

Philippians 1:21-30 Finding a Life-Standard

Most of the people I know struggle to find a standard for their life-style. As I waited for a meeting to begin at a Hollywood junior high school years ago, a fellow parent asked me, “How do you decide what’s right and wrong for your children?” Her offspring kept telling her about things their classmates’ parents permitted them to do.

Standards keep shifting. The new generation of children behaved in ways her parents never tolerated. This woman didn’t attend church and did not read the Scriptures. She had no guidelines and no standards other than what her kids told her. She felt totally confused. She also didn’t seem to understand juvenile exaggerations and other ploys.

I responded to her question by explaining that my wife and I did not have to struggle as she did, because God’s Word, which we attempted to follow, gives clearcut guidelines for most human behavior.

We shouldn’t be ashamed of any *New Testament* teaching. The standards regarding sex and other behavior that Jesus taught remain valid and necessary for every generation. Each person must work out the specifics in his/her life. But Paul’s advice to the Philippians should grace every refrigerator door: “Live your life in a manner worthy of the Good News of Christ.”

Following the Lord’s regimen tremendously reduces the complications and regrets the present generation finds almost insufferable and incurable. In contrast, Jesus’ way of life leads to peace within and without, as well as unspeakable joy. It is true, lasting Good News.



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