

# THE TRUTH

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## Lesson 22 - The Truth About Christian Standards

We have, in fact two kinds of morality side by side; one, which we preach, but do not practice, and another, which we practice, but do not preach. [Bertrand Russell]

1. What "gate" are we admonished by Jesus to enter through, and what does it symbolize? [Matthew 7:13] Ans. a. The \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: True conversion, is the embracing of Jesus in \_\_\_\_\_. His offices and His offices are three-fold. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

A Prophet: To \_\_\_\_\_ us that we are sinners in need of a Savior. [Acts 3:22]

A Priest: To \_\_\_\_\_ on our behalf before the Father. [Hebrews 7:25]

A King: To \_\_\_\_\_ over our lives and subdue our will unto His will. [Matt. 27:37]

NOTE: There are three things that are outlined in this text. There is a \_\_\_\_\_, there is a \_\_\_\_\_, and there is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. How is the "way" to heaven described, and how many will find it? [Matthew 7:13; John 14:6] Ans. a. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ b. Only a \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does the "narrow way" represent? [Matthew 7:13] Ans. \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ will of God, as set forth in the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. According to Isaiah, what is another name for the narrow way, and who will not travel this way? [Isaiah 35:8] Ans. a. Way of \_\_\_\_\_ b. The \_\_\_\_\_

The way to God by Jesus Christ is the Via Sacra, the Holy Road. Brothers and Sisters, if you are ever in any doubt about which is the right path, remember those words of the Savior - "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way, and few there are that find it. Prefer strictness to laxity. [Spurgeon]

5. Are the commands or standards of Jesus grievous? [1 John 5:3; Matt. 11:30] Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

6. How do we demonstrate our love to God? [2 John 1:6] Ans. By \_\_\_\_\_ in His commandments.

### A FALLING AWAY PREDICTED

7. What did the apostle Paul say would happen to God's standards in the last days? [2 Thess. 2:1-3] Ans. They would \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.

"We will not change our message to suit the age, but rather, the age must change to suit the

message.” [Spurgeon]

**NOTE:** The Bible presents a perfect standard of character; it is an infallible guide under all circumstances, even to the end of the journey of life. We should take it as our constant guide, the rule of our daily life. In Washington, D.C., a standard is kept of each weight, measure, and quality of merchandise. God also has an unchanging standard for all Christian character.

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ [1 John 2:6]
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God [2 Timothy 3:16]
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God [Psalms 19:7]

**8. Once the Christian finds out that Jesus has standards, what should he do? [Isaiah 59:19; 1 Peter 2:1] Ans.** He should \_\_\_\_\_ them up and \_\_\_\_\_ them.

- a. **God has a standard on \_\_\_\_\_ [2 Corinth. 6:14; Amos 3:3; Nehemiah 13:23-27; Psalms 84:11]**

“Friends, you need not break Christ’s Law in order to find a good husband or a good wife! His rule is that you should not be “unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” It is a wise and kind rule and is an assistance rather than a hindrance to a fit marriage. I have never yet met with a single case in which marriages of this kind have been blessed of God. If you break Christ’s Law, you cannot expect Christ’s blessing. [Spurgeon]

- b. **God has a standard on \_\_\_\_\_ [Philippians 4:8; Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 7:26, 2 Corinthians 3:18]**

It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence. [The Great Controversy]

**9. What did Christ come to earth to destroy? [1 John 3:8] Ans.** The \_\_\_\_\_ of the devil.

**NOTE:** For this reason we should carefully evaluate our mental habits. What we choose to read, hear and watch, whether by book, magazine, radio, television, the internet, or other modern media, shapes and impacts our character. Instead, we should find delight in God’s great world of nature and in divine workings. Social dancing is another form of amusement with an evil influence. We must avoid anything that dramatizes, graphically presents, or suggests the sins and crimes of humanity - murder, adultery, robbery and similar evils, which to a large degree are responsible for the breakdown of morality.

- c. **God has a standard on \_\_\_\_\_ [Ephesians 5:19; Ezekiel 28:13]**

**NOTE:** Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which are pure, noble, and elevating and to awaken in the soul, devotion and gratitude to God. On the contrary, debased music breaks down morality and draws us away from our relationship with God. We should exercise great care in the choice of music in our homes, social gatherings, schools and churches. Any melody

partaking of the nature of jazz, rock, or related hybrid forms, or any language expressing foolish or trivial sentiments, should be shunned.

d. God has a standard on \_\_\_\_\_ [2 Timothy 2:9; 2 Corinthians 3:18]

Webster defines immodesty as "arousing or tending to arouse sexual desire or interest." It defines modest as "not offensive to sexual mores in conduct or appearance." The world revels in sexiness, but among Christians "there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, because these are improper for God's holy people."

10. What garments did God make for Adam and Eve after sin? [Genesis 3:7] Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

- [Revelation 1:13]
- [Revelation 7:9]
- [1 Peter 2:9]
- [Daniel 3:20-22; 24-25]

**Unisex:** deprived of gender, sexuality, or the characteristic attributes or qualities of one or other sex.

- [Deuteronomy 22:5]
- [1 Corinthians 11:14]
- [Daniel 12:2]

e. God has a standard on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

- [2 Kings 9:30]
- [Jeremiah 4:30]

If the garments worn are not frequently cleansed from these impurities, the pores of the skin absorb again the waste matter thrown off. The impurities of the body, if not allowed to escape, are taken back into the blood, and forced upon the internal organs.

Many are ignorantly injuring their health and endangering their lives by using cosmetics... When they become heated, ... the poison is absorbed by the pores of the skin, and is thrown into the blood. Many lives have been sacrificed by this means alone. **[Healthful Living, 189]**

\_\_\_\_\_ Jewelry: Several passages in the in the Old Testament illustrate this usage. Jewelry was worn by the high priests.

**NOTE:** These were permissible by Yahweh because it related to His work as an instrument in the atonement process. The Lord did not prescribe jewelry to anybody else in Israel.

\_\_\_\_\_ Jewelry: This type of jewelry was associated in the Old Testament with idolatry. This explains why the Lord removed them from his people.

- [Isaiah 3:16-21]
- [Joshua 24:23]

- [Genesis 35:1-4]
- [Judges 8:23-24]
- [1Timothy 2:9]
- [1 Peter 3:3]

**Charles Finney:** Presbyterian & Congregational Revivalist; President of Oberlin College:

When a young lady begins to backslide, she will begin to put on ornaments, jewelry, and costly attire. These things are natural indications of the state of the heart. **[The Finney Sermon Collection, 838]**

**Charles Spurgeon:** Baptist Evangelist

But it is marvelous, while many are taking all the trouble they can to array this poor body, they have very few ornaments for their soul; they forgot to dress the soul, the children of God cannot now be told by outward appearance from the children of the devil. Some will say, "I wish you would leave that alone!" Of course you do, because it applies to yourself. But we let nothing alone which we believe to be in the Scriptures; and while I would not spare any man's soul honesty to every man's conscience and honesty to myself demands, that I should always speak of that which I see to be an evil breaking out in the Church. We should always take care that in everything we keep as near as possible to the written Word. **[Sermon Collection, vol. 1, 516, 517]**

The best earrings that a woman can wear are the earrings of hearing the Word with attention. The very best dress we can ever wear, is a garment wrought by the Holy Spirit, the garment of a consistent conduct... It would be a good thing, perhaps, if we went back to Wesley's rule, to come out from the world in our apparel, and to dress as plainly and neatly as the Quakers... If you want ornaments here they are. Here are jewels, rings, dresses, and all kinds of ornament; men and women, ye may dress yourselves up till ye shine like angels. How can you do it? By dressing yourselves out in benevolence, in love to the saints, in honesty and integrity, in uprightness, in godliness, in brotherly-kindness, in charity.

These are the ornaments which angels themselves admire, and which even the word will admire; for men must give admiration to the man or the woman who is arrayed in the jewels of a holy life and godly conversation. I beseech you, brethren, "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things."

**John Wesley:** Methodist

"What is then the meaning of these scriptures 1 Peter 3:3, 4; 1 Timothy 2:9, 10? What is it, which they forbid? They manifestly forbid ordinary Christians, those in the lower or middle ranks of life, to be adorned with gold, or pearls, or costly apparel." **[Works of John Wesley, vol. 7, 30]**

**11. Since we are preparing for heaven, what should we seek to lay aside? [Hebrews 12:1] Ans.**

Every \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Since we are preparing for heaven, Paul counsels us to lay aside every hindrance to the development of Christian character.