

# Establishing Biblical Standards

## Introduction

What are standards?

Simply put, a standard is where you stand. It could be said that everyone has standards because everyone stands somewhere. Of course, we are not talking about standing in a physical location. No, as we discuss standards in this study, we are discussing how you should decide your position or your beliefs on various issues.

Often in church you will hear someone say, “Amen!” When someone says “Amen!” to what is being said, they are saying, “I stand where you stand.” Amen = I stand where you stand. Look at Revelation 3:14. Who is “the Amen”? Jesus Christ! He is the One Who decides where we all should stand. Everyone has standards, but you need to make sure you are standing where Jesus stands.

One word closely connected with standards is separation. You will find that as you “stand up” for Jesus, you will “stand out” from the worldly crowd. The godly Christian lives by standards that set him apart from the world and unto God. This is what we call separation.

**Let’s look at what the Bible teaches about standards. Here are some topics our study will cover.**

- I. Standards are important.
- II. The Bible gives some clear standards of behavior to the Christian.
- III. When the Bible is not clear concerning certain areas of behavior, God has given us Bible principles to follow.

## **I. Standards are important.**

### **1. II Corinthians 6:14-18**

Does God have an opinion about where you stand? *Please circle one* - **Yes** or **No**

Notice in verse 14 that Paul did not want the Corinthian believers to be “yoked together” with certain groups or things.

List from what other group or things each of the following should be separated:

- Righteousness has no fellowship with U\_\_\_\_\_.
- Christ has no concord with B\_\_\_\_\_. (This is a Bible name for the spiritually worthless.)
- He that believeth should have no part with an I\_\_\_\_\_ (an unbeliever).
- The temple of God should have no part with I\_\_\_\_\_.
- We should not touch the U\_\_\_\_\_ thing.

Your standards matter because God has an opinion about everything . . . including where you stand!

## **2. I Peter 1:15, 16**

That word “conversation” does not just mean words exchanged with others. No, it means your entire way and manner of life.

*Holy* is defined as “Properly, whole, entire or perfect, in a moral sense.” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary). When God commands that you be holy, He expects you to be free from those things which make you morally impure. In simple terms, bad thoughts, bad actions, bad friends, bad words, and bad behavior all keep one from being holy.

*Holy* also means “consecrated or set apart to a sacred use.” God has a special purpose for you. You should realize this, and it should make you think, and act, and live differently than those who have not yet discovered that God has a purpose for them as well. You should strive not to do those things that would keep you from doing the will of God for your life.

Your standards matter because God commands you to be  
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## **3. Matthew 23:25-28**

Jesus was pretty tough on the scribes and Pharisees. Today, calling someone a “Pharisee” is an insult.

The Pharisees had high standards and lived separated from the world. However, they did not have the personal holiness on the inside to back it up.

Jesus calls the Pharisees “whited s\_\_\_\_\_” in verse 27. Outside they looked nice and polished, but inside they were full of what? \_\_\_\_\_

As you get closer to God, it matters more to you what He thinks and what His opinions and preferences are. Your relationship with God will provoke you to establish certain rules of behavior in your life (standards). But realize that it does not work the other way around. Establishing certain standards does not necessarily bring you any closer to God.

#### **4. 1 Samuel 16:7**

Where does God look? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does man look? \_\_\_\_\_

God knows the intentions of your heart, but man does not. Man can only judge your actions which tell him where you stand. Your actions are important because people are watching you.

See also Matthew 5:16 and 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

First, make sure your heart is right with God. Then, make sure what others see about your life matches your heart.

#### **In Conclusion**

Your standards are important! God wants you to stand with Him. This lesson deals with where you should stand; but realize if you strive for personal holiness within, that will greatly impact where you stand in relation to the world. Also,

you should stand where God wants you to stand because others are watching you.

## **II. The Bible gives some clear standards of behavior to the Christian.**

The Bible is very clear in many places about where we should stand. Let's look at a few examples.

### **1. Exodus 20:15**

What is God's opinion about taking something that is not yours? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A similar question could be asked about all of the Ten Commandments. God makes His position very clear. We need to determine to stand with Him on each of these issues.

### **2. Proverbs 20:1**

What is God's opinion about wine and strong drink? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Only those who have already been "deceived" try to argue that alcohol is acceptable in moderation.

### **3. Deuteronomy 22:5**

Should men and women dress the same way? *Please circle one - Yes or No*

God made man and woman different! There should be a distinct difference in how they dress.

#### **4. Colossians 3:8-10**

What is God's perspective on what you say?

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#### **5. 2 Corinthians 6:14**

How does this verse apply to dating and marriage?

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#### **6. 1 Corinthians 7:1, 2**

According to these verses, is it acceptable for dating couples to hold hands or kiss before they are married? *Please circle one - Yes or No*

### **In Conclusion**

The Bible is very clear in many areas about where we should stand. Above we have listed just a few examples of how clear the Bible can be about a matter. American author Mark Twain stated, "It's not the things I *don't understand* in the *Bible* that bother me, it's the things I do *understand!*"

You will never be standing where God wants you to stand until you start standing where you *know* God wants you to stand.

### **III. When the Bible is not clear concerning certain areas of behavior, God has given us Bible principles to follow.**

There are quite a few issues that believers will face once they become faithful to church. Dress, entertainment, music, friendships, and dating are just a few of the areas in which you will need to determine where you stand. What makes it difficult is that words such as “knee-length,” “movie,” “DVD,” “mp3,” “novel,” “cigarette,” “hip-hop,” “gambling,” and “internet” do not appear in Scripture.

However, God does not leave us without direction and guidance. The Bible is a living, eternal Book. The Bible contains eternal principles that can guide us even in questionable matters.

#### **1. 1 Corinthians 6:15-20**

Who lives inside of the believer? the H \_\_\_ G \_\_\_\_\_

Wherever a Christian goes, the Holy Spirit goes with that believer. Is there any place that you could take the Holy Spirit that would be displeasing to God? *Please circle one* - **Yes** or **No**

Who does your body belong to now? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything you would not want to put into your body, knowing your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit? *Please circle one - Yes or No*

Think of it this way, what would you get upset about if someone brought it into the house of God?

- Alcohol?
- Tobacco?
- Nudity?
- Vulgar language?

Then the believer should not force the Holy Ghost to put up with those things either. We should not allow those things to be brought inside our bodies which are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

## **2. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

We examined this passage earlier. What principles to live by can we glean from these verses?

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## **3. 1 Thessalonians 5:22**

This verse is a principle to guide you not just with what you are doing, but with what it appears you are doing.



Should a Christian avoid places of sinful activity like drinking alcohol so that others would not think that they were also partaking in the sin? *Please circle one* - **Yes** or **No**

Should an unmarried Christian avoid being alone with a young lady so that others would not think that they were doing something forbidden of unmarried people? *Please circle one* - **Yes** or **No**

#### **4. 1 Corinthians 10:31**

In any questionable matter, ask yourself, “Can I do this thing to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God?” If not, you should not do it.

#### **5. Romans 2:14, 15**

Ask yourself, “Does it violate my conscience?”

*Conscience = the inner sense of what is right or wrong in one’s conduct or motives, impelling one toward right action. (Dictionary.com)*

Your conscience is a gift from God. Now, your conscience can become seared (damaged, made numb), but if your conscience is telling you that you should not do something, then the wise thing would be not to do it.

If you really want to stand with Jesus Christ, then you will search the Scriptures for Bible principles to live by. In

situations where there is no clear commandment of Scripture, you will allow the principle to guide you in your decisions.

## **CONCLUSION**

Sometimes you will not be able to find a Bible command or even a Bible principle to guide your decisions. There are a couple of thoughts that you may find helpful. First of all, Romans 14:23 teaches us that whatsoever is not of faith is sin. In other words, “when in doubt, don’t.” Delay in making the decision until you can find a Bible principle upon which to base your decision.

In such times that you cannot find a Bible principle to govern a particular area of your life, remember that God has given you godly leaders to help guide you. What a gift the pastor is to the local church and to individual believers!

When you are in doubt, go to your spiritual leaders for guidance. Ask yourself, “What would my pastor do in this situation?” Most likely your spiritual leader has already established his own standards based upon his understanding of the Scriptures. He or she can help guide you when you are in doubt. As with any decision, if you are in doubt, delay your decision.

In your heart, you should determine that you want to stand where Jesus Christ, the Amen, stands! Your love for God and your desire to be more like God should motivate you to develop personal standards of holiness. In many issues, the Bible gives clear commands. In others, the Bible provides

clear principles to live by. If you are still in doubt, seek help and guidance from the spiritual leaders God has placed in your life.

## **REVIEW - ESTABLISHING BIBLICAL STANDARDS**

I. Standards are important.

- A. II Corinthians 6:14 teaches that Christians should not be unequally yoked together with \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. God commands believers in I Peter 1:15 &16 to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Man judges others by their \_\_\_\_\_ appearance.

II. The Bible gives clear standards of behavior to the Christian.

- A. Should a Christian steal? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Should a Christian drink strong drink (alcohol)? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Is it okay for a Christian to lie? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Is it okay for unmarried people to hold hands, hug, and kiss? \_\_\_\_\_

III. When the Bible is not clear concerning certain areas of behavior, God has given us Bible principles to follow.

- A. Who lives inside of each believer? The \_\_\_\_\_

B. Christians ought to live in such a manner that they do not even \_\_\_\_\_ to be doing evil or wrong things. (I Thessalonians 5:22)

C. God has given us a \_\_\_\_\_, which is an inner sense telling us whether something is right or wrong to do. (Romans 2:14,15)

D. Who should we go to when we are in doubt about what the Bible teaches us to do in a certain area?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment:** Choose at least 2 of the following verses, memorize them, and say them to your teacher.

- I Corinthians 10:31
- II Corinthians 6:14
- I Thessalonians 5:22
- I Peter 1:15

**Application:** What will you do based on the truth you learned in this lesson?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_