

Welcome New Member
Elizabeth Medina
Phone: (760) 574-2342

Obedience from the Heart

“And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’”

Luke 10:27

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 12:2

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman 9 Sue Tanner

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 32 No. 26

June 27, 2021

What Does God Teach Us about Ethical and Moral Conduct?

Excerpted from article by Garreth L. Clair

The concept of morals and ethics are by-products of submitting ourselves under the Kingship of Jesus Christ and is shown in our conduct. Some examples of moral and ethical qualities are demonstrated in the following overt acts:

1. Patience, showing forbearance and restraint in lifestyle.
2. Having limits to involvement in activities that may hinder our relationship to God and to other Christians in the living of life for God.
3. Insisting upon equal treatment for all people regardless of race, or ethnic origin.
4. Accepting our place in life or in the church and seeking patiently to improve ourselves without taking advantage of others.
5. Realizing that circumstance in life is sometimes tragic, sometimes depressing, and doing our best regardless of the circumstance.
6. To accept defeats in life as well as victories in our struggles with life and its problems — to always continue to serve God regardless.
7. To keep ourselves physically clean and morally pure as much as possible.

NOTE: The very concept that encourages us to live the life of a Christian also instills within us the above qualities that are often referred to as moral and ethical qualities. These qualities of character are also called “**Christian virtues**” or “**Christian graces**”. Please note some of them as they appear in the Bible:

2 Peter 1:4-10, *“whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust. Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply virtue; and in virtue knowledge; and in knowledge self-control; and in self-control patience; and in patience **godliness**; and in godliness **brotherly kindness**; and in brotherly kindness **love**. For if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he that lacketh these things is blind, seeing only what is near, having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble.”* ASV

These qualities of character will naturally become part of the Christian as they grow toward maturity in the faith. These moral and ethical qualities will enable the Christian to become the salt of the earth and the light of the world as Christ desires. The Lord says that His disciples are to be so, please note the following verses:

Matthew 5:13-16, *“**Ye are the salt of the earth**: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men. **Ye are the light of the world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do (men) light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”* ASV

CONCLUSION: Indeed, there are many areas of life where the Christian may have an influence upon other people in the world. The Christian will be on display all the time, at work, on vacation, at the marketplace, and with family and friends — Are we conscious of this great influence that we exhibit before others? We surely ought to be because we may be the catalyst that causes another person to turn to God for salvation sometime. Because of our great influence over other people let us recognize the fact: God

has given us information and a pattern of right and wrong to follow, that is the Written Word of God (i.e., the 66 books of the Bible).

Real Righteousness

By Joe Slater

In His matchless “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus made a shocking statement that really serves as the theme of the whole sermon: *“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 5:20). What was He talking about? What was it about the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees that was deficient? How are we to exceed their righteousness?

I’ve heard people say that since the Pharisees gave a tithe (10%), we must give at least 11% to exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees. Let me say it kindly but firmly: They Have Missed The Point! In fact, that sort of thinking demonstrates that they have fallen into the same trap that ensnared the Pharisees: thinking that a right relationship with God depends merely on rote obedience to commands.

The sixth commandment forbade murder. The Pharisees thought that as long as you don’t murder anyone, you’re covered. But Jesus taught that the unjustified anger and hatred leading up to murder offends God, not just the physical act of murder (Matthew 5:21-26).

The seventh command forbade adultery. Don’t have sexual relations with another’s spouse and you’re good, so the Pharisees would say. But Jesus taught that the lust leading up to the physical act was sin. The heart is important, not just the physical act (Matthew 5:27-30).

The rest of the sermon on the mount continues to emphasize the heart, not just rote commandment-keeping. God’s commandments are important! But God has ever and always wanted obedience from the heart, not mere mechanical compliance.