

Morals Galatians 5:16-24

Our Morals Have Declined

Society once looked down on those who did not keep themselves, at least, morally upright

Shame, laws, public ridicule reflected a general understanding of moral uprightness

Today the morals of our nation as a whole are unacceptable to God - Adultery, Fornication, Divorce, Homosexuality, Abortion, Drinking, Gambling, Lewdness, Profanity...

Our morals have been relaxed gradually. Sin is no longer looked on as sin or evil.

Lutheran Church stated in Louisville Courier Journal July 3, 1970 they would "allow Lutherans to look favorably on the development of a sexual relationship between a married person and someone other than his marriage partner."

Joseph Fletcher, professor of Social Ethics, Episcopal Theology School, Cambridge, Mass., in his book Situation Ethics (1966) said: "Every man must decide for himself what is right." - "any action - even lying, premarital sex, abortion, adultery, and murder - could be right depending on the circumstances."

Today most religious organizations accept, even promote, all sorts of immoral activity

"If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?" Pope Francis asked. "We shouldn't marginalize people for this. They must be integrated into society." (7/29/13 cbsnews.com)

Those who speak against are considered, out of touch, clinging to old values, stuck in the past

Our society, as a whole, has come to glorify, glamorize, condone, and even expect sin.

Too often even religious around us are following the same guidelines as the world - **2Timothy 3:13**

Determining Proper Morals

Earnest Hemingway defines as: "What is moral is what you feel good after and what is immoral is what you feel bad after."

Webster defines: a) of or relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior: ethical. b) Expressing or teaching a conception of right behavior. c) Conforming to a standard of right behavior. d) Sanctioned by or operative on one's conscience or ethical judgment.

Are these standards of Christian? Our standard for all is Bible. Consider example - **2Samuel 13:12-13**

"Such a thing is not done in Israel"

It is against God. Some things are wrong. There are absolutes, there is a standard - **Leviticus 18:9**

Must be morally good not by world's standards, but by God's. Turn attention first & foremost toward heaven - **Matthew 6:33; Romans 12:1-2; Isaiah 55:8-9; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Matthew 7:21**

"Where could I carry my shame?"

Against - one made in God's image - **Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 25:40,45; 1Corinthians 8:12**

Must consider others, treat right. Will action hurt others? - **Philippians 2:3-8; 1Corinthians 8:8-13**

"You would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel"

It was a sin against himself - **1Corinthians 6:18**

We must control self, keep self "fit" for Master - **1John 2:15-17; Proverbs 14:12; Luke 9:62; James 1:27**

Only God's Morality Matters

Mere Christianity pg. 57 - "Morality, then seems to be concerned with three things. (1) Fair play and harmony between individuals. (2) Harmonizing the things inside each individual. (3) The general purpose of human life as a whole; what man was made for."

If we want to live in a place with better morals, we need to demonstrate Bible morality and be very vocal in disapproval of world's standards. We must keep our lives pure and let others know of our expectations for them to conform to God's standard and reach goal of heaven.

Jesus stresses this principle with salt of earth and light of world - **Matthew 5:13-16**

These principles are included 1st and 2nd commandments from Christ - **Matthew 22:37-40**