

THE CHRISTIAN'S MORALITY

I. Introduction

A. The many views of "morality"

1. Humanist – "suit yourself"
2. Situation ethics – Joseph Fletcher
3. New Age – "no rules"
4. Jehovah God's – only from God's morality can one really determine "amoral"

B. Our concern? What the Christian's morality ought to be.

C. Definition of Terms:

1. **CHRISTIAN**: An individual who enters into a covenant relationship with God through obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. **MORAL**: Of or relating to principles of ***right*** or ***wrong*** behavior.
 - a) **If right – then moral, if wrong – immoral!**
3. **MORALITY**: A doctrine or system of moral conduct.
 - a) **Contrasting right or wrong behavior.**
4. **AMORAL**: **1.** Not admitting of moral distinctions or judgments; neither moral nor immoral. **2.** Lacking moral sensibility; not caring about right and wrong.

D. Approach of this lesson.

1. Discuss the components of morality.
2. Examine the positive and negative aspects of morality.
3. Contrast the world's standard of morality with the Christian's.
4. Define some problem areas of moral conduct.

II. THE COMPONENTS OF MORALITY

A. *Freedom of choice.*

1. Concept of “choice” today” -> “right to believe what you want = truth”
you can believe 2+2=5, but it still won’t be true! God does not give “right to believe what you want”, but the right to choose **belief** or **unbelief!**

2. A Bible doctrine

a) **True as Israel entered the promised land. Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (KJV)**

b) **Joshua 24:15 (KJV)**

3. The doctrine of sin

a) **1 John 3:4 (KJV) “Whosoever committeth [verb = action, something done – choice involved] sin transgresseth [verb, something done, action taken] also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”**

(1) One cannot do or say anything without first making the choice to do it. “***I didn’t think***” is not true ... you might not have thought enough!

B. *Knowledge.*

1. Knowledge is available to man (ability to ***know*** right and wrong)

a) **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV) “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 [For this purpose] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” [thoroughly equipped for every good work.—NKV]**

b) **2 Peter 1:3**

2. When knowledge is rejected, immorality results (always a result!)

a) **Romans 1:28**

b) Cf. Romans 1:29-32

C. Conscience.

1. To violate conscience is immoral

a) Acts 24:16

2. Conscience must be supplied with correct knowledge of truth

a) Acts 26:9

(1) Cannot be our only guide.

3. Conscience must be in working condition.

a) 1 Timothy 4:1-2

(1) We need a “tender” conscience. Some need a strong rebuke before they will take notice!

D. The components of morality illustrated – Genesis 2 & 3.

1. Man was given the command not to eat of a certain tree – KNOWLEDGE – Genesis 2:16-17

2. Man given the freedom to choose whether or not he would obey the command of God – FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

3. Man hid himself after disobeying God – CONSCIENCE – Genesis 3:7-8

E. NOTE: It is impossible to be “moral” without components. However, one can be “immoral” without making a knowledgeable choice, or violating conscience. One is either moral or immoral depending on his actions in relationship to God’s standard of morality.

III. THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF MORALITY.

A. Genesis 2, 3

B. The Jewish approach to morality (when thinking right) – simplistic.

1. Two-fold.

- a) Discover what God has forbidden and abstain from it.
- b) Find out what God has commanded and obey!

C. Application.

1. Some things God has forbidden.(**negative**)

a) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

b) Galatians 5:19-21

2. Some things God has commanded (**positive** –A contrast – works of the flesh verses fruit of the spirit)

a) Galatians 5:22-23

b) Ephesians 5:18-19

3. To refrain from doing right is just as immoral as the commission of a wrong deed

a) James 4:17

b) Luke 10:25-37 relate – “good Samaritan – priest, Levite both had opportunity!

c) Matthew 25:31-46 relate – feeding, clothing, visiting prisons, etc.)

d) The positive and negative in the same verse:

(1) James 1:27

IV. THE WORLD’S MORALITY VERSES THE CHRISTIAN’S MORALITY.

A. THE WORLD’S:

1. **ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**: dancing, mixed swimming[no lust? Something wrong with you!], drinking [society polluted with it], light drugs, divorce, profanity, lust [immodesty, TV, movies, school dress, etc.], immodest dress [address, smoking.

2. **QUESTIONABLE BEHAVIOR**: abortion [some moral consciousness,

i.e. “the right to life” movement], drug abuse, homosexuality, fornication, adultery.

3. **UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**: murder [abortion and euthanasia not called “murder”], robbery, rape, extortion, incest, etc.

a) Note how rapidly # 2 & # 3 are moving toward #1, and how many of #1 would not have been acceptable even to the world even a few years ago!)

B. THE CHRISTIAN’S MORALITY:

1. In **all** of these areas the Christian is forbidden either specifically or in principle (cf. “and such like” – Galatians 5:21).

V. **DEFINING PROBLEM AREAS OF MORAL CONDUCT.**

A. PROBLEM AREAS:

1. Fornication

a) **1 Corinthians 6:9**

2. Homosexuality –

a) **1 Corinthians 6:9 (above – NKJ = “homosexuals, sodomites”)**

b) **Romans 1:26-27**

3. Dancing. (disco, close dancing, immodest dancing, etc.)

a) **Galatians 5:19**

b) **Galatians 5:21**

c) **Nothing wrong with the dance? John the Baptist died because of the dance! Cf. Matthew 14:3-6**

(1) “I know what the dance is for” – F.G.

(2) “I like the way I feel when I know that men are watching me dance”
– T. G.

4. Drinking

- a) **Romans 14:21**
- b) **1 Corinthians 6:10**
- c) **1 Corinthians 10:31-32**

5. Gambling

- a) **1 Timothy 5:8**
- b) **Titus 3:8**

6. Immodesty, mixed swimming

- a) **“Lasciviousness” (Galatians 5:19) – indecent.**
- b) **The world recognizes immodesty! i.e. song about tight jeans “My baby’s got her blue jeans on ... she didn’t mean to cause a scene...”**
- c) **1 Timothy 2:9**

(1) Most women would be embarrassed to be caught in their undergarments, but wear less to sunbathe in the yard or go to the beach!

(2) Never heard a modest woman argue this point.

(3) Draw lines – most draw the line somewhere between the knee and the waist!

7. Smoking – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- a) **Will you rob God of the proper use of your body?**

8. Lying, dishonesty, stealing

- a) **Revelation 21:8**
- b) **Ephesians 4:28**
- c) **1 Corinthians 6:10**

9. Murder

- a) **Revelation 21:8**

10. It is immoral to transgress God's standard of morality.

VI. **CONCLUSION:**

A. God is concerned about our morality or lack thereof.

1. He expects His people to be moral, according to His standard in every generation.

B. Further passages to study:

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:22
3. Romans 12:1-2 (bodies a living sacrifice, be not conformed, but transformed)
4. 1 John 2:15-17
5. Genesis 3 – the avenues of temptation (lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life)
6. Luke 4 – the temptation of Christ.

C. Does God see me (you) as moral? The answer must be determined by His standard of morality – the Scriptures.

D. Not good enough to be “as good as the world”.

1. God's standard for His people is far above the world ... “living sacrifice, Holy, acceptable, Reasonable service”

E. What will you choose? Life and Good, or Death and Evil?