



High School Teacher

Moral Purity— Behaving According to God’s Standards

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Volume 9, No. 3

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Lesson 1	The Source of Behavior	5
	June 7, 2009	
Lesson 2	The Principles of Righteousness	12
	June 14, 2009	
Lesson 3	The One True God	18
	June 21, 2009	
Lesson 4	Recognizing False Worship	24
	June 28, 2009	
Lesson 5	Bad Language	30
	July 5, 2009	
Lesson 6	One Day in Seven	36
	July 12, 2009	
Lesson 7	Treating Your Loved Ones Well	42
	July 19, 2009	
Lesson 8	Respect Human Life	49
	July 26, 2009	
Lesson 9	Adultery and Fornication	55
	August 2, 2009	
Lesson 10	Things That Aren't Yours	62
	August 9, 2009	
Lesson 11	Watching What You Say	69
	August 16, 2009	
Lesson 12	Wanting What Others Have	75
	August 23, 2009	
Lesson 13	Positive Morality	82
	August 30, 2009	

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

1. We believe that love one for another as Jesus loves the believer manifests our discipleship, proves our love for God and symbolizes our authority as New Testament churches. Love is therefore the great commandment of the LORD Jesus Christ upon which all others are dependent (Matt. 22:35-40; John 13:34, 35; John 15:12; 1 John 4:7-21; 1 John 5:1-3; Rev. 2:4, 5).
2. We believe in the infallible, verbal inspiration of the whole Bible and that the Bible is the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice (Psalm 119:160; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
3. We believe in the personal triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in divine perfection (Matt. 28:19).
4. We believe in the Genesis account of Creation (Gen. 1; 2).
5. We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, the archenemy of God and man, the unholy god of this world, and that his destiny is the eternal lake of fire (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:11-19; Matt. 25:41; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:10-17; Rev. 20:10).
6. We believe in the virgin birth and sinless humanity of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:18-20; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22).
7. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ (John 10:30; John 1:1, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19).
8. We believe the Holy Spirit is the divine Administrator for Jesus Christ in His churches (Luke 24:49; John 14:16, 17; Acts 1:4, 5, 8; Acts 2:1-4).
9. We believe that miraculous spiritual manifestation gifts were done away when the Bible was completed. Faith, Hope and Love are the vital abiding Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor. chapters 12—14).
10. We believe that Man was created in the image of God and lived in innocency until he fell by voluntary transgression from his sinless state, the result being that all mankind are sinners (Gen. 1:26; Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12, 19).
11. We believe that the suffering and death of Jesus Christ was substitutionary for all mankind and is efficacious only to those who believe (Isa. 53:6; Heb. 2:9; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2).
12. We believe in the bodily resurrection and ascension of Christ and the bodily resurrection of His saints (Matt. 28:1-7; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:42-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

13. We believe in the premillennial, personal, bodily return of Christ as the crowning event of the Gentile age. This event will include the resurrection of the righteous to eternal heaven, and the Millennium will be followed by the resurrection of the unrighteous unto eternal punishment in the lake of fire and that the righteous shall enter into the heaven age (John 14:1-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19; Rev. 20:4-6; Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 21:8).
14. We believe that the depraved sinner is saved wholly by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and the requisites to regeneration are repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 13:3-5; John 3:16-18; Acts 20:21; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8, 9), and that the Holy Spirit convicts sinners, regenerates, seals, secures, and indwells every believer (John 3:6; John 16:8, 9; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Eph. 4:30; Titus 3:5).
15. We believe that all who trust Jesus Christ for salvation are eternally secure in Him and shall not perish (John 3:36; John 5:24; John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:35-39; Heb. 10:39; 1 Peter 1:5).
16. We believe that God deals with believers as His children, that He chastises the disobedient, and that He rewards the obedient (Matt. 16:27; Matt. 25:14-23; John 1:12; Heb. 12:5-11; 2 John 8; Rev. 22:12).
17. We believe that Jesus Christ established His church during His ministry on earth and that it is always a local, visible assembly of scripturally baptized believers in covenant relationship to carry out the Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, and each church is an independent, self-governing body, and no other ecclesiastical body may exercise authority over it. We believe that Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to the New Testament churches only, and that He promised the perpetuity of His churches (Matt. 4:18-22; Matt. 16:18; Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 1:14-20; John 1:35-51; Eph. 3:21).
18. We believe that there are two pictorial ordinances in the Lord's churches: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Scriptural baptism is the immersion of penitent believers in water, administered by the authority of a New Testament church in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Lord's Supper is a memorial ordinance, restricted to the members of the church observing the ordinance (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 8:12, 38; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 5:11-13; 1 Cor. 11:1, 2, 17-20, 26).

19. We believe that there are two divinely appointed offices in a church, pastors and deacons, to be filled by men whose qualifications are set forth in Titus and 1 Timothy.
20. We believe that all associations, fellowships, and committees are, and properly should be, servants of, and under control of the churches (Matt. 20:25-28).
21. We believe in freedom of worship without interference from the government and affirm our belief in civil obedience, unless the laws and regulations of civil government run contrary to the Holy Scriptures (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15).

1 The Source of Behavior

Scripture: Matthew 5:27, 28, 33, 34, 43, 44

Aim: By the end of the lesson the student will discuss the condition of the heart that is reflected in living.

NOTE: This is not a traditional help for the teacher; instead, it is a day-by-day guide to aid the teacher in lesson preparation. Use of this guide will assure that the teacher is prepared and that adequate lesson material is available for the class time allotted.

The help for the teacher will be integrated with the student lesson material. The preparation time suggested is ten to fifteen minutes each day for five days. Each section of the lesson material is covered in one of the preparation days. This will allow the teacher, whether a professional or a novice, to be prepared to present each lesson with a minimum of effort.

The key to success is the regular and consistent use of the material. It is vital that the teacher devote a small amount of time each day to lesson preparation.



Daily Plan

Introducing the Lesson

1. Read the Scripture passage for Lesson 1. Read the **Text Commentary** section of the teacher's help. Make a note of any comments that might provoke questions from the class.

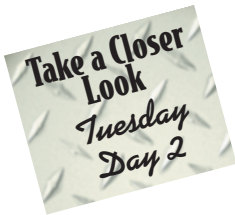
2. Read the “Start Here” section of the student quarterly. Consider the following questions to use in the introduction of your lesson.

- A. How would you define *morality*?
- B. Where can we find reliable standards for our behavior?

3. Look up any articles you can find on the Sermon on the Mount. Visit your church library or ask your pastor for help.

4. Write at least two good declarative sentences you can use to begin your lesson.

5. Pray and ask the Lord to guide you in your preparation.



Explaining the Scriptures

1. Read again the Bible passage used for the text of the lesson. Refer to the notes you made on Day 1 concerning any questions on the comments or the text verses.

2. Read the “Take a Closer Look” section of the student quarterly. Consider the following questions for use in presentation of the lesson material.

- A. What is the first and fundamental step in morality?
- B. Can we be truly moral if we behave only on the outside? Why or why not?
- C. What are some sins that most people have not committed on the outside?
- D. Can we escape to our private thoughts and then do anything we might want to there?
- E. Where is sin actually born?
- F. How is language related to morality?
- G. Is it all right to talk to ourselves using any kind of language we want to? Why or why not?
- H. Is the world divided into friends and enemies?
 - I. How should we see other people? How did Jesus see them?

3. Use any reference materials you have available to answer any questions you may have discovered from your reading of the text verses.

4. Pray about what you have learned and about your preparation for this lesson.



Applying the Material to the Lives of the Students

1. Once more read the Bible passage used as the text of the lesson.
2. Read the “Perspectives” section of the student quarterly. Consider the following questions for class discussion.
 - A. Are our motives and our actions ever completely separated?
 - B. If we are right inside, will we always behave properly on the outside?
 - C. How will being a “rule keeper” change us?
 - D. How will seeing things as God sees them change us?
3. Write down a specific lesson you have learned from your study that you want to be certain to share with your class.
4. Pray about what you have learned and about your preparation to teach.



Making Positive Changes in the Lives of My Students

1. Read again the Bible passage used as the lesson text.
2. Read the “Building Blocks” section of the student quarterly. Choose some of the following questions to challenge your class members to make changes in their lives based on their understanding of the Bible.
 - A. Why isn’t it enough just to tell someone who is misbehaving to stop?
 - B. How does the Bible describe the hearts of men in Jeremiah 17:9?
 - C. What are the two divergent views of humanity?
 - D. What is the biblical view of humanity?
3. At this point be sure to have answers to all the questions suggested here and in the lesson material. If you have any other matters that you want to

discuss with your class, note them now so that you can research them before class time.

4. Pray about the lesson material asking God to lead you in your preparation.



Taking the Lesson Material into Our Future

1. Read once more the Bible passage used as the lesson text. Remember the best way to learn the Bible is to study the Bible.
2. Read the “Springboard” section of the student quarterly.
3. Are there students in your class who have personal spiritual decisions to make? Don’t be confrontational, but present an opportunity for open and frank discussion of spiritual problems.
4. Present the plan of salvation. Those who are lost need to hear it, and those who are saved need to be reminded of it.
5. Plan a discussion of the various sources of standards of behavior. Discuss what is called situation morality.
6. Make your own brief outline of how you intend to use your class time.
7. Gather any materials you will need for the class and organize them as you intend to use them.
8. Pray again. Ask God to guide you and prepare your heart to teach His Word.

Text Commentary

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared plainly that He had not come to destroy the Law. He came to fulfill the Law and He did that by personally keeping every part of it. Jesus kept the Law as Moses gave it, not as the Pharisees and scribes interpreted it. He amplified the Law to apply the moral principles in it to the hearts of men as well as to their outward lives. Jesus not only kept the Law in His physical life, but He also kept it in His heart. This was the teaching that He was trying to impart in the verses of the text.

For purposes of the lesson, only selected verses are used here, but it would be well to read the entire Sermon on the Mount in preparation for this lesson.

To understand morality we need to first understand that standards are necessary to avoid chaos. We all may have a watch and still not know what time it is. It is only when all our watches are set to the same time that we have a regulated society. A compass is useless unless it reliably points to the magnetic north. If your compass points in a different direction, we can never be agreed about the direction we should travel. In a similar way, we will behave according to some kind of internal governing mechanism.

That mechanism may be our own lusts and desires. We may simply do whatever feels good to us at the moment, but clearly, what feels good to you may feel bad to me. We may behave as the various situations we encounter direct. We can draw our morality from our situations, seeking to do what seems right at the moment, but the moments will change. Many situations will be new and strange, and we will not know what to do when we encounter them.

The better way is to draw our moral standards from the Word of God. When we do this, we can have a mutually accepted set of principles. The greatest benefit is that we have a lasting set of standards. Heaven and earth will pass away but the Word of God will not. Throughout time and even on into eternity, we can be sure that, when we follow the Bible, we are doing right. No other set of guidelines can offer us this security.

It is important to note that no one is moral by nature. We are sinners by nature, and we will sin. We can learn right behavior, but we can only learn it through our association with Jesus. The beginning of morality is salvation. When we allow Jesus to come into our hearts, we lay the foundation on which we can build a right and God-honoring life. If we do not have this foundation in our hearts, everything we try to build will eventually fall. As Jesus said, it is like building a house on the sand. No matter how carefully we may build, the foundation will give way and the house will fall.

If we would be moral, we must look beyond our outward behavior to our inner motives. We can never separate the two. One great illustration of this is the matter of adultery. Adultery is sexual relationship outside of marriage. Within a marriage this relationship is good and proper and there is no condemnation in it. But the motive changes everything. When lust, not love, is the motive, sin is the result. The sin is born in the heart before it is ever manifest in the life.

Jesus taught in Mark 7:21, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders." What is in the heart precedes what happens in the life. This is why we need to focus on our hearts first. One of the ways we do this is through language. We think

in words, and, if the words we use to form our thoughts are vile, then our behavior will take on the vile nature of our words.

Most people seem to think that they can be whatever they want in their imagination with no harm done. This is a lie contradicted by Proverbs 23:7, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” King David declared in Psalm 53:1, “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.” Atheism begins in the heart. So does all manner of mischief. We are what we think, and, when we think evil, we will soon find ourselves doing evil. This is why it is vital that we control what goes on in our minds. We cannot treat our minds like some kind of garbage dump where all sorts of filth is deposited and then wonder why we behave poorly.

Some may say, I watch that or I read that, but it doesn't change me. This is nonsense. Why do you think they run commercials on television? It is precisely because what we see and hear does change us.

In matters of behavior and morality, love is our reliable guide. Jesus taught that all the Law was summed up in the simple truth that we are to love God supremely and then to love each other as we love ourselves. When we do this, we have found a key to consistent moral behavior.

Answer Key

Answers given in this section apply to questions in the *High School Journal*.

Start Here

1. Morality
2. So that we can make the right choices
3. The Bible

Take a Closer Look

Matthew 5:43, 44, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

Perspectives

1. Do—difference
2. Do—difference

- 3. Rule keeper
- 4. See—God—them

Building Blocks

The biblical view is that men are sinners who may occasionally do good things. This can be discussed in class.

Springboard

- 1. Various answers.
- 2. No
- 3. They are standards we should accept.

The **JERUSALEM** Priority
outreach emphasis
"And ye shall be witnesses unto me" Acts 1:8

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www.thejerusalempriority.org**