

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 10 – The Holy Spirit & Moral Decisions

Outline By: Mark Knowles 8/25/19 AM

Introduction

We make moral decisions every day. They are involved in every area of life and in our relationships. They include:

- Racial relationships
- Work
- Entertainment
- Business
- Marriage and family
- Neighborhood
- Congregational relationships

All these require moral decisions (Ephesians 4-6 demonstrates this). Many times, we are going to have to make important moral decisions when we are least prepared to do so and many times under the worst possible circumstances. Sometimes they will have to be made when we will have no time to consider the consequences or the rights and wrongs that come from the decision. We make moral decisions much of the time when we are least prepared to make them – when I am being selfish, or my mind is cluttered with pleasure, lust, comfort, or the desire to be agreeable or likeable.

Story # 1 Making A Moral Decision

There are three moral lessons from this story that I want to call to your attention...

1. We must never be overly harsh in judging the moral decisions of those whose conduct seems reprehensible to us. Alan was just as we all are until Jesus changes us – materialistic, self-centered, and controlled by fleshly passions. (Galatians 5:16-17)
2. The second and most important lesson is that the rightness of moral decisions must never be based on, or judged on the basis of how they turn out.
3. Both of these Christian young people struggled with this decision; one had the moral power to make the right decision, a decision contrary to her natural inclinations and the other did not. (1 John 2:15-17; Romans 8:13-14)

Story #2 They Say & Do Not

I want to point out the way he treated his wife was shameful! It was a demonstration of internal moral defect – the son of the disposition that displayed a fundamental disconnect between what it means to live under the law and what it means to live under grace.

What was missing from his moral makeup? Why did he follow his self-centered natural inclinations instead of the others centered moral teachings of Jesus? The spirit of the world says it is all about me and the spirit of legalism says there is no commandment that says I have to help my wife up the stairs, which was stronger in him than the spirit of grace and principle that says you are supposed to love your wife and that means helping her up the stairs. (Matthew 23:1-3)

Conclusion

What we wear, what we say, our attitude, what movies we watch, how we spend our money, how we serve or don't serve in the church, your church attendance, your choice of friends all come with moral decisions. Those warning voices we hear - are from the Holy Spirit. The reason we disobey the voice of the Holy Spirit is because the spirit of the world is stronger than the Spirit of God.

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:10)

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. (Colossians 3:4-7)

There is only one thing that is going to instill the moral courage we need to overcome the desires of the flesh. That one thing is the convicting, challenging, and empowering work of the Indwelling Holy Spirit!

Or 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 effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16)