

CHRISTIANITY, MORALITY AND CONSCIENCE.

TEXT: James 2:1-4, 14-24

We have come loose from our moral moorings in the brave new world; we find ourselves adrift in uncharted seas and have decided to toss away the compass. - *Ravi Zacharias*

Is Christianity exclusive to morality and conscience or inclusive? In other words can you separate morality on its own without Christianity? The world is drifting away from reasonable morality and I am puzzled at the poor moral laxity experienced in today's church also, coupled with the lack of conscience displayed by many of us who are in the church in our days.

Does the Bible have anything to say about morality as well as conscience? If it does what are they? If it has much to say, why have many Christians apparently outlawed morality and conscience. Can morality and a pure conscience replace Christianity? Is there a clash between morality and Christianity? This is an era when people are taught a radicalized self-acceptance. Nothing appears wrong in itself. Anyone who stands on the side of morals is castigated and called all kinds of names like bigot, 'shamers', We always heard that premarital sex was not only bad but very destructive to the teenagers who partook in it but recently a study came out and indicated that it is actually a good thing to partake in.

The Christian has become so bankrupt on many moral issues that he even shames himself to contribute on present day issues.

But does the Bible have any say on morality and conscience?

Definition of morality:

Morality is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "conformity to ideals of right human conduct". It is behavior that is regarded as correct and subjected to a series of codes of conduct by a human being.

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy established that the term "morality" can be used either (1) descriptively to refer to some codes of conducts put forward by a society, or some other group, such as a religion, or accepted by an individual for her own behavior or (2) normatively to refer to a code of conduct that, given specified conditions, would be put forward by all rational persons.

(Dr. Samuel Galloza – Morality and Christianity.

What is the Christian's definition of morality and does God have a standard on morality?

The Bible contains a list of what is right and wrong.

Mark 7:21-23, Rom 1:26-31, I Cor 6:9-11, Gal 5:19-21, Col 3:5-11,

II Tim 3:16-17, Philippians 4:8, I Peter 2:12, Acts 24:16, Acts 24:15, Hebrews 5:14

What is the difference between virtue and morals?

Is this topic relevant to the Christians today? Why?

How to examine our morals in the light of Eph 4:8 and the following.

1. Will my attitude be a display of a good steward?
2. Examine your morals in terms of how you use your ability, time, possessions, money etc I Peter 4:10, Titus 2:14, I Tim 6:9-10, 10:17-19
3. Will our attitude encourage others to serve God better? II Cor 6:3, Matthew 18:6-7,
4. Will my attitude help or hinder my service to God; Prov 22:3, Matthew 6:13
5. How will I feel when others begin to do this same thing? Matthew 23:3-4, I Cor 6:12,23
6. Will your attitude show love? I Cor 8:13,
7. What is your motive?
8. Will you be very glad if Jesus were to catch you in the act?
9. Finally will Jesus do it?

Why are some Christians morally bankrupt?

I Cor 15:33,