

# The Importance Of Living A Moral Life

---

(Ro 12:1-2)

## INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Living a moral life in an evil world is extremely important.
  - a. It almost goes without saying...
    - i. However, it can't go without saying unfortunately.
  - b. We live in a society where...
    - i. Men and women live together.
    - ii. Drinking & drunkenness are seen as "just fine."
    - iii. Stealing, lying, fornication, cheating, refusing to work etc, are all looked upon as either ok or tolerated.
3. Today we are going to take a look at and see "The Importance Of Living A Moral Life."
  - a. A large amount of people live their life in misery.
    - i. Inside they know what to do that is right but they fail to do it and because of this the guilt become overwhelming.
  - b. Over time if we do not address the moral standard God placed within each of us we will become hardened and eventually dead to the things of righteousness.
    - i. We start fooling ourselves saying...I'll stop tomorrow.
4. More people would be "happy" today if they simply led moral lives.
  - a. A happy life is a productive life where there are no regrets because what was supposed to get done in righteousness got done.
    - i. There are no regrets because we are not looking behind and trying hard to figure out how to cover our tracks from not doing what we should have done.
  - b. John Barcus wrote, "If Christianity does not make a man happy, it does not make him anything at all." (Moral Issues Facing The Church by John Barcus pg. 24)
5. With that in mind let us examine God's Word on this important subject.

## I. Moral Living Defined

- A. Notice what Paul wrote once again
  1. **Ro 12:1-2** "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."<sup>1</sup>
- B. There are two things to understand here
  1. The presentation
    - i. We are to be a "living sacrifice."
      - a. Paul is using the sacrificial system of the O.T. to symbolically show the presentation each person is.

---

<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

# The Importance Of Living A Moral Life

---

- ii. Under the Old Law man made sacrifices to God for a number of things.
    - a. They could not be just any old sacrifices they had to meet the specification of God.
      - 1. **Lv 1-2**
    - b. These sacrifices were to be of the best and first because they were going to Him who is best and He who deserves our first.
  - iii. We as Christians today are...
    - a. Firstfruits
      - 1. **Ja 1:18** "Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."
    - b. Sacrifice
      - 1. **Ro 12:1** "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."
  - iv. Therefore Christians are to give themselves first to God and they are to give Him their very best.
2. The transformation
- i. "do not be conformed to this world but be transformed"
    - a. It doesn't say we are to be "somewhat" transformed.
    - b. It doesn't say we are to be "almost completely" transformed.
      - 1. It says we are to be wholly transformed.
    - c. Paul is still using the O.T. sacrificial system here symbolically.
  - ii. When an animal was killed it would not have been the prettiest of sights.
    - a. There would be blood, guts, fat, skin, etc...
  - iii. However once it was placed on the alter it became a "sweet aroma, and pleasing sight" to God.
    - a. **Ex 29:18** "And you shall burn the whole ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD; it is a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD." (NKJV)
  - iv. Our sacrifice transforms us from a hideous pit of sin to a sweet aroma to God.
    - a. **II Co 2:14-15** "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (NASB95)
- C. Thus moral living is the presentation and transformation of each of us to God

## II. Moral Living Benefits

- A. There are a number of benefits to living a moral life
  - 1. Though the world frowns on a moral life they all seek the benefits it produces.

## The Importance Of Living A Moral Life

---

- B. A moral life benefits us by...
1. Allowing us to have joy in our lives.
    - i. **Ga 5:22** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness"
  2. Helping us avoid physical problems.
    - i. **He 13:4** "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."
    - ii. **Ps 31:10** "For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away."
  3. Bringing encouragement to us.
    - i. **Ro 1:12** "that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."
  4. Allowing us to take hold of our inheritance.
    - i. **Mt 19:29** "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life."
    - ii. **Ep 1:11, 14** "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

### CONCLUSION

1. Immanuel Kant once said, "If man makes himself a worm he must not complain when he is trodden on." (<http://goo.gl/zK9Rg>)
  - a. Brethren let it never be said of us that we live not moral lives amongst the dredge and filth of sin but rather that we rise above it.
2. Question: Do you understand the importance of living a moral life?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**