

## DO THE RIGHT THING, BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Question: How much do you want to go to Heaven? How much are you willing to invest of yourself or commit of yourself to get there?

How can we know what is the "right thing to do"? We know that GOD is TRUTH, and GOODNESS, and RIGHTEOUSNESS. And so knowing these things about GOD, we can also know that **following** what GOD has commanded of us and **living** by those things revealed to us by him, then we are "**doing the right thing**" IN GOD'S EYES.

### 1. REMEMBER-GOD IS THE STANDARD OF TRUTH!

At least twenty-nine out of thirty-nine times in the book of Psalms alone is the word "TRUTH" used in reference to GOD'S very nature, his word and his will. Here are just two:

**Ps 100:5** For the LORD [*is*] good; His mercy [*is*] everlasting, and His truth [*endures*] to all generations.

**Ps 119:160** The entirety of Your word [*is*] truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments [*endures*] forever.

### 2. JESUS (who being deity and equal with and in total agreement with GOD) IS ALSO THE STANDARD!

**John 8:31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

**John 8:32** "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Remember that this is the account where the Jews replied that they had never been in bondage to any one, after all they were the descendants of their father Abraham.

Read John 14:1 – 6 to give the context of Jesus's statement below.

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

### 3. HOLY SPIRIT (who also being deity and equal with GOD) IS ALSO THE STANDARD!

Read John 16:7-15 Notice here that Jesus is teaching his apostles about his departing from them and the Helper (the Holy Spirit) that he will send to them, to help "guide them into all truth".

**John 16:7** "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

**John 16:8** "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

**John 16:9** "of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

**John 16:10** "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

**John 16:11** "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**John 16:12** "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear [*them*] now.

**John 16:13** "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [*authority,*] but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

**John 16:14** "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare [*it*] to you.

**John 16:15** "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare [*it*] to you.

Christians should ALWAYS try to do the right thing, even when no one is watching or will ever know. **Of course** GOD knows and is watching! **I NEED A VERSE OR VERSES TO CONFIRM THIS.** But "**DO THE RIGHT THING, BECAUSE IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. NOT BECAUSE SOME PERSON OR PERSONS ARE WATCHING YOU! BUT BECAUSE GOD IS WATCHING YOU.**" It is important to note here that you shouldn't think "Oh my. GOD is watching me; I had

better do what is right." Instead you should be thinking "I will try always to do what is right, because I love GOD and want to please him."

If you have your priorities right (GOD wise) then nothing else matters. Brother Paul brought this out in a lesson that he gave us a few months back. He said that if through the course of the day and your life, you live as GOD would have you to live. And you have your priorities right. Such as 1) Serve and love GOD, 2) love and honor your parents and family, 3) love your neighbor as yourself. THEN things that happen to you and around you truly don't and won't matter. "Do the right thing".

Based on the way that the majority of you that are here today were raised, when faced with temptation, your first impulse will usually be telling you what the right thing to do is. When you know the right thing to do in a given circumstance, then do the right thing **immediately!** Don't stand there and reason with yourself about how much fun it is, or how good it makes me feel, or it's just a little sin, or my friends are doing it, etc... The more that you think about the temptation, the more you are inclined to reason your way into giving in to the temptation. **Develop Romans 7:14-25 esp. 21-25.** See what the apostle Paul said **v.21**"I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

**v.22** For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

**v.23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**v.24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

**v.25** I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

**Remember a circumstance or a situation brings about temptation-recognize that the temptation demands a reaction and that reaction is based upon your desires or GOD's desires for you-decide to listen to GOD's wishes and leave the temptation behind.**

You who are parents, and even you grandparents, need to let your children and grandchildren know that you are faced with temptations just as they are. AND that occasionally you succumb to temptations and sin. All people and even parents (YOUR PARENTS) are faced with temptations every day. And each and every one of us adults sin from time to time. Parents are human also and are subject to making mistakes. But even when they make those mistakes young people, you need to remember that they are still your parents and are due the respect and obedience that GOD expects you to give to them.

**Lev 19:3** `Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I [*am*] the LORD your God.

**Exod 20:12** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

**Eph 6:2** "**Honor your father and mother,**" which is the first commandment with promise:

You parents need to talk to your children about temptation. Let them know what they can do to overcome it. How they can avoid it. How you deal with various types of temptations, etc... Why is it that we want to share our experience and wisdom with our kids to help them, but some of the most important wisdom that we have we don't think to share it? "Do the right thing".

You might think to yourself that my parents don't sin, and that older brethren here don't sin. **You would be wrong. James 3:1-12** (the tongue), **1 Jn. 1:8** "if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves". **Rmns. 3:23** "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of GOD". We all from time to time are placed in situations that in an instant someone says or does something that affects us or

someone else and we are caught off guard. And in that instant we will oft times think or even say ill thoughts of that someone.

**Mt 5:21** ¶ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'

**22** "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

**1Jo 4:20** If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

**21** And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. Or we will say something in retort that is wrongful or hurtful. **Jas 3:8** But no man can tame the tongue. [*It is*] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

**Jas 3:9** With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

**Jas 3:10** Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

Sometimes in a moment when we are preoccupied we will look where we shouldn't or think something that we shouldn't. We need to be on our guard at ALL times, but sadly as humans we fall to do that. We all sin, we shouldn't, but we do. "Do the right thing".

Young Christians, just like ALL Christians, WILL face trials and tribulations on a daily basis. But GOD loves you and won't nor has he forsaken you.

Some of you young people saw a portion of a video in your class with Paul down stairs. In that video you saw how enormous our universe is and how comparatively small that we are in that enormous universe. But you also saw how important we are in that entirety of the universe to GOD.

Doing the right thing is not limited to just not sinning, it has many ramifications.

For instance:

- 1) Doing good for others when the opportunity presents itself. Example – you see some older person struggling with groceries or crossing a busy street. (Scripture)
- 2) Do the right thing when faced with peer pressure. Peer pressure isn't faced by just young people.  
All persons have to deal with peer pressure, usually many, many times. Peer pressure is just another way of saying "following the crowd". (Scripture)
- 3) When by yourself, do you think bad thoughts about others? Do you do things or look at things you know are not good for you? Do you disrespect your parents when no one else sees or hears you? The list could go on and on. But you get the picture.

For consequences of decisions, actions, sins. See Gal.6:7 "A man reaps what he sows."

**1Pet 1:16** because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy.**"

**John 8:42** Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

**John 8:43** "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

**John 8:44** "You are of [*your*] father the devil, **and the desires of your father you want to do.** He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [*resources*] for he is a liar and the father of it.

Do the right thing because it is easier in the long run. NOT to make it easier, but the consequences will be easier, because a lie won't have to be used to sustain it. And your ultimate answer to GOD will be pleasing to him. Doing the wrong thing generally generates more wrong doing.

Break down the phrase "Do the right thing, because it is the right thing to do." What is the standard for "the right thing"?

The "right thing" is not subject to conscience, peer pressure, morals of current society, etc... The "right thing" is based on GOD'S will. His standard alone.

The apostle Paul felt that he was doing the right thing. Acts 26:9-11

Matt. 25:31-46 – helping others is "the right thing"

Remember Wilson Adams lesson on "Ten things your kids need to know". There were several points that I want to remind you of. His #4 "Teach them about consequences" Quote "There is all kinds of choices, but every one of them has consequences." Wilson Adams

**Nu 32:23 "But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.**

**Ecc 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.**

Peer pressure - #6 from Wilson Adams lesson on "Ten things your kids need to know". He said that "courage is a must". 1Ti 4:12 **Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.** There are many Bible examples of young people doing the "right thing" in difficult circumstances and when all alone. We have had many lessons from the pulpit on these young people. Joseph, Daniel, Joshua, Ester, etc...

Hard work is worth it - #8 from Wilson Adams lesson on "Ten things your kids need to know". GOD expects you to work hard for you parents, employer, your LORD (GOD), etc... **Col 3:22**

**Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.**

**Col 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,"**

Wilson Adams "go the extra mile" "make things your job". Work hard for whom ever because the LORD expects it. Thus it is the "right thing to do".

"GOD has no sympathy for the lazy."

GOD comes first \_ #10 from Wilson Adams lesson on "Ten things your kids need to know".

**Ecc 12:13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

**Ecc 12:14** For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Explain how most people approach temptations.

We will see something that we want to do, THAT WE KNOW IS WRONG, and instead of immediately turning away from it, we reason with ourselves. "It's not that bad; But I want to do it; it looks like fun; I bet it feels good; my parents will never know; no one can see me, etc... We eventually reason our way into giving in to the temptation.

Do the right thing: Love your enemies – Matt. 5:43-48.

"Your life can be changed forever in an instant, by a bad decision you made." Gen. 3:6-8 and Lk. 22:59-61

Do the right thing – Guard your speech.

Do the right thing – Not to be seen of men, like the man praying in public to be seen of men. Jesus said "They have their reward". **Find scripture.**

Question: "How much do you want to go to Heaven? How much are you willing to invest of yourself or commit of yourself to get there?"

"Do the right thing" – Let your unashamed Christian influence show forth that you are different from the world.

"Do the right thing" – Because it's the right thing to do. Ultimately because GOD is watching, and we will be judged by whether we have done the "right thing".

Matt. 25:31-46 v.45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

Do the right thing for many reasons:

- 1) Because GOD wants you to.
- 2) It can strengthen or weaken your moral character. **Show some benefits and negatives of this.**
- 3) It can benefit or hurt your physical life. **Show some benefits and hurts of this.**

Have integrity to yourself by doing the right thing.

Do good to all men is doing the right thing.

WEAVE JESUS INTO EACH "DO THE RIGHT THING".

**Highlight my points, then regular text where I'm commenting on each point.**

Matt. 6:1-7 "they have their reward"

Matt. 23:5-6

"things done in secret"

"Love does the right thing"