



**“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”**  
**2 Peter 1:21**



**CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**When We Meet**

Sunday  
 Bible Classes – 9:00 am  
 Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm  
Wednesday  
 Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

**Our Elders**

R.D. Hopper  
 Norman Kemper

**Our Deacons**

Troy Hunter  
 Kelly Kendall  
 Tony Ramick

**Our Preacher**

Alex Hale

**Consider the Ways of the...Lemming?**  
 By Alex Hale

Lemmings are small rodents, usually found in or near the Arctic. Legend has it that lemmings are easily influenced, and the belief has been that they will commit “mass suicide” when they migrate. You may have seen a cartoon depicting one lemming heaving himself off a cliff to a sure death, only to be followed by the rest of the lemmings. Our society struggles with this phenomena. In a desire to “fit in” with the crowd around them, many people engage in behaviors or develop attitudes that they would not otherwise dream of. We commonly call this **peer pressure**. Succumbing to it is dangerous for the unbeliever. For the Christian, it is simply unacceptable (Ti 2:14; 1 Cor 6:11; Eph 5:11; Rom 12:1-2). We know this to be true, but we still find ourselves being squeezed into the world’s mold.

**Where does the pressure come from?**

1. **“Friends.”** I use this term loosely, because a true friend will not intentionally lead you down the wrong path (Prov 17:17). Perhaps a better term would be companions, those with whom you spend a great deal of time. These individuals can have a great deal of influence (Prov 13:20). We see examples of this in scripture, including:

- The influence of Sodom on Lot and his family (Gen 13:12; 14:12; 19:1)
- The influence of Solomon’s wives (1 Kgs 11:4)
- The influence of the young advisers on Rehoboam (1 Kgs 12:1-24)
- The influence of the Jewish leaders on Peter (Gal 2:11-14)

2. **Society.** We live in a world that is moving dramatically in the wrong direction. Our world is consumed with **materialism**, or the fulfillment of fleshly desires. The goal is to obtain earthly possessions in an effort to keep up with the possessions of our contemporaries. You may hear your son or daughter say, “Why can’t I have a new phone? My friend has a new phone!” Then you go to work, see one of your co-workers, and think, “Why can’t I have a new phone? My co-worker has a new phone!” The same holds true with cars, houses, jobs, etc. The assumption of the world is that your possessions define you. Disciples understand that earthly possessions do not last (Psa 49:6-12; Mt 6:19-21).

Our world by in large glamorizes the use and abuse of **alcohol and drugs**. Our world for those most part glorifies what the Bible calls **sexual immorality**. The attitudes that so many have reflect a lack of understanding about the concepts of love and intimacy. Though society is increasingly casual about these matters, God’s word is not (Prov 20:1; Mt 5:27-28; 1 Ths 4:4-5; Heb 13:4). Alcohol, drugs, and sexual immorality are all things that Satan tempts us with so that we might defile our bodies. We must value our bodies more than that. One’s body is not really his or her own – it belongs to God (1 Cor 6:18-20).

**What can we do?**

Choosing the right things is hard, but it is possible (1 Cor 10:13). God wants us to avoid the pitfalls of this life, because He knows that following His way will benefit us both now and forever (Amos 5:14; Isa 1:19-20). However, we must be willing to follow, surrendering our will and realizing that God is in charge. In addition, we should seek people who are doing the same. We make the choice about who our companions will be (Amos 3:3). We must be continually on guard against the evil influences of our day (Prov 16:17). Be proactive in what you watch, what you read, where you go, *and who you go with*.

Remember those lemmings we talked about? They really don’t commit mass suicide by following each other off of a cliff. That is a legend, but it is not true. Likewise, just because “everyone” is doing something, that does not mean that you have to do the same (Ex 23:2).