

MESSAGE 1: CHOOSING MY STANDARD

Parts 1-3

Where Have All the Values Gone?

Politics
Business
Entertainment
Education
Religion

I. THE CAUSE:

3 DESTRUCTIVE PHILOSOPHIES:

1. _____

"In those days Israel had no [authority] so the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."
Judges 21:25 (NLT)

2. _____

*"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped created things rather than the Creator." Rom.
1:25 (NIV)*

3. _____

- "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere."
- "There are no absolute truths."

"... They are hopelessly confused... Their closed minds are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God. They don't care anymore about right and wrong." Eph. 4:17- 19 (NLT)

II. THE COST:

"Where there is ignorance of God, crime runs wild." Pr. 29:18 (LB)

"Destruction is certain for those who say that evil is good and good is evil; that dark is light and light is dark." Isa. 5:20 (LB)

"A nation without God's guidance is a nation without order." Prov. 29:18 (GN)

"When the foundations of life are undermined, what can good people do?" Psalm 11:3 (GWT)

III. THE CURE:

"God shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time." Prov. 2:9 (LB)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right." 2 Tim. 3:16 (NLT)

"God's Word is a flashlight to light the path ahead of me and keep me from stumbling." Psalm 119:105 (LB)

"Those who listen to God's instruction will prosper; those who trust the Lord will be happy." Prov. 16:20 (NLT)

A CHOICE: MY STANDARD WILL BE:

MESSAGE 2: ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

Parts 1-3

3 Foes of Personal Responsibility

- The `rights' mentality: *"I demand my rights."*
- The `victim' mentality: *"It's not my fault."*
- The `entitlement' mentality: *"I deserve it."*

*"Live life with a sense of responsibility,
not as those who don't know the meaning of life,
but as those who do." Eph. 5:15 (Ph)*

I. WHY LIVE RESPONSIBLY?

* BECAUSE _____ MY LIFE.

"Nothing in all the world can be hidden from God. Everything is open before him, and to him we must explain the way we have lived." Heb. 4:13 (NCV)

"Each of us will have to give a personal account to God." Rom. 14:12 (NLT)

* BECAUSE _____ BY MY LIFE.

"People should be concerned about others and not just about themselves." 1 Cor. 10:24 (GWT)

II. HOW CAN I BE A MORE RESPONSIBLE PERSON?

1. BY _____

"The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets." Pr. 21:20 (LB)

"The fool thinks only about having a good time now." Eccl. 7:4 (NLT)

2. BY _____

"A fool expresses all his emotions, but a wise person controls them." Pr. 29:11 (GWT)

"People will be responsible for every careless word they've said." Matt. 12:36 (NCV)

"Don't let evil get the best of you, but conquer evil by doing good." Rom. 12:21 (NLT)

3. BY _____

"A wise person is hungry for truth, while the fool feeds on trash." Pr. 15:14 (NLT)

4. BY _____

"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." Pr. 28:13 (LB)

"Don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame!" Hosea 4:4 (NLT)

"All of us have fallen short... yet now God declares us 'not guilty' if we trust in Jesus Christ, who freely takes away our sins." Rom. 3:23-24 (LB)

MESSAGE 3: DEVELOPING TRUST
Parts 1-3

Anything I trust or value more than God is

" _____ "

"For your own good... don't sin by making an idol in any form." Deut. 4:15-16 (GN)

I. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TRUST ANYTHING ELSE MORE THAN GOD?

1. I AM _____

"... those who make idols are disillusioned..." Jer. 10:14 (GN)

"Of what value is an idol? For he who makes it trusts in his own creation." Heb. 2:18 (NIV)

"The poor, deluded fool is trusting something that can give him no help at all. Yet he cannot bring himself to ask: is this thing, this idol... a lie?" Isa. 44:20 (NLT)

2. I AM _____

"... you were controlled by dead idols, who led you astray." 1 Cor. 12:2 (GN)

"Those who make idols end up like them. So does everyone who trusts them." Ps. 115:8 (GWT)

II. WHY DON'T I TRUST GOD MORE?

BECAUSE I DON'T _____

"Those who know the Lord trust him..." Ps. 9:10 (NCV)

III. WHY SHOULD I TRUST GOD COMPLETELY?

1. BECAUSE _____

"We can completely count on him, for it is impossible for God to lie." Heb. 6:18 (LB)

"God will continue to be true even when every person is false." Rom. 3:4 (NCV)

2. BECAUSE _____

"We know how much God loves us, so we have put our trust in him... because God's perfect love drives out fear." 1 John 4:16, 18 (NCV)

3. BECAUSE _____

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Rom. 8:28 (NLT)

4. BECAUSE _____

"Trust the Lord with all your heart, and don't depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success." Pr. 3:5-6 (NCV)

Jesus says: "Don't be afraid. Just trust me." Mark 5:36 (NLT)

MESSAGE 4: DEVELOPING SELF-CONTROL

Parts 1-3

"A person without self-control is as defenseless as a city with broken-down walls." Pr. 25:28 (NLT)

CONTROLLING MY ANGER

1. _____ **TO CONTROL IT.**

"A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control." Pr. 29:11 (LB)

2. _____ **THE COST.**

"A hot-tempered man. . . gets into all kinds of trouble." Pr. 29:22 (LB)

Pr. 15:18 (GN) *"Hot tempers cause arguments."*

Pr. 14:29 (LB) *"... anger causes mistakes."*

Pr. 14:17 (GN) *People with hot tempers do foolish things."*

Pr. 11:29 (LB) *"The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left."*

3. _____ **MY MOUTH.**

"If you keep your mouth shut, you will stay out of trouble." Pr. 21:23 (NLT)

"Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1;19 (NIV)

4. _____ **BEFORE REACTING.**

"A stupid man gives free rein to his anger; a wise man waits and lets it grow cool." Pr. 29:11 (NEB)

"A man's wisdom gives him patience." Pr. 19:11 (NIV)

Ask myself:

5. _____ **MY ANGER APPROPRIATELY.**

"If you become angry, don't let your anger lead you into sin." Eph. 4:26 (GN)

"Keep away from angry, short-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them..." Pr. 22:24 (NLT)

6. _____ **GOOD FOR EVIL.**

"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone... never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God... overcome evil with good." Rom. 12:17-21 (NLT)

7. _____ **GOD'S HELP**

"Lord, help me control my tongue; help me be careful about what I say." Psalm 141:3 (NCV)

"Whatever is in your heart determines what you say." Mt. 12:34 (NIV)

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart..." Col 3:15 (NAS)

MESSAGE 5: THE BALANCED LIFE

Parts 1-3

"It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night... God wants his loved ones to get their proper rest." Ps. 127:2 (LB)

B.A.L.A.N.C.E.

B _____ **MY LIFE AROUND CHRIST.**

"God will give you all you need from day to day IF you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern." Matt. 6:33 (NIV)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart... This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is... Love your neighbor as yourself." Matt 22:37-39 (NIV)

A _____ **MY HUMANITY.**

"Only someone too stupid to find his way home would wear himself out with work!" Eccl. 10:15 (GN)

"You made my body, Lord; now give me sense to heed your laws." Ps. 119:73 (LB)

L _____ **MY LABOR.**

"You have six days in which to do your work, but the 7th day is to be a day of rest dedicated to Me." Exodus 20:9-10 (GN)

"Sabbath" means: _____
"The Sabbath was made to benefit man..." Mark 2:27

A _____ **MY VALUES.**

"I've learned why people work so hard to succeed; it's because they envy the things their neighbors have." Eccl. 4:4 (GN)

"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" Mark 8:36 (NIV)

"It is better to have only a little, with peace of mind, than be busy all the time..." Eccl. 4:6 (GN)

N _____ **MY INNER LIFE.**

"... I had no time for myself." Song of Sol. 1:6

"I will not neglect your Word." Ps. 119:16 (NIV)

"Jesus often slipped away to be alone so he could pray." Lk. 5:15-16

C _____ **MY SCHEDULE TO GOD.**

"My times are in your hands." Ps. 31:15b (NIV)

"There is a time and a season for everything under Heaven." Eccl. 3:1 (NIV)

E _____ **EACH MOMENT.**

"All of us should... enjoy what we have worked for. It's God's gift." Eccl. 3:13 (GN)

"A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life." Pr. 14:30 (LB)

Jesus: *"Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest... the load I give you to carry is light." Matt. 11:28-29 9 (NCV)*

MESSAGE 6: SHOWING RESPECT

Parts 1-3

RESPECT WHO?

Parents (Ex. 20:8-9)
Spouses (Eph. 5:22, 1 Pet. 3:1, 7)
Church leaders (Heb 13:17)
Anyone in authority (Rom. 13:1-7)

"Show proper respect to everyone" 1 Peter 2:17 (NIV)

I. WHY TREAT EVERYONE WITH RESPECT?

1. BECAUSE _____
"You (God) made man inferior only to yourself; you crowned him with glory and honor." Ps. 8:5 (GN)

2. BECAUSE _____
"God paid a ransom to save you... He paid for you with the precious life-blood of Christ." 1 Pet. 1:18-19 (LB)

3. BECAUSE _____
"If a person isn't loving and kind, it shows that he doesn't know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:8 (LB)
"Love is not rude." 1 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

4. BECAUSE _____
"A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows." Gal. 6:7 (Ph)

II. HOW TO SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

1. WHEN YOU SPEAK...
BE _____ NOT JUST _____
"Kind words bring life but cruel words crush your spirit." Pr. 15:4 (NIV)

2. **WHEN YOU ARE SERVED...**

BE _____ **NOT** _____
"Do to others as you would have them do to you." Lk. 6:31 (NIV)

3. **WHEN YOU DISAGREE...**

BE _____ **NOT** _____
"Each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on each other." Rom. 14:12 (NIV)

4. **WHEN YOU SHARE YOUR FAITH...**

_____ **DON'T** _____
"If anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him, and do it in a gentle and respectful way." 1 Pet. 3:15-16

5. **WHEN PEOPLE ARE RUDE TO YOU...**

"Don't repay evil for evil... overcome evil with good." Rom. 12:17, 21

WHERE DOES RESPECT BEGIN?

"Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life." Ex. 20:12 (LB)

MESSAGE 7: OFFERING FORGIVENESS

Parts 1-2

1. WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE?

1. BECAUSE _____

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
Eph. 4:32 (NIV)

2. BECAUSE _____

"To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do." Job 5:2 (GN)

"You are only hurting yourself with your anger!" Job 18:4 (GN)

"Some men stay healthy until the day they die... others have no happiness at all; they live and die with bitter hearts." Job 21:23-25 (GN)

3. BECAUSE _____

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matt. 6:15 (NIV)

FORGIVING IS *NOT*...

- ... minimizing the seriousness of the offense
- ... instant restoration of trust
- ... resuming the relationship without any changes

II. HOW SHOULD I FORGIVE?

1. RECOGNIZE _____

"There is not a single person in all the earth who is always good and never sins." Eccl. 7:20 (NLT)

2. RELINQUISH _____

"... Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it."
Rom. 12:19 (LB)

"Peter asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?' 'No,' Jesus replied, 'seventy times seven!'" Matt. 18:21-22 (NLT)

3. RESPOND _____

"... do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you."
Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

"Love keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

4. REFOCUS _____

"Put your heart right, reach out to God... then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are past and remembered no more." Job 11:13-16 (LB)

MESSAGE 8: MAINTAINING MORAL PURITY

Parts 1-3

"God wants you to be pure and to keep clear of all sexual sin... For God has not called us to be dirty-minded and full of lust but to be holy and clean." 1 Thess. 4:3,7 (LB)

HOW TO STAY PURE IN A POLLUTED WORLD

1. MAKE _____

"How can [anyone] keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word." Pr. 119:9 (NIV)

2. MANAGE _____

"Be careful how you think, your life is shaped by your thoughts." Pr. 4:23 (NCV)

"Keep your mind on what is right." Pr. 23:19 (N)

How Immorality Happens
thoughts... emotions... actions

1st	Accepting sinful thoughts in my mind
2nd	Emotional, non-physical involvement
3rd	Physical involvement
4th	Rationalizing my actions

"Turn your back on lustful thoughts and give your positive attention to goodness, integrity, love and peace." 2 Tim. 2:22 (Ph)

3. MONITOR _____

"The fool feeds on trash." Pr. 15:14 (LB)

"Keep me from paying attention to what is worthless." Ps. 119:37 (GN)

"I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar." Ps. 101:3 (NLT)

4. MINIMIZE _____

"Be careful. If you're thinking, 'Oh, I'd never behave like that' -- let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin." 1 Cor. 10:12 (LB)

"Bad companions ruin good character." 1 Cor. 15:33 (GN)

"But among you there must not even be a hint of sexual immorality..." Eph. 5:3 (NIV)

5. MAINTAIN _____

"Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love." Eccl. 9:9 (NIV)

"A husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy, which is her right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband... Do not cheat each other of normal sexual relations... or you'll expose yourselves to the obvious temptation of Satan." 1 Cor. 7:3,5 (NLT/Ph)

6. MAGNIFY _____

"Anyone who commits adultery doesn't have any sense. He is just destroying himself." Pr. 6:32 (GN)

"[Immorality] may cost you your life." Pr. 6:26 (NCV)

"God will judge the sexually immoral." Heb. 13:4a (NIV)

THE PATH BACK TO PURITY

1. REPENT Ps. 51:1-10
2. RECEIVE FORGIVENESS Ps. 32:1-5
3. REFOCUS & REPLACE Rom. 13:13-14
4. REQUEST HELP DAILY 1 Cor. 10:13

"Remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful... When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it."

MESSAGE 9: SHOWING FAIRNESS

Parts 1-3

LIFE IS UNFAIR...

CRIMINALS GO UNPUNISHED.

"Throughout the earth, justice is giving way to crime and even the courts are corrupt." Ecc. 3:16 (LB)

"When crime isn't punished, people feel it is safe to do wrong." Ecc. 8:11 (NLT)

THE OPPRESSED ARE UNHELPEP.

"I saw all the injustice that goes on in this world. The oppressed were crying... and no one would help them... their oppressors had power." Ecc. 4:1 (GN)

POLITICIANS ARE UNETHICAL.

"If you see... miscarriage of justice throughout the land, don't be surprised! For every official is under orders from higher up... So the matter is lost in red tape and bureaucracy." Ecc. 5:8 (LB)

"Here is an injustice... Stupid people are given positions of authority." Ecc. 10:5-6 (GN)

GOOD PEOPLE GO UNREWARDED.

"Sometimes righteous people suffer for what the wicked do, and wicked people get what the righteous deserve!" Ecc. 8:14 (GWT)

CAPABLE PEOPLE ARE UNSUCCESSFUL.

"In this world fast runners do not always win the races... wise men don't always earn a living, intelligent men don't always get rich, and capable men don't always rise to high positions." Ecc. 9:11 (GN)

I. WHY DOES GOD ALLOW UNFAIRNESS?

1. BECAUSE HE GIVES US _____

"I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse..." Deut. 11:26 (NIV)

2. BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO _____

"In due season God will judge everything man does." Ecc. 3:17 (LB)

3. BECAUSE IT SHOWS _____

"God is letting the world go on its sinful way so he can test mankind, and men will see that they are no better than beasts." Ecc. 3:18 (LB)

4. BECAUSE _____

"... suffering produces character..." Rom. 5:4

II. HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO UNFAIRNESS?

1. ACCEPT _____

"Don't be surprised at the terrible trouble which comes to test you. Don't think that something strange is happening to you. But be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings so that you will be full of joy when Christ comes again in glory." 1 Pet. 4:13 (NCV)

2. RESPOND _____

"Love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you." Matthew 5:43-44

"Be fair-minded. Do what is right! Help those in need of justice." Jer. 22:3 (NLT)

"The Lord demands fairness in every business deal." Pr. 16:17 (LB)

3. WAIT _____

"A person might have to suffer even when it is unfair, but if he thinks of God and stands the pain, God is pleased." 1 Pet. 2:19 (NCV)

"If you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right, and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you." 1 Pet. 4:19 (NLT)

"These... temporary troubles are winning for us a permanent reward out of all proportion to our pain." 2 Cor. 5:17 (Ph)