

## “Moral Guidelines”

### Galatians 5:16-18

--Romans 6:12 “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.”

Intro—Moral decay of America: Report Card on ethics of American Youth: Character Counts:

Lying—92 % H.S. students lied to their parents in the past 12 months/ 78% lied to a teacher/ 27% would lie to get a job.

Cheating—71% of H.S. students admitted to cheating on an exam at least once—12months./ 45% did so two or more times.

Stealing—40% boys/ 30% girls stole something from the store in the past 12 months.

Drunk—1/6 of H.S./ 1/10 drunk at school in the past year.

Drugs—66% of H.S./ 25% M.S. could get drugs if they wanted too.

Hitting—70% of M.S. and 68% of H.S. said they had hit someone in the past year.

All age groups—more than 33% said they don’t feel safe at school.

So what do we do?

#### **1. Submission to the Holy Spirit is vital.**

Vs16 “I say then: Walk in the Spirit.”

Holy Spirit is our helper constantly with us(John 14:16),

He is our Comforter who helps us learn & remember (John 14:26),

He is our Guide who leads us in truth. (John 16:13)

**(Key Point)** If you want to follow the moral guidelines of the bible, you first have to submit to the Guide Himself!

A few reasons why it is vital to submit to the Holy Spirit’s leadership:

#### **A) It is Vital for Victory.**

Vs 16 [If you] walk in the Spirit, you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

When you submit: You will be the student, child, example, Christian..

Walk—Gr. Verb implies progress—growth.

“As a believer submits to the [Holy] Spirit’s control—that is, responds in obedience to the simple commands of Scripture—he grows in his spiritual life.”

If you want to live victorious, you have to..

How do I walk in the Spirit? Denying self, Pursuing a pure life, confessing all known sin, surrendering to God’s will, and depending on His power in all things, consciously aware of Christ in all things.

#### **B) It is Vital for Purity.**

What is the lust of the flesh?

Lust—(Gr.) a longing for what is forbidden.

There are many things in this world that are forbidden, if you want to be pure from them, you need to submit to the Holy Spirit.

You need the Holy Spirit's power to fight off temptation. Adam and Eve

You can't fight them off in your own power.

Walk—Gr. Verb—a habitual lifestyle. The only way a student can remain pure in this dirty world is by daily submitting to the lordship of Christ, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit!

**C) It is Vital for Integrity.**

Walk—Gr. Verb—a continual action.

Consistent living.

**D) It is Vital for Certainty.**

The Holy Spirit can be trusted, the flesh can not!!!!

Illustration: Jady, being a child and led by the hand. Needs to be guided, submissive.

**2. Submission to the flesh is lethal.**

**Vs 17** "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are **contrary** to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

What does he mean when he says flesh?

The mind, the will, our emotions. In general, our unredeemed sinfulness. Human nature.

The Spirit: Because it is pure, leads a believer towards righteousness.

Paul spoke of an internal struggle that goes on in each of us as a believer. Romans 7:13-25

Question: Are you satisfying the appetites of the flesh, or the appetites of the Spirit?

**Reasons the flesh is lethal:**

**A)** Human feelings and emotions are always swayed by sin! John 5:34-47

Just because something feels good and seems right doesn't mean that it is right!

A lot of people today believe that what they feel is more important than what they know.

**B)** Human nature is evil; therefore it cannot be trusted.

**Ecc. 9:3** ".....Truly the hearts of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live....."

**C)** Human nature is evil; therefore it will lead you towards sinful behavior.

**Genesis 6:5** "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

What do you think it is that gives you dirty thoughts, rebellious attitudes, and a desire to please yourself?

**D)** Human nature is evil; therefore it is defiant.

**Jeremiah 17:9** "The heart is deceitful above all things, and **desperately** wicked; who can know it?"

The flesh doesn't want to submit, when a rule or law is given, the flesh wants to do the very thing the rule or law forbids!

**(Key Point)** When you submit to the flesh, you are not only grieving the Holy Spirit, but you are doing damage to your spiritual life!