

“THE DOCTRINE OF MORALITY”

8/25/2024 AM

INTRO.

- A. Read the text: Rom. 12:1-2.**
- B. Regarding the text:**
 - 1. God has always required moral and ethical conduct (**Gen. 6:5**).
- C. In a day of educational, and scientific achievements, we have lost our moral compass (Isa. 5:20).**

I. MORALITY DEFINED.

- A. Morality (from the Latin *moralitas* "manner, character, proper behavior") is a sense of behavioral conduct that differentiates intentions, decisions, and actions between those that are good (or right) and bad (or wrong).**
 - 1. A moral code is a system of morality (a particular philosophy, religion, culture, etc.).
 - 2. Immorality is the active opposition to morality.
- B. Morals: Conduct; behavior; and course of life, regarding good and evil.**
- C. The proper doctrine of morality... MUST come from the Bible (Psa. 119:105).**

II. IS THERE AN ABSOLUTE STANDARD?

- A. Many use the wrong standard for morality. THEY USE...**
 - 1. Their feelings. It must be right if it feels right (**Pro. 14:12; Jer. 10:23**).
 - 2. Their peers. Everyone else is doing it (**Exo. 23:2**).
 - 3. Their conscience. Many say: “Let your conscience be your guide” (**1 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:5**).

III. HOW WE GOT TO BE WHERE WE ARE.

- A. Many have removed God from their thoughts (Rom. 1:28).**
- B. Many Have Made Pleasure Their God (Exo. 32:6; Phil. 3:19).**
- C. Our world has “Toned Down” ethics and morality.**
 - 1. Today, we accept what was once deemed immoral as normal.
 - 2. It is the “searing over” of our conscience. (**1 Tim. 4:2**)
 - 1) Abortion – the right to choose.
 - 2) Suicide – dying with dignity.
 - 3) Homosexuality – gay.
 - 4) Adultery and fornication – an affair.
 - 5) Cursing – colorful language.

IV. WHAT WE CAN DO TO RETURN TO GOD.

- A. First, we must embrace the Christian lifestyle ourselves (Eph. 4:1; Phil. 1:27).**
- B. Proclaim the Christian lifestyle to others (1 Pet. 2:9-11; 2 Tim. 2:2).**
- C. Pray for God’s providential hand to bring change (James 5:16; Psalm 122:6).**

V. CONCLUSION:

- A. June 14, 1998 commencement address at Stanford University by Ted Koppel:**
 - 1. “We will not change what’s wrong with our culture through legislation, or by choosing up sides on the basis of personal popularity or party affiliation. We will change it by small acts of courage and kindness; by recognizing, each of us, his or her own obligation to set a proper example. Aspire to decency. Practice civility toward one another. Admire and emulate ethical behavior wherever you find it. Apply a rigid standard of morality to your lives; and if, periodically, you fail – as you surely will – adjust your lives, not the standards. There’s no mystery here. You know what to do. Now go out and do it.”
- B. NOTE:**
 - 1. Morality begins with a PROPER MINDSET! (**Phil 4:8**).
 - 2. A proper mindset begins with proper study. (**2 Tim 2:15**)
- C. Matt. 5:16!**