

## Continuity of Biblical Ethics

By Pastor Marvin R. Barham

**Colossians 2:8** says: “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive **philosophy**, which depends on human tradition and the basic **principles of this world** rather than **on Christ**.”

Notice the writer’s first choice of words, “*See to it*”. In other words, make sure, be diligent to ensure, don’t overlook this or fail to do this, this is critical. What is it? Do not let your mind or way of thinking be persuaded or even influenced the slightest bit by philosophies that are anything less than the mind of Christ. Webster’s Dictionary defines philosophy as: “a discipline comprising as its core logic, aesthetics, ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology; pursuit of wisdom; a theory underlying or regarding a sphere of activity or thought; the most basic beliefs, concepts, and attitudes of an individual or group.”<sup>3</sup>

Now most Christians would say, “I can recognize false doctrine or when Biblical teachings are not right.” Yet, so much humanistic, socialistic, modernistic, and hedonistic teaching is all through our Christian lives like leaven in the dough or fat in the sacrifice. Even though we may be Christians who are able to discern vain philosophy contradictory to Kingdom precepts, **what about our children? We send them to Egyptian schools where these very philosophies Paul warned the church about are ingrained in every curriculum of the school system of which we subject the minds of our children.** I am not condemning you for sending your children to public schools, I am telling you that **Christian parents must understand the critical necessity that they be able to recognize these vain philosophies, contradictory ethics and morals and counteract them, with strong reinforcement, with precepts and principles of Godly obedience and relationship.**

According to Dr. Jimmiea Berryhill, “As recently as 50 years ago, the majority of Americans would not have questioned biblical ethics or morality. However, Americans no longer view themselves and their world through the truths taught in the Scripture. In our current era, earnings about such ideas are viewed as ‘too fanatical’.”<sup>1</sup>

Today, the thematic nature of the Bible is negated or people are ignorant of it. Most Christians, if they even read the Bible voluntarily, do so expecting to begin reading anywhere and find God-given answers to personal problems.<sup>1</sup> **Most people do not want to seek out God and His ways, but they want the results and benefit of doing so to bless them, their children and solve all their problems.** Most people want a quick fix. They want someone else who has made the effort to give them a quick easy solution to their personal problems yet to require no change, responsibility or accountability on their part. If something is wrong in my life, it must be someone else that has a problem. If I am having problems with my child, my child must have a problem. Someone show me the 12 step solution, or a quicker one if available, to quickly solve my problems resulting from years of incorrect patterned living or lack thereof.

Folks, the things of God do not work that way. This is how we got into error in the faith teaching. “If I quote these verses, confess this 3 times, and say this prayer for 30 seconds for 7 days then God has to do this for me.” Wrong. God expects much more out of those who profess to be His. **We have rejected the truth of sacrificed, disciplined, obedient living to God’s ways.** Instead, we have accepted “Preaching as entertainment and spectator-worship. These have replaced radical cries for change.”<sup>1</sup>

The prophet Ezekiel tells us in **Ezekiel 33:31-32** “**31**And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and **they hear thy words, but they will not do them:** for **with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.** **32**And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.” Today the church seems to say, “Make me laugh, make me cry, and make me want to sing, but don’t you ever try to make me think, and don’t you ever ask me to change!”<sup>1</sup>

In his new book *What's So Great About Christianity*, Dinesh D'Souza states that most of the Christian church has "retreated into a Christian subculture where they engage in Christians concerns. Then they step back into secular society, where their Christianity is kept out of sight until the next church service. Without realizing it, Christians have become postmodernists of a sort: they live by the gospel of the two truths. There is religious truth, reserved for Sundays and days of worship, and there is secular truth, which applies the rest of the time."<sup>2</sup>

**The truth is that there is but one truth to live by and that is to live by the truth of the gospel of Christ. My strongest point is that you and your children live by these truths.** If you do not know what they are then how can you teach them to your children? If you do not know how to live by them then how can you expect your children to live by them? What are you saying Pastor? I am admonishing you and I to train ourselves, our children, and if applicable our children's children, to know, understand and be accountable to live by the ethics of God. I am talking about each and every one of us teaching, training, modeling, imparting, reinforcing and **holding ourselves and our families to the ethical standard of what God expects and the world seeks to contradict and destroy.** I am telling you that **we need to be more aggressive in these matters of Biblical moral instruction** than the Arkansas Board of Education, The Hillary Clinton Socialistic Educational Reform, the Homosexual agenda to moralize the sin of sodomy and pedophilia, and the pervasive spirit of perversion and rebellion to parental and Biblical moral authority that seeks to seduce the hearts and minds of our children and **it begins with you living it at home and demanding the same from your children without hypocrisy.**

In ancient Jewish culture ethical learning was more than religious, it was the way to live. "Similar to many cultural aspects of western culture, *musar* is Jewish learning that is gained informally or almost subliminally. When the Book of Proverbs in 1:8 admonishes the young: '*My child, heed your father's instruction (musar), and do not forsake your mother's law (Torah-Law of God; Bible),*' it is not describing home tutoring. It is reflecting the reality that parents, consciously or not, continually impart wisdom to their children (with lectures the least effective part of their instruction)."<sup>1</sup>

In the Kingdom of God and the Word of God, real love is spelled TIME.<sup>5</sup> Don't just lecture about how to live, spend time with me that I might see how you live. And if I see you living love to God and me then I will live by the same law of love to you, God, and others. Whatever is the greatest interest in your life, if it is not how you live for God; with your family and those around you, then it is not God's greatest interest in your life. "God is interested in having His people, the *ecclseia* (the church) live in a manner that will establish His Kingdom."<sup>1</sup>

**Micah 6:8** *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?* The key to understanding what God is commanding us here is to understand the ethical nature of God and understand what to Him justice is. It is the administration of law according to the rule of law and equity. This is the root word for justification of whom only through righteousness in Christ are our sinful natures justified, vindicated, or our wrongs made right that we might not sin against Him.

Where is your ethical battleground for Kingdom building in a morally depredated and godless culture? How do you score when it comes to living and instructing others in Biblical standards of living? For most people today, even many Christian, their moral and ethical standard of living is secondary to their financial standard of living. Could your life stand a raise in your ethical standard of living? You say, "God I am having these problems and I need Your solution." Instead, we should be asking, "God where do I need to raise the standard of Godly Kingdom living in my life?"

1 Dr. Jimmiea Berryhill, *Ethics of Our Fathers*, Introduction to Ethics

2 Dinesh D'Souza, *What's So Great About Christianity*

3 Webster's Online Dictionary

4 All Scripture taken from King James Version, BibleGateway.com

5 Dr. Ron Moseley, American Institute for Advanced Biblical Studies