnation of Christ. Its denial of physical reality contradicts the incarnation, the resurrection, and the entire framework of biblical salvation.

Church of the Living Word

Scripture: Matthew 7:15; 2 Peter 2:1

"Watch out for false prophets." (Mt 7:15); "There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them." (2 Pt 2:1)

Why We Renounce It: A shepherding/discipleship movement associated with controlling spiritual authority and aberrant doctrines. Uses submission to leadership as a means of spiritual control and manipulation.

Dance with Spirits

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist..." (Dt 18:11); "The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons." (1 Co 10:20)

Why We Renounce It: Ritual practices designed to invite and channel spirits through physical movement. A form of spirit mediumship that opens the practitioner to demonic control and possession.

Eastern Religion

Scripture: John 14:6; Colossians 2:8

"No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6); "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...based on the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: Eastern religious systems present spiritual paths that bypass Christ. Their frameworks of karma, cosmic balance, and self-liberation contradict the gospel of grace and the exclusivity of salvation in Christ.

Echkankar

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 2 Corinthians 11:14

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist..." (Dt 18:11); "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Co 11:14)

Why We Renounce It: A cult that teaches soul travel, contact with spirit masters called ECK Masters, and reincarnation. Involves deliberate astral projection and communication with demonic entities presenting as guides.

EST

Scripture: Colossians 2:8; Romans 12:2

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...based on human tradition...rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8); "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Ro 12:2)

Why We Renounce It: A human potential movement that uses psychological manipulation and humanist philosophy to produce transformation. Substitutes self-actualization for Spirit-led renewal of the mind.

Father Divine

Scripture: Isaiah 42:8; Matthew 24:24

"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another." (Is 42:8); "For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive..." (Mt 24:24)

Why We Renounce It: A movement whose leader claimed to be God incarnate. The claim is blasphemous - God's glory is not shared with any human, and false messiahs are specifically warned against in Scripture.

Fetishism

Scripture: Exodus 20:3-4; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything..." (Ex 20:4); "Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10)

Why We Renounce It: The attribution of supernatural power to physical objects. A form of animism and idolatry that assigns divine influence to created things rather than to the Creator.

Freemasonry

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; Matthew 5:37

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers...Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord." (2 Co 6:14, 17); "Let your yes be yes and your no be no; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Mt 5:37)

Why We Renounce It: Requires binding oaths and operates through secret rituals. The oaths establish spiritual covenants outside of Christ, the name of Jesus is excluded from prayer, and the lodge's god Jahbulon is a composite pagan deity.

Guardian Spirits

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 2 Corinthians 11:14

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist..." (Dt 18:11); "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Co 11:14)

Why We Renounce It: Spirit beings sought as personal protectors or guides. These entities are demonic, not divine, and their apparent protection creates spiritual bondage and draws the person away from God as their true protector.

Hare Krishna

Scripture: John 14:6; Galatians 1:8

"I am the way and the truth and the life." (Jn 14:6); "Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!" (Gal 1:8)

Why We Renounce It: A Hindu-based devotional movement that worships Krishna as the supreme god. Denies the uniqueness of Christ and the exclusivity of the gospel, substituting devotion to a false deity.

Hinduism

Scripture: John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

"No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6); "For even if there are so-called gods...yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came." (1 Co 8:5-6)

Why We Renounce It: A polytheistic system with hundreds of millions of deities and a framework of karma and reincarnation. Directly contradicts the biblical revelation of one God, one mediator, one life, and one judgment.

I Ching

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19

"Let no one be found among you who practices divination..." (Dt 18:10); "Should not a people inquire of their God?" (Is 8:19)

Why We Renounce It: An ancient Chinese divination text used to seek guidance through casting lots and interpreting symbolic patterns. Substitutes occult direction for the wisdom and leading of God.

Indian Occult Rituals

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"Let no one be found among you who practices divination or sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God." (1 Co 10:20)

Why We Renounce It: Ritual practices rooted in spiritual traditions that invoke spirit beings, ancestors, or deities. Regardless of cultural framing, these practices constitute contact with demonic entities.

Inner Peace Movement

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Timothy 4:1

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist..." (Dt 18:11); "The Spirit clearly says...some will...follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." (1 Tm 4:1)

Why We Renounce It: A spiritualist movement involving psychic readings, spirit guides, and clairvoyance. Packages demonic spiritual practices in the language of peace, healing, and self-development.

Islam

Scripture: John 14:6; 1 John 4:2-3

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6); "Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God." (1 Jn 4:2-3)

Why We Renounce It: Denies the deity and atoning death of Jesus Christ. Without the cross there is no forgiveness of sin, and without Christ's resurrection there is no salvation. Islam's rejection of these core truths places it outside the gospel.

Jehovah's Witnesses

Scripture: John 1:1; Colossians 2:9

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (Jn 1:1); "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." (Col 2:9)

Why We Renounce It: Denies the full deity of Christ, the personality of the Holy Spirit, and the physical resurrection. Uses a distorted Bible translation to support its doctrines - a classic false gospel that adds works and removes the true Christ.

Martial Arts (Karate)

Scripture: Colossians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy...based on the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: Many traditional martial arts are rooted in Eastern spiritual philosophies (chi, ki, spiritual energy, bowing to spirits). The physical discipline is not the issue - the spiritual framework and rituals embedded in the practice are.

Mormonism

Scripture: Galatians 1:8; Revelation 22:18

"Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than...let them be under God's curse!" (Gal 1:8); "If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll." (Rv 22:18)

Why We Renounce It: Claims additional scripture and teaches a different Jesus, a different gospel, and a different god. Its founding claim - an angel bringing new revelation - is specifically warned against in Galatians 1.

Mother Earth (Nature Worship)

Scripture: Romans 1:25; Exodus 20:3

"They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator." (Ro 1:25); "You shall have no other gods before me." (Ex 20:3)

Why We Renounce It: Worships creation as divine or as a spiritual entity. Romans 1 identifies this as the fundamental idolatrous exchange - giving the honor due to God to the things He made.

Muslim

Scripture: John 14:6; 1 John 4:2-3

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6); "Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God." (1 Jn 4:3)

Why We Renounce It: Denies the deity and saving death of Jesus Christ. Without the cross there is no forgiveness, and without Christ's resurrection there is no salvation. Rejection of these truths removes one from the gospel.

Native American Spirit Worship

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"Let no one be found among you...who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead." (Dt 18:11); "The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God." (1 Co 10:20)

Why We Renounce It: Involves invoking ancestral spirits, animal spirits, and nature deities through ritual. Regardless of cultural reverence, the spirit beings contacted are demonic and the practices are directly condemned in Deuteronomy 18.

New Age Seminar

Scripture: Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 4:1

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy..." (Col 2:8); "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will...follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." (1 Tm 4:1)

Why We Renounce It: Seminars rooted in New Age spirituality that teach human divinity, spiritual evolution, and self-actualization outside of Christ. Present spiritual truth as accessible through techniques rather than through faith in Jesus.

Rosicrucianism

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 2 Corinthians 6:14

"Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?" (2 Co 6:14)

Why We Renounce It: A secret society combining mysticism, Cabalism, and occult philosophy. Involves initiation rites, secret knowledge, and the pursuit of esoteric spiritual power outside of and contrary to Scripture.

Roy Masters

Scripture: 2 Peter 2:1; Matthew 7:15

"There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies." (2 Pt 2:1); "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." (Mt 7:15)

Why We Renounce It: A meditation and self-help system that presents a counterfeit of biblical peace and self-control through hypnotic meditation techniques. Redefines spiritual concepts outside of their biblical meaning.

Satanism

Scripture: Isaiah 14:12-15; John 8:44

"How you have fallen from heaven, morning star...you said in your heart, 'I will make myself like the Most High.'" (Is 14:12,14); "He was a murderer from the beginning...he is a liar and the father of lies." (Jn 8:44)

Why We Renounce It: The direct worship of Satan. The most openly adversarial spiritual system to God, rooted in the original rebellion of the enemy and creating the deepest spiritual bondage seen in Freedom Appointment ministry.

Science of the Mind

Scripture: Colossians 2:8; Romans 12:2

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy..." (Col 2:8); "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Ro 12:2)

Why We Renounce It: A New Thought movement teaching that reality is shaped by mental and spiritual forces the individual can harness. Substitutes human mental power for dependence on God and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

Scientology

Scripture: John 14:6; Colossians 2:8

"I am the way and the truth and the life." (Jn 14:6); "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy..." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: A pseudo-scientific cult that teaches salvation through self-improvement courses. Denies sin, the need for a Savior, and the authority of Scripture, replacing them with a proprietary and financially exploitative system.

Spirit Travel

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:23

"Let no one be found among you who...practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); God calls us to wholeness of spirit, soul, and body (1 Th 5:23).

Why We Renounce It: Deliberate separation of the spirit or soul from the body for spiritual exploration. Violates the God-given unity of the person and creates direct spiritual vulnerability to demonic access.

Sweat Lodge Purification

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 John 1:9

"Let no one be found among you...who practices sorcery or interprets omens..." (Dt 18:10); "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn 1:9)

Why We Renounce It: A Native American purification ritual that uses physical ordeal to achieve spiritual cleansing and encounter with spirit beings. Purification and cleansing come through Christ's blood alone, not through ritual suffering.

Transcendental Meditation

Scripture: Joshua 1:8; Colossians 2:8

"Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it." (Jos 1:8); "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy..." (Col 2:8)

Why We Renounce It: Uses Sanskrit mantras (names of Hindu deities) to empty the mind and achieve altered states. The mantras are invocations of Hindu gods, making TM an act of idol worship regardless of how it is presented.

Unitarianism / Universalism

Scripture: John 14:6; Acts 4:12

"No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6); "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Ac 4:12)

Why We Renounce It: Denies the Trinity, the deity of Christ, and the exclusivity of salvation. Teaches that all paths lead to God and that all people will ultimately be saved - directly contradicting the clear teaching of Scripture.

Voodoo

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

"Let no one be found among you...who practices sorcery...who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead." (Dt 18:10-11); "The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God." (1 Co 10:20)

Why We Renounce It: A West African-derived religion involving spirit possession, ancestor contact, and ritual magic. Among the most direct forms of demonic engagement and one of the most common sources of generational spiritual bondage.

Wicca

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Galatians 5:19-21

"Let no one be found among you...who practices sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft..." (Dt 18:10); "The acts of the flesh are...witchcraft...those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal 5:19,21)

Why We Renounce It: A modern pagan religion centered on witchcraft, spell-casting, and worship of nature deities. Directly practices what Deuteronomy 18 condemns and Galatians 5 identifies as incompatible with life in the Spirit.

Witchcraft

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Samuel 15:23

"Let no one be found among you...who engages in witchcraft..." (Dt 18:10); "For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry." (1 Sm 15:23)

Why We Renounce It: One of the most explicitly condemned practices in all of Scripture. The manipulation of people and circumstances through spiritual power sourced in the demonic - whether practiced religiously or culturally, it is a direct act of rebellion against God.

Drug Use

Drug abuse is addressed in Step 1 because of its spiritual dimension, not only its physical one. The Greek word *pharmakeia* — translated 'witchcraft' or 'sorcery' in Galatians 5:20 — refers specifically to the use of substances to induce altered states for spiritual contact. This is not a coincidence. Many drugs on this list are used deliberately in spiritual contexts: shamanic ceremonies, New Age rituals, and occult practices. Even where that intent is absent, substance abuse defiles the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), creates the bondage of mastery (1 Corinthians 6:12), and opens the mind to spiritual influences God never intended. Every item on this list is renounced for both physical and spiritual reasons.

Alcohol Abuse

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 5:18

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit..." (1 Co 6:19); "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." (Eph 5:18)

Why We Renounce It: Abuse of alcohol defiles the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. It dulls the mind to the Spirit's leading, creates dependency, and is directly contrasted in Scripture with being filled with the Spirit.

Amphetamines (uppers)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 5:8

"Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...honor God with your bodies." (1 Co 6:19-20); "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion." (1 Pt 5:8)

Why We Renounce It: Stimulants that chemically override the body's natural limits. Destroy the body as God's temple, create dependency, and compromise the sober-minded alertness Scripture calls believers to maintain.

Ayahuasca

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Galatians 5:19-21

"Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "The acts of the flesh are...witchcraft [pharmakeia]..." (Gal 5:19,21)

Why We Renounce It: A hallucinogenic brew used in shamanic spiritual ceremonies to contact spirit entities. The Greek word for witchcraft in Galatians 5 (*pharmakeia*) includes drug-induced altered states for spiritual contact - Scripture directly addresses this.

Cocaine

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12; Romans 6:16

"I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Co 6:12); "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey?" (Ro 6:16)

Why We Renounce It: An intensely addictive substance that quickly brings the user under its mastery. Violates the principle that the believer belongs to Christ and is not to be enslaved to anything.

DMT

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit..." (1 Co 6:19)

Why We Renounce It: A powerful hallucinogen that reliably produces encounters with spirit entities. Widely used for intentional spiritual contact - what is encountered is demonic, not divine.

Ecstasy

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable." (1 Th 4:3-4)

Why We Renounce It: Produces artificial emotional and physical euphoria that bypasses genuine intimacy. Commonly associated with sexual immorality and creates chemical dependency that corrupts the body and soul.

Fentanyl

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 6:16

"Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you...you are not your own; you were bought at a price." (1 Co 6:19-20); "You are slaves of the one you obey." (Ro 6:16)

Why We Renounce It: An extremely potent and lethal opioid. Even small amounts can destroy the body God created and owns. Its power to enslave is among the most extreme examples of what Scripture means by being mastered by something.

Glue Sniffing

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1

"Honor God with your bodies." (1 Co 6:20); "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." (Ro 12:1)

Why We Renounce It: Causes direct and permanent neurological damage. The deliberate destruction of the brain - the seat of the mind God calls us to renew - is a desecration of His temple.

Hashish

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8

"I have the right to do anything, but I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Co 6:12); "Be sober-minded; be watchful." (1 Pt 5:8)

Why We Renounce It: A concentrated form of cannabis that induces altered mental states and dependency. Compromises the sober mind Scripture commands and opens the user to spiritual passivity and vulnerability.

Heroin

Scripture: Romans 6:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey?" (Ro 6:16); "You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." (1 Co 6:20)

Why We Renounce It: One of the most enslaving substances known. Its power to dominate the body and will directly mirrors spiritual bondage - the person sold into its mastery is no longer free to respond to God.

Iboga

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit." (1 Co 6:19)

Why We Renounce It: A psychoactive plant used in African spiritual initiation rituals. Produces intense visions and spirit encounters - used specifically for spiritual contact with ancestral entities condemned in Deuteronomy 18.

Ketamine

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Timothy 1:7

"Be sober-minded; be watchful." (1 Pt 5:8); "The Spirit God gave us...gives us...self-discipline." (2 Tm 1:7)

Why We Renounce It: A dissociative drug that creates out-of-body experiences and detachment from reality. Abused recreationally for its hallucinogenic effects, it creates spiritual vulnerability and destroys the self-discipline God gives through His Spirit.

LSD

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit." (1 Co 6:19)

Why We Renounce It: A powerful hallucinogen that distorts reality and commonly produces spiritual-seeming encounters. Used historically in occult and New Age contexts for spiritual exploration - what is encountered is not God.

Marijuana

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8

"I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Co 6:12); "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1 Pt 5:8)

Why We Renounce It: Alters the mind, creates dependency, and compromises the sober alertness Scripture commands. The Greek *pharmakeia* (witchcraft/sorcery) in Galatians 5:20 refers broadly to mind-altering substances used apart from God.

Meth

Scripture: Romans 6:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"You are slaves of the one you obey - whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death..." (Ro 6:16); "Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...you are not your own." (1 Co 6:19)

Why We Renounce It: Methamphetamine is among the most destructive and enslaving substances known. It systematically destroys the body, mind, and relationships - the temple of the Holy Spirit reduced to ruin.

Nembutal (downers)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 6:16

"Honor God with your bodies." (1 Co 6:20); "You are slaves of the one you obey." (Ro 6:16)

Why We Renounce It: A barbiturate used to suppress the central nervous system. Abuse creates dependency and can cause death - the willful destruction of the body God created and calls His temple.

PCP

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"Be sober-minded; be watchful." (1 Pt 5:8); "Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...honor God with your bodies." (1 Co 6:19-20)

Why We Renounce It: A powerful dissociative hallucinogen with a high risk of violent and erratic behavior. Destroys rational self-control and creates a state directly opposite to the Spirit-filled, sober-minded life Scripture calls us to.

Peyote

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Galatians 5:19-21

"Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery..." (Dt 18:10); "The acts of the flesh are...witchcraft [pharmakeia]..." (Gal 5:20-21)

Why We Renounce It: A hallucinogenic cactus used in Native American religious ceremonies to commune with spirits. A pharmakeia substance used specifically for spiritual contact - directly addressed by both Deuteronomy 18 and Galatians 5.

Prescription Drug Abuse

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12; Romans 6:16

"I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Co 6:12); "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey?" (Ro 6:16)

Why We Renounce It: The misuse of medication for intoxication or dependency beyond medical need. Even legal substances, when used to escape or achieve altered states, violate the principle of not being mastered by anything.

Salvia

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Deuteronomy 18:10-12

"Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit." (1 Co 6:19); "Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery." (Dt 18:10)

Why We Renounce It: A hallucinogenic plant that produces brief but intense dissociative and spiritual-seeming experiences. Used recreationally for its psychedelic effects and also in shamanic spiritual contexts.

Shrooms

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Galatians 5:19-21

"Let no one be found among you who practices sorcery." (Dt 18:10); "The acts of the flesh are...witchcraft [pharmakeia]..." (Gal 5:20)

Why We Renounce It: Psilocybin mushrooms produce hallucinogenic states and are widely used for spiritual experience. Their use falls under the pharmakeia category of Galatians 5 and the sorcery forbidden in Deuteronomy 18.

STP

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 5:8

"Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...honor God with your bodies." (1 Co 6:19-20); "Be sober-minded; be watchful." (1 Pt 5:8)

Why We Renounce It: A powerful synthetic hallucinogen with effects lasting many hours. Its use destroys the sobriety and self-control Scripture commands and causes lasting neurological harm to the body as God's temple.

STEP 5

Sins of the Flesh

Step 5 addresses the sins of the flesh — patterns of thought, speech, and behavior that violate God's standard and open the door to the enemy's work in a person's life. Galatians 5:19-21 calls these the acts of the flesh and names them as incompatible with the life of the Spirit. They are not simply bad habits. They are spiritual footholds.

Unlike Step 1, which deals with external counterfeit practices, Step 5 deals with what lives inside us — the patterns we have developed, tolerated, or justified over time. Ephesians 4:27 warns that certain sins give the devil a foothold. This step exists to close those footholds through honest confession and renunciation. The items below are not an exhaustive list of every possible sin, but they represent the most common areas the Holy Spirit surfaces during a Freedom Appointment.

Sins of the Flesh

Look through the list below as you would a spiritual inventory — not with condemnation, but with honesty. Romans 8:1 is true: there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Confession is not about earning forgiveness — it has already been given. It is about closing the doors that sin has left open so that the enemy no longer has legal ground to operate in those areas of a person's life.

Alcohol Abuse

Scripture: Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:12

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." (Eph 5:18); "I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Co 6:12)

Why We Renounce It: Drunkenness is directly contrasted with being filled with the Spirit. It leads to debauchery, creates mastery over the believer, and numbs sensitivity to God's voice.

Anger

Scripture: Ephesians 4:26-27; James 1:19-20

"In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." (Eph 4:26-27); "Human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." (Jas 1:20)

Why We Renounce It: Unresolved anger gives the devil a foothold. It produces unrighteousness rather than the righteousness of God and, when harbored, becomes a root of bitterness that defiles many.

Arrogance

Scripture: Proverbs 16:18; 1 Peter 5:5

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (Pr 16:18); "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." (1 Pt 5:5)

Why We Renounce It: Arrogance elevates self above others and above God's authority. It is the root of most relational breakdown and is among the few sins Scripture says God actively opposes.

Avoiding Responsibility

Scripture: Galatians 6:5; Romans 14:12

"Each one should carry their own load." (Gal 6:5); "So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God." (Ro 14:12)

Why We Renounce It: Refusing to own one's actions and obligations is a form of deception and immaturity. Scripture calls every believer to personal accountability before God and to carry their own load.

Blasphemous Thoughts

Scripture: Matthew 12:36-37; Colossians 3:8

"But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken." (Mt 12:36); "But now you must also rid yourselves of...slander, and filthy language from your lips." (Col 3:8)

Why We Renounce It: Thoughts that dishonor or mock God, His name, or His Word. Whether spoken or entertained internally, they reflect an orientation of the heart that must be brought captive to Christ.

Cheating

Scripture: Proverbs 11:1; Leviticus 19:35-36

"The LORD detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him." (Pr 11:1); "Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity." (Lv 19:35)

Why We Renounce It: Deception for personal gain. God consistently describes dishonest dealing as an abomination, and cheating violates the standard of love for neighbor that Christ calls the second greatest commandment.

Complaining

Scripture: Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 10:10

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure." (Php 2:14-15); "And do not grumble, as some of them did - and were killed by the destroying angel." (1 Co 10:10)

Why We Renounce It: Persistent complaining reflects ingratitude toward God and distrust of His goodness. Scripture treats grumbling as a serious sin with severe consequences, not a minor character flaw.

Controlling

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:3; Matthew 20:25-26

"Not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." (1 Pt 5:3); "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them...Not so with you." (Mt 20:25-26)

Why We Renounce It: The domination of others through manipulation, fear, or authority misused. Jesus explicitly names controlling behavior as contrary to the servant leadership that defines His kingdom.

Criticizing

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-2; Romans 14:10

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged." (Mt 7:1-2); "You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister?" (Ro 14:10)

Why We Renounce It: A critical spirit that tears down rather than builds up. It violates the command to judge with right judgment, assumes a position of superiority, and destroys the unity of the body.

Divisiveness

Scripture: Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10

"I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions...Keep away from them." (Ro 16:17); "Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them." (Ti 3:10)

Why We Renounce It: Deliberately sowing division in the body of Christ. Scripture treats it with unusual severity - Paul says divisive people are to be warned twice and then avoided, and lists division among the things God hates.

Dominating Others

Scripture: Matthew 20:25-26; 1 Peter 5:3

"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." (Mt 20:26); "Not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." (1 Pt 5:3)

Why We Renounce It: Using position, size, or power to control others. The kingdom of God inverts the world's power structure - dominance is replaced by service and the willingness to be last.

Drug Abuse

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:19-21

"Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...honor God with your bodies." (1 Co 6:19-20); "The acts of the flesh are...witchcraft [pharmakeia]..." (Gal 5:19,21)

Why We Renounce It: Defiles the body as God's temple and creates bondage that renders the person unable to respond freely to God. The Greek pharmakeia connects drug use to spiritual counterfeit and sorcery.

Gambling

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:10; Proverbs 13:11

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." (1 Tm 6:10); "Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow." (Pr 13:11)

Why We Renounce It: Driven by love of money and the desire for gain without work. A form of covetousness and stewardship failure, and creates a dependency that Scripture identifies as a root of all kinds of evil.

Gossiping

Scripture: Proverbs 16:28; 1 Timothy 5:13

"A gossip separates close friends." (Pr 16:28); "They get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house...saying things they ought not to." (1 Tm 5:13)

Why We Renounce It: Spreading information about others outside of legitimate purpose. Gossip is consistently condemned as destructive to relationships and the body, and is listed alongside serious sins in multiple New Testament vice lists.

Greed / Materialism

Scripture: Luke 12:15; Colossians 3:5

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Lk 12:15); "Put to death...greed, which is idolatry." (Col 3:5)

Why We Renounce It: Colossians directly equates greed with idolatry - it replaces God with the pursuit of things. Jesus warned against it more frequently than almost any other sin, recognizing its power to displace the kingdom of God.

Hatred

Scripture: 1 John 4:20; Matthew 5:21-22

"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar." (1 Jn 4:20); "Anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment..." (Mt 5:22)

Why We Renounce It: Scripture equates hatred of a fellow person with murder in the heart. It is incompatible with genuine love for God and disqualifies one's claim to faith.

Intimidation of Others

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Peter 3:14

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." (2 Tm 1:7); "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." (1 Pt 3:14)

Why We Renounce It: Using fear, threats, or pressure to control others. A counterfeit of spiritual authority that operates through the same power dynamic Jesus told His disciples to reject entirely.

Jealousy

Scripture: Galatians 5:19-21; James 3:16

"The acts of the flesh are...jealousy..." (Gal 5:20); "For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice." (Jas 3:16)

Why We Renounce It: Jealousy is explicitly named as a work of the flesh in Galatians 5. James connects it to disorder and every evil practice, making it not a minor feeling but a significant root of destructive behavior.

Judgmental

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 2:1

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" (Mt 7:3); "At whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself." (Ro 2:1)

Why We Renounce It: A posture of superiority that evaluates others without honest self-examination. Jesus identifies it as hypocrisy and Paul says it is self-condemning - the standard we use to judge others becomes the standard by which we are judged.

Lack of Cooperation

Scripture: Romans 12:16; Philippians 2:2-4

"Live in harmony with one another." (Ro 12:16); "Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition..." (Php 2:2-3)

Why We Renounce It: Refusal to work with others in the body of Christ. Contrary to the unity Scripture consistently calls the church to pursue, and reflects self-interest over the common good and mission.

Laziness

Scripture: Proverbs 6:6-9; 2 Thessalonians 3:10

"Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" (Pr 6:6); "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." (2 Th 3:10)

Why We Renounce It: Scripture treats laziness as a serious character failure. Proverbs repeatedly warns of its consequences, and Paul makes it a community accountability issue - those who will not work should not benefit from others' labor.

Lying

Scripture: Proverbs 12:22; Colossians 3:9

"The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy." (Pr 12:22); "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices." (Col 3:9)

Why We Renounce It: Deception in any form is listed as detestable to God. Revelation 21:8 places liars among those whose end is the lake of fire - Scripture treats lying not as a social inconvenience but as a deep moral failure.

Manipulation

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:3

"We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God." (2 Co 4:2); "For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you." (1 Th 2:3)

Why We Renounce It: Using deception, emotional pressure, or half-truths to get desired outcomes. A violation of the honesty and respect for others' agency that Scripture consistently requires, and one of the clearest markers of a controlling spirit.

Pessimism

Scripture: Philippians 4:8; Romans 15:13

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure...think about such things." (Php 4:8); "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him." (Ro 15:13)

Why We Renounce It: A persistent negative orientation toward life that rejects the hope God offers. Contrary to the mind Scripture calls us to cultivate, and often rooted in unbelief that God is good and in control.

Revenge

Scripture: Romans 12:19; Proverbs 20:22

"Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord." (Ro 12:19); "Do not say, 'I'll pay you back for this wrong!' Wait for the LORD, and he will avenge you." (Pr 20:22)

Why We Renounce It: Taking judgment into one's own hands rather than trusting God. Revenge removes God from His rightful role as judge and keeps the person in bondage to the offense rather than releasing it through forgiveness.

Sarcasm

Scripture: Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 12:18

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up." (Eph 4:29); "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." (Pr 12:18)

Why We Renounce It: Words designed to wound under the cover of humor. Violates the principle that all speech should build up rather than tear down, and is frequently a tool of passive hostility and contempt.

Self-condemnation

Scripture: Romans 8:1; 1 John 3:20

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Ro 8:1); "If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." (1 Jn 3:20)

Why We Renounce It: Agreeing with the enemy's accusation rather than with God's verdict. Self-condemnation rejects the completed work of Christ and keeps the person in bondage to shame that the cross was meant to remove.

Stealing

Scripture: Exodus 20:15; Ephesians 4:28

"You shall not steal." (Ex 20:15); "Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need." (Eph 4:28)

Why We Renounce It: Taking what belongs to another violates one of God's Ten Commandments. Ephesians replaces it not just with honesty but with generous work - the opposite posture toward others' property.

Swearing

Scripture: Matthew 5:34-37; Colossians 3:8

"But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all...All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Mt 5:34,37); "Rid yourselves of...filthy language from your lips." (Col 3:8)

Why We Renounce It: Profanity and oath-taking both violate the call to straightforward, honest, pure speech. Filthy language is to be put off as part of the old self along with other sinful behaviors.

Tobacco Abuse

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...honor God with your bodies." (1 Co 6:19-20); "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." (Ro 12:1)

Why We Renounce It: Deliberately and knowingly destroying the body as God's temple through addictive substance use. The Christian's body belongs to God and is to be offered as a living sacrifice - not consumed by addiction.

Vaping

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1

"Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...honor God with your bodies." (1 Co 6:19-20); "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." (Ro 12:1)

Why We Renounce It: A modern form of nicotine and chemical delivery that creates dependency and harms the body. The principle of honoring God with the body applies regardless of the method of delivery or cultural normalization.

Quarreling / Fighting

Scripture: Proverbs 17:14; 2 Timothy 2:23-24

"Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out." (Pr 17:14); "Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments...And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome." (2 Tm 2:23-24)

Why We Renounce It: A pattern of conflict-seeking that destroys relationships and the unity of the body. Scripture consistently calls believers away from quarreling and toward the peaceable, gentle spirit that reflects Christ.

Worry / Anxiety

Scripture: Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 6:25-27

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Php 4:6); "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life..." (Mt 6:25)

Why We Renounce It: Scripture does not treat worry as a neutral emotion but as a spiritual failure of trust in God's provision and care. It is consistently commanded against and replaced with prayer and dependence on God.

STEP 6

Bondage vs. Freedom — Prejudice

Step 6 addresses bondage — the areas of our lives where we are not yet walking in the freedom Christ purchased for us. One of the most persistent and underexamined forms of bondage is prejudice: the habit of judging, dismissing, or treating others as lesser based on characteristics God assigns no such hierarchy to.

Prejudice is spiritual bondage because it filters how we see people through a lens other than God's. It closes our hearts to those Christ died for. It divides what God is working to unite. And it often runs so deep that it has become invisible to the person who holds it — a set of assumptions about certain groups of people that feel like common sense rather than sin.

Ephesians 2:14 says Christ has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility between people. Prejudice is an attempt to rebuild it. This step is not about social politics. It is about the posture of the heart toward image-bearers of God.

Prejudice

The categories below represent common areas where prejudice takes root. They range from the visible (race, appearance) to the less obvious (personality, work ethic, denominations). In each case, the call is the same: see this person the way God sees them. God is the Maker of all people and has declared every human being worthy of dignity, welcome, and the offer of the gospel.

Addiction

Scripture: Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 15:1

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently." (Gal 6:1); "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves." (Ro 15:1)

Why We Renounce It: Those struggling with addiction are image-bearers of God in bondage. Prejudice toward them violates the call to restore gently and bear the weak's burdens - it replaces compassion with contempt.

Age

Scripture: Leviticus 19:32; 1 Timothy 4:12

"Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God." (Lv 19:32); "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers." (1 Tm 4:12)

Why We Renounce It: God commands honor for the elderly and prohibits dismissing the young. Prejudice based on age devalues people at both ends of life whom God explicitly honors in Scripture.

Appearance

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:7; James 2:1-4

"People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Sm 16:7); "If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes...but say to the poor man, 'You stand there'...have you not discriminated among yourselves?" (Jas 2:3-4)

Why We Renounce It: God explicitly evaluates people by the heart, not external appearance. Partiality based on looks is the exact sin James confronts in the early church - a direct violation of the royal law to love your neighbor as yourself.

Denominations

Scripture: John 17:21; Ephesians 4:3

"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." (Jn 17:21); "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Eph 4:3)

Why We Renounce It: Denominational prejudice divides the body of Christ along human lines. Jesus' final prayer before the cross was for the unity of believers - treating fellow believers as inferior because of their tradition grieves His heart and undermines the mission.

Education

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:26-27; James 2:5

"Not many of you were wise by human standards...But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise." (1 Co 1:26-27); "Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith?" (Jas 2:5)

Why We Renounce It: God consistently chooses the uneducated and overlooked to accomplish His purposes. Treating people as lesser because of their educational level contradicts God's consistent pattern of valuing what the world dismisses.

Entitlement

Scripture: Romans 12:16; Luke 18:14

"Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited." (Ro 12:16); "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Lk 18:14)

Why We Renounce It: A posture of deserving more than others based on perceived merit, status, or background. Directly contrary to the humility of Christ who, though equal with God, took the form of a servant.

Ethnic Background

Scripture: Acts 17:26; Galatians 3:28

"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth." (Ac 17:26); "There is neither Jew nor Gentile...for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:28)

Why We Renounce It: All humanity shares one origin in God's creation. Ethnic prejudice fundamentally contradicts the truth that every person is made in the image of God and that in Christ all ethnic distinctions are transcended in the family of God.

False Humility

Scripture: Colossians 2:23; Micah 6:8

"Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility..." (Col 2:23); "What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Mi 6:8)

Why We Renounce It: False humility that despises others as less spiritual or less serious about faith is a form of pride dressed in religious language. Genuine humility does not measure itself against others but walks humbly before God.

Financial Status

Scripture: James 2:1-9; Proverbs 22:2

"My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism." (Jas 2:1); "Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all." (Pr 22:2)

Why We Renounce It: James gives his sharpest rebuke to favoritism based on wealth. God is the Maker of rich and poor alike, and the body of Christ is to be the one community where financial status does not determine worth or welcome.

Gender

Scripture: Galatians 3:28; 1 Peter 3:7

"There is neither...male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:28); "Treat them with respect as...heirs with you of the gracious gift of life." (1 Pt 3:7)

Why We Renounce It: In Christ, male and female share equal standing as image-bearers and heirs of salvation. Prejudice that diminishes or dismisses people based on gender violates the equal dignity Scripture assigns to both.

Handicaps

Scripture: Psalm 139:13-14; Luke 14:13

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Ps 139:13-14); "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind." (Lk 14:13)

Why We Renounce It: Every person is purposefully made by God. Jesus specifically named those with physical limitations as the ones to invite to the table - His kingdom prioritizes those the world excludes.

Homeless

Scripture: Matthew 25:35; Proverbs 19:17

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." (Mt 25:35); "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done." (Pr 19:17)

Why We Renounce It: Jesus identifies Himself with the homeless and destitute. Contempt or dismissal of those experiencing homelessness is contempt for Christ Himself according to Matthew 25.

IQ

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:27; Romans 12:16

"God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise." (1 Co 1:27); "Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position." (Ro 12:16)

Why We Renounce It: Intelligence is a gift distributed by God according to His purposes - not a measure of worth. God consistently chooses those the world considers intellectually weak to reveal His wisdom and confound the proud.

Lifestyle

Scripture: Romans 2:1; Galatians 6:1

"You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself." (Ro 2:1); "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently." (Gal 6:1)

Why We Renounce It: Judging people based on lifestyle choices without self-examination is hypocrisy. Scripture calls believers to honest self-awareness and to restore those caught in sin with gentleness, not contempt.

Marital Status

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:7-8; Romans 8:1

"I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God..." (1 Co 7:7); "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Ro 8:1)

Why We Renounce It: Paul honors singleness as a gift and the divorced as people without condemnation in Christ. Prejudice based on marital status assigns spiritual worth to a life circumstance rather than to the person's standing before God.

Material Possessions

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:15

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Mt 6:19,21); "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Lk 12:15)

Why We Renounce It: Judging others by what they own attaches worth to wealth that Jesus explicitly taught against. A person's value before God has nothing to do with what they possess.

Mental Illness

Scripture: Psalm 34:18; Matthew 9:36

"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Ps 34:18); "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Mt 9:36)

Why We Renounce It: Jesus consistently moved toward those with broken minds and spirits with compassion, not avoidance. Mental illness is not a spiritual defect or a sign of lesser faith - God is especially near to the brokenhearted.

Opposite Sex

Scripture: Galatians 3:28; 1 Peter 3:7

"There is neither...male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:28); "Treat them with respect as...heirs with you of the gracious gift of life." (1 Pt 3:7)

Why We Renounce It: Contempt, distrust, or dismissal of people based solely on their sex. Scripture calls men and women co-heirs of grace and equal image-bearers - prejudice that diminishes one sex contradicts this foundational truth.

Personality

Scripture: Romans 15:7; 1 Corinthians 12:18

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Ro 15:7); "But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." (1 Co 12:18)

Why We Renounce It: God intentionally created a diversity of personalities and placed each one in the body as He saw fit. Rejecting people because their personality differs from ours is rejecting God's design for the community.

Political Preference

Scripture: Romans 13:1; 1 Timothy 2:1-2

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." (Ro 13:1); "I urge...that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority." (1 Tm 2:1-2)

Why We Renounce It: Political identity is not an indicator of spiritual worth. Scripture calls believers to pray for all leaders - political prejudice divides the body along lines that have no ultimate spiritual significance.

Race / Skin Color

Scripture: Acts 17:26; Revelation 7:9

"From one man he made all the nations." (Ac 17:26); "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne." (Rv 7:9)

Why We Renounce It: Every race shares one human origin in God's creation. Revelation's vision of heaven is a multiethnic multitude before the throne - racial prejudice is not just a social sin but a rejection of God's design for His eternal family.

Refugees

Scripture: Leviticus 19:33-34; Matthew 25:35

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them...love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt." (Lv 19:33-34); "I was a stranger and you invited me in." (Mt 25:35)

Why We Renounce It: God's law explicitly protected and welcomed the foreigner. Israel's own identity as former strangers in Egypt was the basis for their call to welcome refugees - the church inherits this same obligation.

Religions

Scripture: Acts 17:26-27; Romans 10:12

"From one man he made all the nations...God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him." (Ac 17:26-27); "The same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him." (Ro 10:12)

Why We Renounce It: People of other religions are image-bearers of God seeking what only He can provide. Contempt for them closes the door to the gospel witness Scripture calls us to. The goal is compassionate engagement, not dismissal.

Tattoos / Body Piercings

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:7; Romans 14:13

"People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Sm 16:7); "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another." (Ro 14:13)

Why We Renounce It: External appearance is not the measure God uses. Judging a person's character or spiritual condition based on body modification reflects the exact standard God told Samuel to reject when choosing David.

Work Ethic

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Proverbs 10:4

"The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." (2 Th 3:10); "Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth." (Pr 10:4)

Why We Renounce It: Scripture does address laziness as a real character issue, but contempt for those who struggle with work ethic replaces accountability with condemnation. The call is to honest expectation and brotherly accountability, not dismissal of the person.