

Wanted: Morality In America

(Galatians 5:19-21)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. Of Sherlock Holmes and Watson going camping...
 - a. Watson, what do you see? I see thousands of stars. And what does that mean to you? I suppose it means that we are most fortunate to inhabit God's great universe as intelligent observers. Although we are small in his eyes, we are blessed with powers of reasoning that no other creation of God has. I guess that's what it means to me. What does it mean to you, Holmes? To me Watson, it means that while we were sleeping, someone has stolen our tent.
 2. In a day of educational, scientific, technological achievements, we have lost our moral compass.
 3. The objective moral standard by which we judge human conduct has been stolen from this generation.
 4. Before we can marvel at our vast accomplishments, we must concern ourselves with a more fundamental task of finding our missing values.

I. How We Got Where We Are

- A. We Have Removed God From Our Thoughts.
 1. (Romans 1:28).
 2. Without God, there is no moral anchor...right and wrong, truth and error are as shifting as the sea.
 3. Without God, there is no word of God.
 4. If we are the product of evolution, why expect people to act differently than the animals?
- B. Pleasure Has Become Our God.
 1. (Proverbs 21:17; Philipians 3:19).
 2. Hedonism is the philosophy that states that good and evil are determined by pleasure and pain.
 3. That is why CNN can conduct a poll which stated that we don't care about presidential conduct so long as the economy is good.
 3. Solomon demonstrated the futility of fulfillment through pleasure seeking in the book of Ecclesiastes.
- C. We Have "Defined Down" Deviancy.
 1. We accept as normal today what at once was deemed repugnant.
 2. This is nothing more than a moral placebo to salve what's left of our conscience.
 - a. Abortion – the right to choose.
 - b. Murder – mercy killing.
 - c. Suicide – dying with dignity.
 - d. Homosexuality – gay.
 - e. Adultery – an affair.
 - f. Cursing – colorful language.

- g. Lying – misinformation.
- h. Fornication – love.

II. **What We Can Do To Return To God**

- A. First, we must embrace the Christian lifestyle ourselves (Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:10).
- B. We must proclaim the Christian lifestyle to others (1 Peter 2:9; 2 Timothy 2:2).
- C. We must pray for God's providential hand to work change, even at the expense of personal comfort (James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

- Conclusion:
- 1. June 14, 1998 commencement address at Stanford University by Ted Koppel – “We will not change what’s wrong with our culture through legislation, or by choosing up sides on the basis of personal popularity or party affiliation. We will change it by small acts of courage and kindness; by recognizing, each of us, his or her own obligation to set a proper example. Aspire to decency. Practice civility toward one another. Admire and emulate ethical behavior wherever you find it. Apply a rigid standard of morality to your lives; and if, periodically, you fail – as you surely will – adjust your lives, not the standards. There’s no mystery here. You know what to do. Now go out and do it.”
 - 2. Morality has been stolen away from us while we slept.
 - 3. If there has ever been a time when God needed a pure, distinct, praying, vocal church, it is now!
 - 4. Will you step up to the challenge and be a part of the solution rather than adding to the problem?