

BIBLE STANDARDS

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Biblical Standards are essential for every area of life whether physical or spiritual. A careful reading of history indicates our nation was founded on principles, based on the Bible. Our institutions and laws were founded on a national belief in a Holy God, who required much of man, His creation. America was great when it held God in esteem and reverence and followed His precepts. Our churches were the foundation for this great government and most of our founders were Godly men. This seems to be changing as our government legislates against God and even churches turn away from proven Biblical Standards.

All nature operates on God given laws. Creation followed the step by step will of our eternal creator. These God given principles are essential to life its'elf and failure to follow them will always be marked by defeat. A nation without rules will always self-destruct. Past history mirrors the failure and final destruction of all governments who refuse to live by the rules of our creator. All of mankind must obey the rules and standards which must be followed as the Word of God sets them forth. The Bible is the best basis for the control of nations and the success of individual lives. One look at the Olympics proves the necessity for discipline, self control and conformity to the rules that shape a winner and the gold medal sought. No one accidentally becomes a success but must develop those things that cause one to excell. The stakes are the highest for Christians. A true believer must, willingly accept Biblical Standards, practise daily conformity, and be obedient to God's control. It never should be a matter of personal opinion when it comes to the lives we live and the things we allow. There are those worldly, shallow believers who write this off as

"legalism." Dont parrot a phrase that you don't understand. Conformity to the laws of God have always been required, not as an addition to our salvation, but a loving conformity to our commander in chief, Jesus Christ. Our salvation is totally Faith plus nothing but our obedience to His commands is proof of our devotion as we try to live for Christ. Our service, testimony and usefulness depends on our surrender to His will and direction. To be used of God a believer must willing obey those principles set down for our day by day direction. We must form Biblical convictions, based on the Bible and follow them, whatever the cost.

I would like to list a few of God's principles many of which you have often heard. (1). Does the Bible forbid it? The ten commandments are a great measuring rule of the things we should not do. (2). Is is worldly? I John 2:15-17 lays out this principle with grammer school simplicity. God warns against pride which is always behind the troubles we develop and the compromises that defeat us. Also, that which causes our eyes to lust and leads to the third, the lust of the flesh. Everything that leads to these three is to be strictly avoided by those who truly love the Lord. (3). Could it tempt me? James 1:13-16 points out that temptation does not come from God, but from within, as we allow improper outward stimulation to affect us. Movies, TV, some computer programs, books and magazines as well as unwise apparel all fit into this catagory. Where we go and with whom we associate also becomes crucial to this Biblical position. (4). Is it habit forming? I Cor. 6:12 urges the believer to not come under the power (or control) of injurious habits that will weaken our relationship to God. (5). Will it hinder my daily Christian living? Heb. 12:1&2 pictures the saints in a race with an all out determination to allow nothing to cause us to stray from our course. A dieter must avoid certain foods. An athelete must avoid hinderances to being his best and

press forward to his goals. (6). Will doing it hurt others? Rom. 14:13 warns the believer not be a stumbling block or give an occasion for anyone to fall. Example of true Godliness is crucial to daily witness in the eyes of others who watch. (8). Is it questionable? Rom. 14:23 warns strongly that if we doubt something's value we must avoid it. "That which is not of faith, is sin". (9). Would Jesus do it? We are commanded to follow in His footsteps and to, "grow up into Him in all things" Eph. 4:15. (10). Does doing it honor God? I Cor. 10:31 commands "Whatsoever we do in word or deed, do all to the glory of God." If it lifts self, results in disgrace of Godly living or turns the focus away from Him, it is wrong. (11). Would the Holy Spirit be grieved? Eph 4:30 clearly warns we must do nothing or go nowhere that would not please the Spirit that lives within us. (12). Could I witness in the process of doing it. I Peter 3:15 urges us to be nowhere we could not freely give a witness while doing it? The atmosphere we choose should not hinder the testimony we should be always ready to give.

Perhaps these reminders will help you and others to remember the importance of observing and keeping the Biblical standards, which God requires of His children. I sincerely hope so, and may God show you that principle cannot be maintained without standards. His will and direction are always the best!