

Authority and Morality

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- 2 Timothy 3:13
- The **History of Man** is a **history of sin!**
 - Genesis 6:5.
 - Genesis 18:20:19:5.
 - Genesis 19:32-38.
 - Isaiah 1:4-6; 3:9; 5:20.
 - Jeremiah 8:5,10,12.
 - Romans 1:24,26-32.

Some of Us Remember:

- When **Abortion** was unthinkable!
- When a Stigma was attached to **Divorce**.
- When **Homosexuality** was frowned upon.
- When **Marriage was considered sacred**.
- When **Profanity was not allowed** on the public airwaves, when many business deals were sealed by a sincere handshake!
 - In a few short years we, as a nation, have come “a long way,” but in the wrong direction!
 - Immorality must be addressed; we must get back to the basics! Title: **Authority and Morality**

Definitions:

- **Authority** – “the power to enforce obedience; right to control, command, or make decisions,” *World Book Dictionary*.
- **Morality** – “a sense of behavioral conduct that differentiates intentions, decisions and actions between those that are good (or right) and bad (or wrong). Relates to “codes of conduct or social mores that distinguish between right and wrong in the human society,” *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia.

Some **Improper** Standards For Determining the nature of Moral Conduct:

- One’s **Conscience**. Acts 23:1; 26:9-11.
- One’s **Friends**. I Corinthians 15:33; Matthew 7:13,14; Numbers 14:29-30; 2 Peter 2:5.
- **Feelings**, Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 28:26.
- **Situation Ethics**. Situationalists say there are no moral absolutes, everything is situational. Judges 17:5; 21:25.

God is the Authority Who Determines Morality!

- God is **Creator and Sustainer**, Genesis 1:26-27; Acts 17:28; Hebrews 12:9.
- Consider Societies which have Consciously tried to exist **apart from God**:
 - The **U.S.S.R.** tried to build an empire based on godly atheism & failed miserably.
 - Consider **Germany** prior to, and during, World War II.
 - Consider the current direction **of our nation!**

The Foundation for Morality is the Character of God!

- “**God is Love,**” I John 4:8.
 - He commands us to love one another, Matthew 22:35-40. Thus we obey Matthew 7:12.
- “**God is light,**” I John 1:5.
 - Thus we must “walk in the light,” I John 1:7.
- **God is “Holy,”** I Peter 1:15-16.
 - Therefore we must be holy, I Peter 1:15-16.

The Guide Book Which Sets forth the Standards of Morality is the Bible!

- Consider the 10 commandments as set forth in the Law of Moses, Exodus 20:1-17.
- Consider *the Beatitudes* as set forth in Matthew 5:3-9.
- Consider the forbidden “works of the flesh,” as identified in Galatians 5:19-21.
- Consider the commanded “*fruit of the Spirit,*” as designated in Galatians 5:22-23.

Conclusion:

- It cannot be successfully denied; **God is the Authority** behind True Morality; eliminate faith in God and morality plummets, Psalm 14:1; Romans 1:20-32.
- But God exists! You and I **are accountable** to Him, Romans 14:12. Hence, we **must obey** Him to be saved! Matthew 7:21.