

Do The Right Thing Because It's The Right Thing

(Developed from a sermon outline by Randy Jones)

Introduction:

- A. Questions: How much do you want to go to Heaven?
 - 1. How much of yourself are you willing to invest or commit to get there?
 - 2. How can we know what is the right thing to do?
- B. This not a subject that can be discussed rationally in any forum except faith
 - 1. Ethics and philosophy - There is no such thing as a choice that is right under all circumstances
 - 2. Psychology and sociology - There is no such thing as truly unselfish behavior (psychological egoism)
 - 3. Biology and sociology - Altruism is counter to the instinct for survival
 - 4. Politics - The right thing is inconvenient or impractical

I. DO THE RIGHT THING

- A. Christians should always do the right thing, especially when no one is watching or will ever know.
 - 1. While we are aware that God is watching, we do what is right because we love God and pleasing Him gives us fulfillment
 - 2. If we live as God would have us live, with our priorities and motives in order, then whatever happens to or around us will not truly matter
 - 3. When faced with temptation, our conscience tells us what is right
 - 4. But the longer we linger thinking about it, the more we rationalize our way into yielding to the temptation - Rom. 7:21-23
- B. But doing the right thing is not limited to resisting temptation; it is much more
 - 1. Doing good for others when the opportunity presents itself.
 - a. Gal. 6:10; James 4:17
 - 2. Doing the right thing when faced with pressure from others, not just limited to the young.
 - a. Ex. 23:2; Job 31:34
 - 3. Doing the right thing when no one is watching or will ever know
 - a. Do you think bad thoughts about others?
 - b. Gal. 6:7; 1Peter 1:16
 - 4. Doing the right thing is easier in the long run. The consequences will be easier to bear, it is less work than trying to maintain a lie to sustain it, and you will sleep better with a clear conscience

II. WHAT IS THE STANDARD FOR THE RIGHT THING?

- A. We know that God is truth, goodness, and righteousness; and that knowing this, we can also know that following what God commanded and living by those things revealed, we are doing the right thing in God's eyes.
- B. God is the standard of truth. 29 of 39 uses of the word truth in the book of Psalm, it is used in reference to God's nature, word, and will.
 - 1. Psalm 100:5, 119:160
 - 2. Jesus as God the Son is the standard of truth - John 8:31-32, 14:6

3. The Holy Spirit as Deity is the standard of truth - John 16:13
- C. The right thing is not subject to conscience, peer pressure, morals of current society, etc.; the right thing is what God says it is.
 1. The apostle Paul felt he was doing the right thing - Acts 26:9
 2. Helping others is the right thing - Matt. 25:31-46
 3. Taking responsibility for self is the right thing - Num. 32:23; Ecc. 11:9
 4. Courageously setting a good example is the right thing - 1Tim. 4:12
 5. Hard work is the right thing - Col. 3:22-24
 6. Putting God and His word first in everything is the right thing to do
 - a. Ecc. 12:13; Matt. 6:33
 7. Loving those who cause us pain or make our lives difficult is the right thing to do - Matt. 5:43-45
 8. Doing the right thing when no one is watching is the right thing to do
 - a. Matt. 6:2-6, 16-18
 9. Do the right thing because God takes it personally - Matt. 25:31-46
 10. Do the right thing because it will define you. It will reveal to you and all potential observers whether you are strong in the Lord or a spiritual weakling. Let your unashamed Christian influence show that you are different from the world.
- D. Your life can be changed forever in an instant by a bad decision you make.
 1. Gen. 3:5-7; Luke 22:59-62
 2. Without exception it is always right to do the right thing

Conclusion:

- A. How much do you want to go to Heaven?
- B. How far are you willing to go in order to get there?