

# Do not Leave Your Morals for College

By

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## Sin Is Still Sin

Some argue that “sin” is irrelevant to modern man. This of course part of this world’s desire to corrupt us all. This life, without God, is abandoned of reason and ultimate hope—*it is rather filled with lusts and pride* (1 John 2:15-17).

When the idea of sin is dismissed, we need to know better than those around us, and God has taken the time to teach us (Psalm 119:102). We need to accept the teaching of God’s word, over the ideas of man. The word of God clearly indicts the sins of this world and warns us not to act on them. “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21).

We need to maintain proper morals because the world’s ways can, and will, destroy our hope for Heaven.

## Proper Morals Protect Your Soul

Rationalizing away God’s rules to protect the practices of worldliness should never be our course of action (Matthew 6:24). Unfortunately, today we have parents and grandparents wanting their children to express, wear, and do, all the things that their parents would never let them say, wear, or do. This attitude is in direct contrast with our God-given responsibility to raise our children to follow the will of God, for their hope of salvation (Matthew 7:21).

We all must admit that the sense of modesty has changed over the years. Like most things in life, it “ebbs and flows”. In the late 1800s and early 1900s it was inappropriate for a woman to show her bare ankles or men to leave the house without a jacket and hat. Perhaps those notions were extreme but today hems are a long way from ankles.

Our culture has become overly sexualized—*almost everything is about sex appeal, and certainly, fashions have followed right along*. Modest clothing is often characterized as frumpy and ugly—*certainly not “cool”, “popular”, or*

“attractive”. We, however, must see the value of modesty. We must be careful not to provoke inappropriate thoughts in others. (Having said that, we cannot control every reaction from others around us, but we must also know what we are projecting by our choice of clothing—1 Timothy 2:8-10). Modesty works directly with morality and we must listen to God’s directions on preserving one’s self for marriage—*both males and females* (Hebrews 13:4). When we advertise the wrong intention, we will receive the wrong attention!

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### **Your Own Wings Don’t Have to Carry You Away**

When given the opportunity to leave your parents’ nest you must discover “your own wings”. Having the ability to fly, however, does not mean you are flying free of all the rules. Seeking to rebel against the rules of your raising is a double-edged dagger; on one side, you are primed to express yourself; and on the other side, a world primed to consume you with their corruptions (Proverbs 1:8-19; 1 Corinthians 15:33).

God has given parents the irrevocable responsibility to raise their children in the “*training and admonition of the Lord*” (Ephesians 6:4). Our parents are supposed to watch out for our well-being physically and spiritually (Ephesians 6:2-3, “*Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*”); yet, far too often, these proper protections have been interpreted as “unnecessary restraints” and “destroyers of fun”.

Some young people who have been blessed to have parents who took on their responsibility to raise them well, may find themselves in the place of “the younger son” from Luke 15:11-13b. This son had always been protected and provided for; kept safe from outside fears and desolations, and yet longed to flee away from his father’s house. We know that this led him into the very things from which he had always been protected at home, and his life fell apart (Luke 15:13c-16). It was then, in complete desolation, that he turned back to his father’s house in hope for a small measure of what he had always taken for granted (Luke 15:17-19). Let’s learn from the Prodigal Son and value the rules that look out for our physical and spiritual wellbeing.

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## **Conclusion:**

Every year young people leave their parental homes with hearts full of hopes and dreams—*many will be seeking a college education*. It is possible for every young Christian to be educated, and successful, without abandoning their faith in God, *but it will take determination*.

It is not easy to maintain a godly character, in the face of this world's pressures. We can never be pleasing to God without acknowledging that there are still things that we MUST DO and things that we MUST NOT DO (Hebrews 5:14; James 4:4).

Perhaps you have been following the world, and are caught up in their ways. Right now is the moment to break free of the world's trap, to find the true hope that God is offering you. God is offering forgiveness and a much better pathway to walk (Matthew 7:13-14). He is offering you the hope of a new life, and also eternal life with Him. Your new journey begins with one step—*your obedience to God's plan*. If you are ready; begin right now.