Introduction: We all make choices and those choices have consequences. Sometimes we may not realize we have made a choice but we did. Our choices are influenced by others such as parents, friends, spouse, etc. In the Bible this happening. Jeroboam influenced the people of Israel, 1 Kings 14:16 "And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin." Jeroboam taught Israel to worship idols by setting up altars at Dan and Bethel, false priesthood was also created. Nadab it was written, **1 Kings 15:25- Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. 26 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.**

**Facts**

**A) The faithfulness and righteousness of one generation does not automatically translate to the next generation.**

**Judges 2:10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.**

1. In other words, grandpa and grandma being pillars of the church doesn’t mean their children or grandchildren will know God.

2. Just about every church building would be full today if the families who once worshipped there were faithful Christians.

**B) People can be taught (influenced) to make bad choices.**

1. Seldom does a bad choice originate with the one making the bad choice.

2. As Solomon wrote, there is nothing new under the sun.

**C) Once that teaching or influenced becomes ingrained, it is hard to overcome it.**

**D) If we want our children to make good choices we must influence them to help them make those “good choices.”**

**I) Morality is Relative**

**A) There is not an absolute moral standard.**

1. The “morality” of one generation is often shown to be immoral later on. The #meto movement, shows that once we deemed ok are not now ok.

a. Recently a movie made in 1969 “Romeo and Juliet” was questioned because the lead characters were both underage.

b. In 1932, the USPHS, working with the Tuskegee Institute, began a study to record the natural history of syphilis. It was originally called the “Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male” (now referred to as the “USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee”). The study initially involved 600 Black men – 399 with syphilis, 201 who did not have the disease. Participants’ informed consent was not collected. Researchers told the men they were being treated for “bad blood,” a local term used to describe several ailments, including syphilis, anemia, and fatigue. In exchange for taking part in the study, the men received free medical exams, free meals, and burial insurance.

2. The drug usage which is often considered to be no big deal later on becomes a “big deal” due to the longer tern effects of the drug.

3. The value of human life has been devalued to the point of being valued less than the animals around us.

4. Drag queens at library story hours, etc.

**B) There is a moral standard, God’s word.**

**1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.**

1. Those are not moral suggestions but rules.

**Revelation 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."**

2. Culture does not determine morality but God does.

**II) I Get and Deserve To Get What I Want**

**A) Example of King Ahab**

**1 Kings 21:2 So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money." 3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!" 4 So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.**

1. There are people who have been taught society owes them whatever they want.

2. A living, a house, a phone, clothes, vacation, and kinds of luxuries.

3. If society doesn’t give it to me, then I will take it.

**B) You are obligated to work for a living.**

1..In the beginning, God place Adam and Eve in the Garden with a purpose.

**Genesis 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.**

2. After they sinned against God their work increased.

**Genesis 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."**

3. One’s obligation to provide for their family in the New Testament.

**1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.**

**III) We Have No Obligation to Our Fellowman**

**A) I owe you nothing.**

**Genesis 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"**

1. Recent story of a man in Buffalo, Jay Withey, who went out in the middle of the snow storm to rescue a friend. He ended up with about 10 people and started knocking on doors to get in out of the sub-zero temperatures. No one would let them in.

2. Ver real danger in our society of being isolated from each other to the point of not helping each other. Not visiting each other, etc.

**B) We are to love each other. Luke 10. 25-37**

1. Don’t pass by on the other side.

2. Our care for each other is part of what makes us special as Christians.

**Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

**IV) The Rules Don’t Apply to Me**

**A) Part of situation ethics**

1. Right vandalism, referees being assaulted, to the point some companies are leaving areas due to violence and theft.

2. More and more people are doing whatever they want.

**Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

**B) We are to obey God**

**Acts 4:18 And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." 21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.**

1. God’s law comes first.

2. Laws of the land, society comes second.

 **Romans 13:5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.**

Conclusion: The first choice is to know God and obey Him.