

Morality: Choosing God
Lesson 2 – Develop Morally

1. It has come to pass that there are many who, in the face of so much worldliness, will not take a strong, unyielding stand against “works of the flesh” even though Paul plainly taught that all who practice such will not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19, 21).
2. We need to pray that such is not the case, but, if it is - and there are grounds for concluding that it is, then this subject is definitely an important one. Our prayer that this subject may be of some help in encouraging God’s people to stand for truth on all matters.
 - 2.1. In that connection, let us note a crucial passage.
 - 2.1.1. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever...” (1 John 2:15- 17).
 - 2.2. Why did the Holy Spirit, through John, give us the prohibition to “Love not the world”? There are at least four good reasons.
 - 2.2.1. We are not to love “the world” and “the things of the world” because they exclude the love of God. No man can love both God and the world-they are mutually exclusive. The two affections cannot exist in the same heart.
 - 2.2.2. We are not to love “the world” and “the things of the world” because they are evil within and of themselves. “... the world lieth in wickedness” (1 John 5:19).
 - 2.2.3. We are not to love “the world” etc. because it is “passing away.”
 - 2.2.3.1. “The world” has no elements of permanence in it. Those who live their lives loving this “world” will pass away (be lost forever) but those who “do the will of God” will abide forever (live in eternity with God forever, Revelation 2:10; 21:22).
 - 2.2.3.2. Is it not the case that even men’s appetites for sensual matters will pass away? What then if a man has given his whole life in rebellion against God in order to pursue the satisfaction of such appetites? He who loses his soul loses all that gives worth or value to his existence.
 - 2.2.3.3. Even if men should retain their fleshly appetites, how would they satisfy them in hell? The “kiss of death” is upon “the world” - it is “passing away.”
 - 2.3. We should not love “the world” because there is something better we can do.
 - 2.3.1. It seems clear that John means for us to note a direct opposite:
 - 2.3.1.1. “the world passeth away,” and
 - 2.3.1.2. “He that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

- 2.3.2. The man who, in pride and arrogance, involves himself in the spirit of rebellion and, thus, asserts his own will as being more persuasive in his life than the will of God, will “pass away.”
 - 2.3.3. The man who, in humility and love, submits himself to God’s will and, thus, makes clear that God is paramount in his life, will abide forever (possess eternal life in heaven).
 - 2.3.4. To the end that men may be drawn closer to God by a prayerful consideration of the thought contained herein, we send forth this special issue on “worldliness.” Every article in this issue is designed toward helping men to see how and why they should avoid practicing the “works of the flesh.”
3. “Righteousness exalteth a nation...”(Proverbs14:34).
- 3.1. The recognition of that fact causes great concern about the development and maintenance of moral principles. That concern is magnified and pointed in the direction of the younger generation because the issues are more easily established and have a longer lasting effect when taught in the early years.
 - 3.1.1. “Train up a child in the way he should go” (Prov. 22:6).
 - 3.1.2. “All these things have I kept from my youth up” (Matthew 19:20).
 - 3.1.3. “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures” (2 Timothy 3:15).
 - 3.2. Certainly, it is fitting that emphasis be given to the morals of youth. It may very well be, however, that more effort has been aimed at describing expected moral principles and defining immorality than in really answering the appropriate questions and attacking the real causes of today's problems. Our goal is to identify what may be done to help improve the moral standards of the younger generation.
4. Develop Morally and Spiritually
- 4.1. I read once of a study that was conducted on the lives of two men and their descendants. Each man lived during the early 1800’s. One man taught his children Christian principles, the other man did not. The results are interesting.
 - 4.2. Max Jukes did not believe in training his children with Christian principles. He married a woman of similar belief. From this marriage came over a thousand descendants. Three hundred of them died prematurely. One hundred were bound to the penitentiary for an average of more than ten years each. One hundred and ninety became prostitutes. There were one hundred alcoholics and the family cost the state of New York well over a million dollars! They made no lasting contribution to the world.
 - 4.3. Jonathan Edwards believes in Christian principles. He married a woman of similar belief. They trained their children with the Bible. From this marriage survived over seven-hundred descendants. Of this number, three hundred were preachers, sixty-five were college professors, thirteen were university presidents, sixty were authors, three were United States congressmen and one vice-president of the United States. Only Aaron

Burr, a grandson of Edwards who married a girl of questionable character, cost the state of New York a single penny.

- 4.4. Can one decision be that important? I believe it can.
5. Joshua 24:15 - "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."