

## Bad to the Bone

We've seen or read it hundreds of times, the hero or heroine of the story moves from the conservative, goody-too-shoes to the cool "bad boy" image after influence from other characters in the story. I can think of a lot of examples to use here, one of the first that comes to mind is the female lead role in the musical "Grease". Sandy, the sweet, well-dressed, mild mannered high school girl turns into the leather-clad biker chick in order to catch Danny's eye and we're all elated that they finally get together. I was talking with someone just last week who was telling of a Chaplin in the military who after spending 6 months with a rough and tumble unit came out of the experience cussing with every breath. We seem to enjoy it when the good guy slips and does something bad. Many in our society celebrate the "bad guy", the silent, dark character of the movies, the "anti-hero", and the person who can get down and dirty with the best of them. We emulate them in our own lives as well, leaving the good for a temporary trip to the "dark side".

Satan is the perpetrator of the false idea that being just a little bad is good. He makes it attractive through the images we see and the music we hear. How many times in the past have music groups found themselves in the spotlight because of "satanic" overtones in their music? The devil has inundated our entertainment with the concept that evil is good and is to be desired.

But the truth is, that for most of us, the attractiveness of being bad is only a desire, a thought, even though some of us may enjoy pretending to be bad. For instance, take the lawyer who puts on his leather outfit and dark sunglasses for a weekend ride on his motorcycle. He has no intention of causing any mischief like some reputed motorcycle gangs may do, but he enjoys "playing" the bad guy. For Christians, playing the bad guy is playing with fire. "*Evil company corrupts good habits*" (1 Corinthians 15:33) and just pretending to live on the wild side could have everlasting consequences. The Bible teaches us that sin begins with desire (James 1:15) and that if that desire remains long enough, we may act on it and commit sin. Therefore, if we continue to desire to be just a little bad, then more than likely we'll wind just a little drunk, a little high, have a little affair, cuss just a little, just for enjoyment's sake. Once we start down that road, it's very difficult to come back.

As we strive to serve God, our focus is to be on good things, not bad. "*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*" (Romans 12:21). The Christian is to seek things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely and of a good report (Philippians 4:8) and constantly meditate on these types of positive things. When we fill our hearts and minds with godly thoughts, we will be "good people" and we have overcome the world (1 John 5:4-5).

Jay Launius  
Maud church of Christ  
Maud, Texas