

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28

"Moralism"

Part 2

Galatians 6:15

April 26, 2026

Gal 6:15

15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

4 critical applications of this verse:

1. Outward, superficial conformity to laws, rules, rituals, and/or a moral code are worthless to achieve any kind of favor with God.
2. The only thing that matters is a transformed life brought about, not by the flesh, but by the Holy Spirit working internally in an individual.
3. All of the external morality you pile on an unbeliever, accomplishes nothing for his/her justification/salvation.
4. God only approves and blesses a morality that does not come from the flesh, but is produced by the Spirit.

That brings us to the subject of Moralism . . .

- Neglected subject.
- Of course we are for morality and not immorality.
- **There is a morality God accepts and a morality God rejects.**
- How do we get to a morality that God accepts?

Definition:

"Moralism is a belief system of self-righteousness, whereby a determined moral code is imposed externally on individuals, a society, and/or a nation through political, legislative, and/or man-made religion in an attempt to produce moral behavior."

3 main institutions of Moralism –

1. Religion.
2. Politics.
3. Government.
 - Enacts laws to promote order, decency and justice in a nation.
 - Citizens obey those laws to the degree that it allows the nation to function.
 - The result is a standard of morality.
 - A government saves no one.

Intro.

- There are 3 "black holes" that believers can get drawn into.
- A **black hole** is a region in space where the force of gravity is so strong, not even light, the fastest known entity in our universe, can escape.



- **Materialism** – the pursuit and accumulation of material objects and the money used to purchase them. Driven by GREED.
- **Mysticism** – the pursuit of spiritual experiences with disregard for the truth. Driven by ECSTASY.
- **Moralism** – the pursuit politically to change individuals, a nation, or society by enacting laws to bring about behavioral change. Driven by SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- **All 3 have in common:**
 - Driven by the flesh.
 - Not biblical.
 - Difficult to escape.

Moralism

Why is moralism deadly and dangerous?

15 reasons:

1. **Moralism is not biblical.** Nowhere in scripture is external moralism mentioned, except in a negative sense, as a viable movement for believers to support.
2. **Moralism is a wrongful substitute.** Our mandate in scripture is to share the gospel and evangelize the world.

Matt 28:19-20

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

2 Cor 5:17-21

- 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
 - 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,
 - 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
 - 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- **Our goal is to see transformation, not obligation.**
 - **Transformed lives produce a morality that God accepts.**

3. Moralism confines itself to this world.

Phil 3:20

20 For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

John 18:36

36 Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world**. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

John 17:7, 15, 16

7 "I am no longer in the world; and yet **they themselves are in the world**, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, 15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

16 "**They are not of the world**, even as I am not of the world.

2 Cor 5:20

20 Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ,

4. Moralism wastes time, money, energy, and a believer's resources.

5. Moralism makes unbiblical distinctions.

- There are only 2 places where people will spend eternity – Heaven or Hell. Not 3. It's not believers, unbelievers, and moral people. It does not matter whether you are a policeman or a prostitute. It does not matter whether you are in the Marines or in the Mafia.

It does not matter whether you work for the Red Cross saving lives, or work for an abortion clinic terminating lives.

- **If you do not have Christ as your Savior, you are going to Hell.**

6. Moralism ignores the doctrine of Hell.

The goal of Moralism is to control the outward actions of people, and to create an environment that brings the favor of God, not to deal with the eternal destinies of people.

7. Moralism has no N.T. example. The only example of Moralism are the Pharisees. That is not who you want to pattern your life after.

Matt 5:20

20 "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 23:15

15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

Matt 23:15-17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 28, 33

15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites

16 "Woe to you, blind guides,

17 "You fools and blind men!

19 "You blind men,

23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.

27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

28 "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?"

10. Moralism is selective in the sins it fights.

Abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, pornography, pedophilia.

But what about the 7 deadly sins that God hates (Prov 6:16-19)? Pride (1st on the list), arrogance, telling lies, greed, all forms of evil, causing division among people.

Prov 6:16-19

16 There are six things which the Lord hates,

Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,

And hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that devises wicked plans,

Feet that run rapidly to evil,

19 A false witness who utters lies,

And one who spreads strife among brothers.

What about fornication, adultery, divorce, not loving God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving your neighbor as yourself?

"If you want to go after America's immorality, then let's indict the whole nation for not loving God." - John MacArthur

- Moralism selects sins that they already have on their list.

8. Moralism has no N.T. example for deep political involvement.

There is no mention anywhere in the N.T. of the first century church being involved in any political or moralistic movement. They just go about their business of proclaiming the gospel to everyone.

Acts 5:42

2 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ

1 Tim 2:1-3

2 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

"We, here in Brazil, cannot understand why the church in the United States is so obsessed with politics." - Missionary from Spain to Brazil

- To be clear, we should vote for moral leaders and laws, and, as we have an occasion, speak forth a word of righteousness or morality into a conversation or public setting.

9. Moralism creates unbiblical unions and associations.

2 Cor 6:14-15

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

- **Examples:** Moral Majority, ECT.

11. Moralism produces anger and separation against those who they call their enemies.

They are not our enemies. They are the mission field.

How dare we label someone as our enemy for whom

Christ died and needs to be saved?

12. Moralism robs the believer of his/her identity.

We are not the Moral Majority, or the Religious Right, or Republicans or Democrats.

- We are **followers** of Jesus Christ and we are here on this

planet for a short period of time to live holy and righteous lives and

share the gospel with as many people as we can.

- We are **aliens**. We see the world as astronauts do – part of it yet not apart of it. We are on a mission.

There are only 2 kinds of people in this world and they are

not the moral and the immoral or Republicans and

Democrats but rather the saved and the unsaved, believers and

unbelievers. If believers lose their identity, then who will be different from

the world? (O.T. – Israel was given an identity – different food, clothing,

worship, etc.) They failed to keep their identity. God has set them aside.

Will He do the same to America?

**13. Moralism misinterprets the metaphors of “salt and light.”
Matt 5:13-16**

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

- This is not a passage that tells us to have some kind of moral influence in the world. It is a passage that tells us how to evangelize.

Salt – live a godly life before unbelievers that draws them to the Savior.

Light – do good to others, shine the light of the gospel for others to see, and some will come to Christ and glorify God.

Application

1. A believer must be careful not to fall into the “black hole” of Moralism.
2. Our calling, our mandate, our information does not come from Fox News, CNN, CNBC, CBS, ABC, NBC, News Nation, etc. It comes from God’s Word.
3. God’s Word tells us we have been called out of this world. We see the world differently. We see people differently. We are new creatures. We are in a process of transformation. Transformed people produce godly morality.

14. Moralism incorrectly believes that if we can just make a more moral America, then the gospel will rapidly spread.

Nothing could be further from the truth. A more externally moral America will actually make it more difficult for the gospel to spread. (Ex. Pharisees) We become more self-righteous. Try witnessing to a very devout religious person. Cleaning up America will not bring the favor of God one iota.

In fact, it may bring His judgment.

“Righteous exalts a nation.” Right, but whose righteousness – our self righteousness or Christ’s righteousness? This always brings us back to the gospel which produces true internal righteousness and morality.

Prov 14:34

34 Righteousness exalts a nation,

But sin is a disgrace to any people.

15. Moralism fails to see the difference between morality produced by the flesh and morality produced by the Holy Spirit.

This is where believers stumble. All morality is not the same. We want morality but we must care where it comes from.