

Establishing Morality

Morality is the character and behavior that is in accord with the principles and standards of right conduct. In our modern society where relativism and humanism are infectiously spreading, their proponents would have others believe and accept that morality is left up to each individual or even each situation to decide what is right for the person at the moment – that there are no absolutes regarding morality because it is dependent upon present cultural norms and shifting trends. Such philosophies lead to confusion, chaos and ruin, which in turn breed injustice and evil.

We live in “difficult times” (2 Timothy 3:1). Although the history of the United States has a close connection to Judeo-Christianity, we live in very immoral times. Many are “lovers of self, lovers of money, . . . lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (3:2, 4). When God is no longer honored as He ought to be, men’s hearts become darkened. When God’s wisdom is no longer sought, man becomes foolish. When men focus on serving and worshipping themselves, their path dishonors God and themselves with all manner of impurities, abandoning God’s truth regarding morality. [Read Romans 1:18-32.]

God is the Absolute who is truly good (cf. Luke 18:19), and thus the One who rightfully determines what character and behavior is in accord with what is right. He created us for goodness; He directs in the path of goodness. His laws are good and for man’s well-being (cf. 1 Timothy 1:8-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). His words are eternal life (cf. John 6:68). When men try to establish their own righteousness, they do not attain righteousness, but rather, cultivate hearts that grow selfishness, greed, falsehood and impurity.

Man strays and wanders off to his own harm. He transgresses. He seeks sinful pleasures which leave him empty and lost. The prophet Jeremiah described man perfectly: “a man’s way is not in himself, nor is it in man who walks to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). Man’s self-determined morality ends up to be immorality – like in the days of rebellious Israel when they called “evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). Therefore, true morality is not left up to man’s own devising, but morality is established only when God and His way are the objective standard used to set and to discern between what is right and wrong, what is good and evil, what is justice and injustice.