

# ***DRILLING BIBLE BASICS (X)***

## **MORALITY**

### Introduction

- 1) Christians are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly in our present age (Titus 2:11-12)
- 2) We are to be blameless and harmless children of God, shining as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Phil. 2:15)
- 3) It is becoming more challenging to live with godly morals in this present immoral world; we need to be serious and get back to basics about God's teaching on morality

### **I) Basis of True Morality**

- A) **Morality** = character of being in accord with principles or standards of righteousness
  - 1) These standards are contained in a code of ethics – **Bible**
- B) Man was created with an ability to know what he “ought” to do (2 Pet. 3:11)
- C) Morality originates with God, who is the source of purpose and order in creation (Rom. 1:20 – *kosmos* – order, arrangement)
- D) God is holy (Isa. 6:3), just and righteous (Psa. 89:14), good (Psa. 106:1), perfect (Matt. 5:48); creator of all that is good (Gen. 1:31; Jas. 1:17)
  - 1) Man is created in the image of God – a moral being who is to seek, know, and walk the right way (Prov. 4:23-27; 1 Pet. 1:15-16)

### **II) Modern Philosophies that Encourage Immoral Living**

- A) **Modernism** – denial of deity and the miraculous (denial of resurrection – 1 Cor. 15:32-34)
- B) **Hedonism** – attaining the greatest possible pleasure (Titus 3:3)
- C) **Evolution** – soulless and meaningless human existence (Psa. 14:1)
- D) **Relativism** – no absolute standard of right and wrong; all viewpoints valid (Prov. 16:2)
- E) **False Religion** – denial of God's righteous standards (Rom. 1:24-25)

### **III) Consequences of Immoral Living**

- A) Practice and approval of immoral living brings the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18-32)
- B) Immoral living keeps one from inheriting the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9-10)
- C) Immoral people are lost and need salvation in Christ (1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 13:13-14)

### **IV) The Need for Moral Living**

- A) God's righteous standard needs to be applied to our lives (2 Pet. 1:3-4; Rom. 12:1-2)
  - 1) See “Principles to Help Determine Moral and Godly Conduct” (back)
- B) We have been called to holy living (Eph. 4:22-24; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:1-7)
- C) Warnings against immorality (1 Jn. 2:15-17; Gal. 5:16-21; 6:7-8; Eph. 5:3-12)
  - 1) **Sexuality** – pre-marital, adultery, homosexuality, transgender, pornography
  - 2) **Language** – using God's name in vain, vulgarity, disrespectfulness
  - 3) **Modesty** – clothing (short, tight, sheer) that highlights, or fails to cover, nakedness
  - 4) **Recreation** – mixed swimming, dancing, gambling, extreme sports
  - 5) **Drugs** – social and binge drinking of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, cocaine, street drugs
  - 6) **Money** – gambling addiction, greed, love of money, materialism
  - 7) **Integrity** – lying; cheating on tests, taxes; stealing at work, store
  - 8) **Attitude** – road rage, abuse, radical causes and groups, strife, envy

### Conclusion

God has given us a perfect system of ethics in His word. We need to apply the principles and warnings in our daily lives. We need to be different than the world, and prepare for eternal glory.

## **Principles to Help Determine Moral and Godly Conduct**

- 1) Does the Bible prohibit this conduct in either general or specific terms? (Eph. 4:28; 5:5)
- 2) Will this conduct be good stewardship of my ability and effort, time and opportunities, possessions, and health? (1 Pet. 4:10-11)
- 3) Will this conduct encourage others to serve God better, or will it set a bad example? (1 Tim. 4:12)
- 4) Will this conduct place me in circumstances that help or that hinder my own service to God? (Prov. 22:3)
- 5) Will this conduct lead me to respect or to disrespect properly ordained authority? (Rom. 13:1; Eph. 5:22; 6:1, 5)
- 6) Is this conduct consistent with the standards I profess to follow and expect of others? (Matt. 23:2-4)
- 7) Will this conduct harmonize with proper priorities or cause me to neglect them? (Matt. 6:24, 33)
- 8) Will I be acting in love for God and man? (Matt. 22:37-39)
- 9) Would I want to be doing this when Jesus returns? (1 Thess. 5:2) Would I do it in His presence? (Prov. 15:3)
- 10) Would Jesus do this? (Matt. 10:24-25)