



Biblical Values, Morals, Principles, and Ethics

Biblical values, morals, principles, and ethics are a set of godly truths, foundations, benchmarks, decisions, behaviors, and perspectives that govern a group or person's behavior.

There is a difference between morals and *godly* morals. Morality is based on what is good as regards to or dictated by society. It is what the society believes is right. It can also be our own principles whereas ethics is dictated by a higher power, to be specific—God Almighty!

Ethics are based on the written Word of God; not just what society dictates or our own principles. Morals focus more on the customs whereas ethics focus more on character. We need to have godly morals, not just morals, and we need to have godly and biblical ethics, not just ethics.

It's not legalistic to live life with a set of biblical principles and standards. We cannot live a godly life without setting principles and standards in our lives that we will not compromise nor cross. Godly people live by certain standards and principles.

Many believers and other people go through life with no **set** of principles, standards and values they live by and many that do, don't have them based on God's Word.

Others, they set their standards and principles as they go on a case-by-case basis. How sad! As they face certain situations, they do whatever can get them out of it whether or not godly. They have situational ethics, not biblical ethics and values.

We need to set our standards and ethics based on God's Word. We need to make them on the front end. All our standards and principles ought to be based first on God's Word, then on our conscience and finally in the welfare and wellbeing of others.

We need to stand by the truth regardless of the benefits of who we get connected with or who rejects us. Why should we care?

Situational ethics, flexible ethics, convenient ethics:

a) The doctrine of flexibility in the application of moral laws according to circumstances. It is the compromise of moral principles and standards whenever the circumstances are neither convenient nor comfortable for you.

i) This doctrine spells a lack of integrity.

Proverbs 20:7 *The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.*

a) Walking in integrity is profitable not only to us but also to those who are surrounded and associated with us. Our children can and will reap blessings from our integrity and uprightness. On the other side, the opposite is true as well. Those who walk in dishonesty and a lack of character not only affect their lives but the lives of their children and those associated with them.

A. What is integrity?

a) Integrity simply means honesty, honor, purity, rectitude, virtue, adherence to moral and ethical principles. This word integrity comes from the word "integer" which means whole, complete and entire.

- b) Integrity is the uprightness of character, trustworthy action, and responsible commitment. It is a standard of incorruptibility, a refusal to be false to a trust, responsibility or pledge.
 - c) It is disciplined, focused and established behavior.
 - d) Integrity predetermines its actions or what I will do before temptation. It makes decisions ahead of any temptation. It has godly moral absolutes set in place and established.
 - i) Make those decisions on the front end of your standards and principles.
- B. These men we talk about them because they set godly and biblical principles that they lived by and when the pressure came, they did not compromise, nor did they make them up there and then. The biblical values, ethics, and principles we live by daily will help us walk in integrity and character without compromise.
 - a) Joseph—Genesis 39:1-9
 - i) Joseph was faced with a situation of compromise. The scenery was set for him to do the unspeakable yet because he was a man of integrity; he did not compromise.
 - ii) He did not employ situational ethics.
 - b) Daniel—Daniel 6:10
 - i) Daniel was faced with a compromise to worship what was not to be, and he stepped up and refused to compromise.
 - ii) Daniel lived by the same biblical principles he stood by and when the pressure was on, he did not buckle.

C. Psalm 15:4 *In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoreth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*

- a) If we have not been released from the commitment we made, we need to go the extra mile and keep our word. Yes, it may be costly, but it is the godly thing to do even though it hurts us.

D. Bribery and Deception

Bribery Is a dishonest, illegal and ungodly act to persuade one to act in your favor or it is taking something in exchange of one's influence against what is right, godly and legal. Bribes always have strings attached and will always pervert godliness.

- Deuteronomy 16:19 *Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.*
- Proverbs 17:23 *A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.*

I know a guy that I would consider godly to a degree who when he faced a hard situation he got out of the situation by bribing. It was shocking, and it was very troubling.

Regardless of how people around you act, regardless of what they call the norm, we need to stick to the biblical ethics and principles thereby manifesting Christ and His righteousness through us. Yes, it will be costly, and it may incur losses, but **I will not do the wrong thing to get out of the wrong thing. That would make it two wrongs!**

- a) We should not allow ourselves to be bought. We have been bought already (1 Corinthians 6:20) and we aren't for sale.
- b) We have been given the grace to live a godly life under all circumstances. Grace is power (Romans

1:16). It empowers us to win, live a godly life and so forth.

Examples of bribery in the Word:

- 1 Samuel 8:3
- Esther 3:9
- Acts 24:26
- Matthew 28:12-15

Some believers have a doctorate in deception. They will lie their way out of anything. They will pattern their ethics, godly morals and principles proportional to what they are dealing with.

E. Psalm 40:10 *I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.*

a) The righteousness of God, His faithfulness, His salvation, His loving kindness, and truth ought not to be concealed. It needs to be declared and publicly demonstrated and expressed.

b) Character is built when no one is looking.

Born again

The number one way to develop and acquire godly values and morals and principles is to be born again. One needs a new heart for them to live a godly life and walk in the things mentioned above or else they will be in behavior modification which does not deal with the very root problem. Those who think they will achieve this without a heart transplant/change, are deceived.

a) John 3:3 *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

b) Ezekiel 36:26-27 *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

i) Notice before you can do His judgements, you need a new heart. This is referring to being born again.

Renewed mind

The second thing that needs to happen after we are born again to help us become men and women who have biblical values, morals, ethics, and principles is for us to get in the Word and renew our minds. Renewing our minds is speaking about changing the way we think from the world to the Word of God. Until we renew our minds, we will not have the biblical values, morals, ethics, and principles that we desire. We will be conformed to the ways and patterns of this world rather than the Word of God.

Transformation starts with being born again but takes root through renewing of our minds.

a) Romans 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*