

WHAT IS MORALITY?

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are "More Than Conquerors" in Morality.
2. What is **morality**?

DISCUSSION:

I. **Morality, According To Etymology.**

- A. Morals: (www.etymonline.com).
 1. mid-14c., "pertaining to character or temperament" (good or bad) ...
 2. directly from Latin *moralis* "proper behavior of a person in society,"
 3. literally "pertaining to manners,"
 4. coined by Cicero ("De Fato," II.i) to translate Greek *ethikos* ... from Latin *mos* ... "one's disposition," in plural, "mores, customs, manners, morals."
- B. Ethics: (www.etymonline.com).
 1. "the science of morals,"
 2. c. 1600, plural of Middle English *ethik* "study of morals."

II. **Morality, According To Modern Society.**

- A. Moral: "Concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour" (*Oxford*).
 1. Sub-definition — "Concerned with or derived from the code of behaviour that is considered right or acceptable in a particular society."
 2. The problem with modern society's definition of morality is that it changes constantly, instead of following an unchanging standard.
- B. Ethics: "Moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity" (*Oxford*).
- C. Many follow a modern system of ethics that is governed by humanism.
 1. **Humanism embraces atheism** — the religion that believes there is no God.
 2. **Humanism embraces evolutionism** — a fallacious attempt to explain the origin of the universe and its contents without an Originator/Creator.
 3. **Humanism embraces postmodernism** — go against the norm, follow your heart; if it feels good, it is good.
 4. **Humanism embraces hedonism**, personal pleasure/self-indulgence is the highest good
 5. **Humanism denies absolutism**, that there is an absolute standard for ethics and morality.
- D. Humanism claims the only system of ethics we follow is what man devises.

III. **Morality, According To Theology.**

- A. *Ethos* in the New Testament is found as: "custom," "manner," or "habit."
 1. To make it good or bad, it has to have a word to modify it.
 2. *And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the **custom** of the feast* (Luke 2:42).

3. *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the **manner** of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching* (Hebrews 10:25).
 4. *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good **manners*** (1 Corinthians 15:33).
 5. Today, to be moral, is to choose that which is right, and to be immoral is to do that which is wrong.
- B. God created man upright, good, with the ability to choose, and instruction of how to make good choices.
1. *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die* (Genesis 2:17).
 - a. *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: (3:4).*
 - b. *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil (3:5).*
 2. *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live* (Deuteronomy 31:19).
 3. *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD* (Joshua 24:15).
 4. *O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps* (Jeremiah 10:23).
- C. Moral issues today are often portrayed as the "big" three: drugs, sex, and money.
1. Morality, or choosing to do what is right, involves much more than what we rank as the "big" sins.
 2. Immorality, or doing wrong, includes all sins.
 - a. Lying is immoral.
 - b. Vulgar language is immoral.
 - c. Pride is immoral.
 - d. Dishonesty is immoral.
 - e. Divisiveness is immoral.
 - f. Disregard for authority is immoral.
 - g. Complaining is immoral.
- D. *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law* (1 John 3:4).

CONCLUSION:

1. We are *more than conquerors through Him that loved us*.
2. In Christ, we can conquer sin because He *knew no sin* (2 Corinthians 5:21; cf. 1 John 3:5).