

WHO SETS THE STANDARDS?

It matters a great deal how you answer this question. In fact, your answer to this question may determine where you will spend eternity. It is very important for people of all ages to understand who sets the standards that we must live by in this world. In this article, we are going to examine which answer is correct.

Many people say that the individual sets the standard for what is right and what is wrong.

However, as we study God's word, we learn that man does not have the authority to determine what is right and wrong in life within himself. The people that we read about in the book of Judges tried this approach. Inspiration records, **"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes"** (Judges 17:6). In fact, the book of Judges closed with men still doing what they thought was right. The book opened with such a promising future for God's people but because of the people's decision to do what *they thought* was right, the book closes with one of the darkest periods in Biblical history. Throughout the book of Judges, we find the anger of God kindled against his people because they were doing what they thought was right. Solomon warned, **"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"** (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). Man does not have the ability to see the end result of foolish choices. Jeremiah wisely said, **"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps"** (Jeremiah 10:23). If the individual determines what is right and wrong, then certainly ruin will be the result.

Others argue that society sets the standards for what is right and wrong.

However, as we look to God's word, we find that society is not to be the standard for what is right and wrong. If society was the standard for what is right and wrong, then why were the people of Noah's day destroyed? In that day, society thought that various forms of wickedness were okay, yet, God destroyed them (Genesis 6). Also, why were the cities of Sodom and

Gomorrah destroyed with fire and brimstone? Those cities, with the exception of Lot and part of his family thought that homosexuality and other sins were okay, yet, they were destroyed (Genesis 19). God's word has always warned of the danger of following what everyone else is doing. The Israelites, in the days of Samuel, wanted a king so that they could be like the nations around them (1 Samuel 8:5). They were allowing society to determine what was right and what was wrong. They reaped the bitter fruits of their request. We can clearly see that society must not set the standards.

Finally, there are those who wisely proclaim that God sets the standards for what is right and wrong.

Those that make this suggestion are exactly right. While the first two answers involve the possibility and probability of error since they are determined by man, this answer is guaranteed to be right by the omniscience of God. God's way is always spoken of as being the right way (Hosea 14:9; Acts 13:10). We must allow God to tell us through His word what is right and wrong. Time and time again, in the Old Testament, God's children are encouraged to do that which is right in God's eyes (Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 6:18; 12:25, 28; 21:9). The examples of David, Jehu, Hezekiah, Josiah and Asa are set forth as examples of those who did that which God determined to be right (1 Kings 11:33,38; 2 Kings 10:30; 18:3; 22:2; 2 Chronicles 14:2). God's word serves as the standard by which we, as human beings, determine what is right and what is wrong. Paul wrote, **"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing"** (Philippians 3:16). God has given man everything that he needs, in His word, in determining that which is right and that which is wrong (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3).

We have learned that God determines what is right and wrong in this life. We must not rely upon self or society to set our standards for us but rather rely upon the Scriptures given by inspiration to guide us in determining what is right and wrong in the sight of God.

Wade Lee Webster from Beacon

JOSHUA

Joshua is one of my favorite Bible characters because he typifies what a man of God should be.

He was one of 12 spies sent into Canaan to scout the land and its people. Joshua's character showed clearly when 10 of the 12 brought back a negative report, saying the inhabitants of the land were powerful, and the Israelites could not overcome them. Joshua and Caleb gave a minority report saying that, with God's help, the Israelites could surely conquer the land. The people did not take Joshua's advice and as a result spent the remainder of their lives wandering in the Wilderness instead of living in the Promised Land.

When Moses died, God chose Joshua to lead his people in taking possession of Canaan. This he did in splendid fashion, conquering many cities such as Jericho.

One of Joshua's finest hours came when he was old. He called the people together and admonished them to always serve the Lord faithfully. He then said, **"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."**

Joshua was outstanding because of his steadfast service to God and his courage to stand for right against overwhelming odds.

The Lord needs more men like Joshua!

Author Unknown

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." **Eph. 6:10-11**

BIRTHDAYS

Amy Tullis, 08-27; Joshua Weckley, 08-29;
Millie Robertson, 09-02.

ILL

Sunday: Gary Cole, Millie Robertson (PM). Allen Scott was released from Olathe Medical Center on Monday and is recovering at home. Meredith Greer is in the nursing home in Independence, MO. Please remember these in your prayers.

Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Ledgia Campbell and Ron Wood. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to John James and his family in the passing of his mother, Lula James on Tuesday, August 22, 2006. Funeral services were conducted on Saturday at the Monticello Union cemetery.

FIFTH WEDNESDAY SINGING

This Wednesday, August 30th is our 5th Wednesday Singing night. All men of the congregation are encouraged to select a few songs and join in the song leading of our singing night.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, September 3. Plan to come, bring a dish and enjoy the good food and good company.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 55; Sunday PM, 41; Wednesday PM, 44.

Those To Serve

August 27, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Ken Greer
PRESIDE..... Myron Nebergall
ASSIST.....John James
ASSIST.....David Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Charles Tullis
LORD'S SUPPER..... Myron Nebergall

WEDNESDAY 30th

SONG LEADER..... 5th Wednesday Singing
INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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