

Morality vs. Legality

2/03/2019 Sunday AM

Introduction

- Last week we discussed how Prayer is Powerful and how it should be our Plan A, not Plan B.
- There is no doubt that we need more righteous people praying faithful prayers in our world today.
- Turning on the news can be a depressing act today.
- There are some major debates that are going on in our country right now and really have been for some time.
- There's a common issue at the core of some of these debates that I hope we can tackle this morning.
- The issue is **Morality vs. Legality**.
- It seems that many people in our society believe that these two things are one and the same, they are not.
- **Definitions:**
 - **Morality** - A doctrine or system of moral conduct. Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong, or good and bad behavior.
 - **Legality** - Attachment to or observance of law. The quality or state of being in accordance with the law.
- Morality is simply whether something is right or wrong. Legality is whether something is legal or illegal.
- In order for you to take a position in the major debates that are happening in our country and world right now, you must figure out where your "doctrine or system of moral conduct" comes from.
- I am not sure that everyone agrees that just because something is legal, that make it "right" or moral.
- For example: Prior to the **Civil Rights Act of 1964** it was legal in this county to discriminate on the basis of race.
 - **Was discrimination based on race "right" or "moral" prior to 1964?**
- Prior to the **Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003** it was legal in the US to have a partial-birth abortion.
 - **Was partial-birth abortion "right" or "moral" prior to 2003?**
- These are just two examples and there are many others.
- Depending on your answers, you may have just run into conflict with **Morality vs. Legality**

Judges 17:6

⁶In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

- Obviously from what this verse says there was no king in Israel during this time.
- Because of this vacuum of leadership, "everyone did as he saw fit."
- If everyone does as he or she sees fit, then that means that all things are relative.
- What is right and wrong is solely dependent on what each individual says it is.
- Sound familiar?

2 Timothy 4:3-5

³For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

- Here Paul is writing to Timothy about a time when people will not "put up with sound doctrine."
- We are living in that time period right now.
- Now going back to our definition of Morality - it is a "doctrine" of moral conduct.
- Paul says that people will not put up with "sound" doctrine and that means – good, wholesome, without error.
- These people do not want to adhere to what is "right" they want to do things that "suit their own desires."
- Our human laws are direct reflections of what our "desires" as a society are at the time. That's why they change.
- Unfortunately, our desires even when expressed in law, do not always mean they compute with "sound doctrine."
- **So, as Christians, what are we supposed to do?**

Matthew 7:24-29

²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." ²⁸When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

- Speaking to the Jewish religious leaders in **Acts 5:29**, "Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"
- However, the Bible also clearly teaching us that we should obey human law as well. (**13:1, 1 Peter 2:13**)
- If we want to have stability in our lives and in our society as a whole, we must understand that our Morality comes from a higher authority than ourselves.
- In **Matthew 7:24-29** Jesus clearly teaches that we should not only hear his words, but also "put them into practice."
- Where human laws contradict what the Bible teaches, we must go with God's word, not man's.
- As Jesus taught in the verses above, living according to his words "²⁴...is like a wise man who build his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."
- It is only when you choose to follow the world or yourself, that you act "²⁶... like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.""
- **Our society is crumbling down because we have replaced our solid rock foundation with shifting sand.**

- Do not allow yourself to get wrapped up in the lie that simply because a governmental body passed a law making something legal, that in turns makes that "right" or "moral".
- **What is "right" and "moral" is dictated not by man's majority, but by God's authority.**
- Just like we need righteous people praying faithful prayers right now, we also need those same folks standing up for the word of God against the tide of immorality that is facing our country and our world.

- You have no problem defending your favorite football team, how about channeling that energy into engaging constructively, being led by the Holy Spirit, in the conversations that are being had in our society today.

- If we remain silent, how will the world learn the difference?

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Romans 8:18-30