

# Foundations of Christian Behavior

# Time of Cultural Transition

- Cultural norms are changing
- Old standards are questioned
- Multiple new standards are proposed
- **Is there a way people ought to behave?**

# How It All Started to Change

- Separate God from Morality
- Moral Standards Loosen
- Standard is a Relative Term

# Isaiah 5:20 (NIV)

- Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

# Romans 12:2 (NIV)

- Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

# Reasons Why

- Four Basic Foundations/ Reasons Why Followers of Jesus have a particular standard for behavior
- **Test at the End – Pay Attention**



**GOD CREATED  
EVERYTHING**

# Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.



# I Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

- But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

# God Defines Good

- Epicurus, an ancient philosopher said that good was defined by feeling.
- Scripture says good is defined by God.
- God defines what is good and evil in terms of His character.

**GOD MADE US TO  
REFLECT HIM**

# Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)

- Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth." **So God created man in his own image**, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

# Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)

- And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--**to the praise of his glory.**

# Because We Are God's Image...

- We were made to understand and care for the world.
- We were made to praise and glorify God.
- Man is the only moral creature.
- Sinful man has creativity because we are made in God's image.

# Why Other Ethical Systems Work

- The best parts of all ethical systems agree with Scripture because man is made in the image of God.
- Other philosophical systems will fall short, because man's perspective is finite and limited, and God's perspective is infinite and unlimited.

# Genesis 9:5-6 (NIV)

- I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. **Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.**



**GOD REVEALED  
HIMSELF**

# Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV)

- He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that **man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

# Micah 6:8 (NIV)

- He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

## II Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

- All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

## **II Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)**

- **Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

# Hebrews 1:1-2 (NIV)

- In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.**


# What This Means

- God Made Us
- We Understand What He Wants
- That means We Have No Excuse For Not Doing It.

# Romans 1:28-32 (NIV)

- Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,





slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.**

**GOD HAS REDEEMED  
US IN CHRIST**

## Romans 5:8 (NIV)

- But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## Galatians 3:13-14 (NIV)

- **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.**

# Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV)

- But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "*Abba, Father.*" **So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.**

# Redemption in Christ is Our Motivation

- We have gratitude, thankfulness and joy because Jesus found us in our sin and rescued us from the wrath and justice of God.

# In Man Made Religion

## Man is the Focus

- Man makes up the rules
- Man tries to be good enough for God.
- Man creates a God he is able to serve.
- Man creates a God who will accept him as he is and not expect him to change.

# The Bible is God's Story

- God loved and desired a relationship with man.
- God created man for the praise of His glory and to share in His glory.
- Man rejected God and chose to believe a lie, exchanging God's glory to follow his own desires.



# The Bible is God's Story

- God reached out to man through visions, law, prophets, miraculous signs and mighty works to reveal Himself and to try to turn man's heart back to Him.
- Finally, God through His Son Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice, and took on Himself the sins we had committed and bore the penalty for those sins which was death.
- Jesus died so that we could live.

# What Happens Next


- Whoever places their trust in Jesus by submitting to baptism in Him is now reconciled to God.
- We have mercy beyond anything we ever deserved.
- We have been adopted into God's family.
- Our names are written in the book of life.

# What Happens Next

- We are seated with Him in the heavenly places.
- We are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.
- We are citizens of God's kingdom.
- We wait for the time when Jesus will return and we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

## II Peter 3:10-13 (NIV)

- But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. **Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?**



**You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.** That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

# This Changes Everything

- What motivates a Christian to live like a Christian ought to?
- We have been rescued from God's justice.
- We have been reconciled to God.
- We have been adopted by God as His children.
- We are citizens of heaven.
- We live in anticipation of the day God will make His promise reality.

# Difference in Motivation

- The difference between good people and the Christian is the basis of their motivation.
- For the Christian it is a response to what God in Christ has done for you.
- Everything we do is for the glory of God.
- **PROMISED QUIZ**

# Why does a Christian behave like a Christian?

- 1. GOD CREATED EVERYTHING**
- 2. GOD MADE US TO REFLECT HIM**
- 3. GOD REVEALED HIMSELF**
- 4. GOD REDEEMED US IN CHRIST**



# Specific Questions

- Why shouldn't old people be encouraged or forced to die when they are taking too many resources to keep them alive?
- Why should women make the same salary as men in the workforce?
- Why should unborn children, or born children for that matter have any rights?

# Specifics continued

- Given the current economic situation, why shouldn't I live with my friend of the opposite sex until such time as we might or might not decide to get married?
- What's wrong with "hooking up" or having "friends with benefits" if I am unmarried, or even if I am married?

# Specifics continued

- What's the big deal about homosexuality and same sex marriage?
- Can a homosexual person even be a follower of Jesus?
- Why can't everyone just agree that "my truth" is the way things are?

# Specifics continued

- Is shoplifting okay as long as its something I really need?
- Is it okay to cheat the government as long as I don't get too greedy?
- Should capital punishment be abolished?
- Should people be allowed to say things I disagree with?

# What About You?

- Are you a follower of Jesus?
- If not – How about today?