

Why Stand For The Truth?

In the Garden in Eden the serpent was able to deny and twist God's word and lead mankind into a fallen condition. As a result mankind now has an inherent unrighteousness which can only be overcome by receiving God's gift of righteousness through belief in His Son. This makes us a new creation and opens up for us a new relationship with the Living God, one that is based in righteousness. One of the tests of growth of this new creation is an obedience to the righteousness of God. We now have the ability through the Holy Spirit to live a righteous life. It is not a self-righteous life that is based on personal standards of right and wrong but on the divine standards set forth in the Word of God.

In the world as we know it, truth has been abandoned for a counterfeit of it. The world believe today that righteousness is relative to the circumstances and society one lives in rather than divinely established principles of right and wrong. Many believe that God is who you make Him or believe Him to be rather than Who He Is. Many Christians have even rejected the truth that the Bible is the totally inspired Word of God. As a result, standards have been compromised and the word has been twisted. The most important battle in the world today is raging for men's souls. Where are the people of character? Many today do not consider character to be important, nor do they know what it is. Let's take a look.

Character And The Christian Life.

1. Character will not save, but should be an important part of the Christian life. Titus 3:5-7
2. Lack of character in a Christian leader is unacceptable, because they especially are to be "above reproach." 1 Tim 3:1-2; Titus 1:7
3. Believers' thoughts are to dwell on virtuous things. Phil 4:8
 - A. This would exclude how to use others or manipulate circumstances for personal gain.
 - B. It would include speaking the whole truth.
4. Believers are to lawfully use the Law to identify and recognize sin. 1 Tim 1:8-11
5. Sinful lifestyles are to be abandoned. Rom 6:12-14
6. Believers are also to flee from a sinful lifestyle. 1 Tim 6:10-11
7. Believers are to seek to live a godly life. Titus 2:11-12
8. Believers especially, as partakers of the Divine Nature are to live moral lives, growing in love. 2 Peter 1:4-10
9. Believers are to speak truth to one another. Eph 4:25
10. Believers are to honor one another. Rom 12:10-11
11. Some people have infiltrated the church with a distortion of grace. Jude 4
 - A. Grace is distorted when it becomes a license to sin.

Gal 5:13-14

- B. Grace is distorted when the cost to our Lord is forgotten.
Heb 10:26-30**
 - C. While it is true that all sin is sin, it is equally true that different sins carry different temporal consequences. Cf Mosaic Law**
- 12. That which is not truth is to be exposed. Eph 5:1-16**
 - 13. Those believers who live worldly lives and claim it to be godly are to be avoided. 2 Tim 3:1-6**