

How Our Morality Affects Our Converting The Lost v3

Many in the world first observe and react to our moral example before they seriously read the Word of God

Introduction

- We often complain, "It's so hard to reach the lost because the world is so immoral today."
- More specifically, we may be puzzled why our spouse, our children, other family members or neighbors cannot be reached by the gospel
- Undeniable – the world generally speaking is immoral today

2

Introduction

- Undeniable –the world in the first century was just as immoral as it is today
- Real problem – some local churches have tolerated immoral behavior, lowering standards and teaching to accommodate Christians who are living immorally
- We must awaken and live right according to the Word so that some in this lost world may be influenced to turn and be saved

3

Awake and live right according to the word

1Co 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

1Co 15:34 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

4

Positive effect of our moral lives upon the lost

- Although we live in a wicked world, we must not live in a vacuum
- We must be a positive moral influence in the world so people may see God's word being applied whether they have ever opened their Bibles or not
- When we compromise on morality, our example is weakened and of no use to influence the world to be saved

5

Positive effect of our moral lives upon the lost

Mat 5:13 "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.

Mat 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

6

Positive effect of our moral lives upon the lost

Mat 5:15 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.

Mat 5:16 "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.

7

Positive effect of our moral lives upon the lost

1Pe 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

8

Positive effect of our moral lives upon the lost

1Pe 2:10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

1Pe 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

9

Positive effect of our moral lives upon the lost

1Pe 2:12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

10

When living immorally we lose our influence to save the lost and restore erring saints

1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

11

When living immorally we lose our influence to save the lost and restore erring saints

1Co 5:5 *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1Co 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough*?

1Co 5:9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;

12

When living immorally we lose our influence
to save the lost and restore erring saints

1Co 5:10 I *did* not at all *mean* with the
immoral people of this world, or with the
covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for
then you would have to go out of the world.

1Co 5:11 But actually, I wrote to you not to
associate with any so-called brother if he is
an immoral person, or covetous, or an
idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a
swindler--not even to eat with such a one.

13

Some example of immoral behavior
accepted by some local churches
today

1. Adulterous marriages
2. Social drinking
3. Immodest apparel
4. Fellowship with those who teach error
5. Fellowship with members who persist in public sin

14

Some examples of living right before the lost

Tit 2:1 But as for you, speak the things
which are fitting for sound doctrine.

Tit 2:2 Older men are to be temperate,
dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in
perseverance.

Tit 2:3 Older women likewise are to be
reverent in their behavior, not malicious
gossips nor enslaved to much wine,
teaching what is good,

15

Some examples of living right before the lost

Tit 2:4 so that they may encourage the
young women to love their husbands, to love
their children,

Tit 2:5 *to be* sensible, pure, workers at
home, kind, being subject to their own
husbands, so that the word of God will not
be dishonored.

Tit 2:6 Likewise urge the young men to be
sensible;

16

Some examples of living right before the lost

Tit 2:7 in all things show yourself to be an
example of good deeds, with purity in
doctrine, dignified,

Tit 2:8 sound in speech which is beyond
reproach, so that the opponent will be put to
shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

17

Some examples of living right before the lost

Tit 2:9 *Urge* bondslaves to be subject to
their own masters in everything, to be well-
pleasing, not argumentative,

Tit 2:10 not pilfering, but showing all good
faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of
God our Savior in every respect.

18

Some examples of living right before the lost

1Pe 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

1Pe 2:14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

1Pe 2:15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

19

Some examples of living right before the lost

1Pe 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

1Pe 2:19 For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

20

Some examples of living right before the lost

1Pe 2:20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

1Pe 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

21

Some examples of living right before the lost

1Pe 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

1Pe 3:2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

22

Some examples of living right before the lost

1Pe 3:3 Your adornment must not be *merely* external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

1Pe 3:4 but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

23

Joyously obey the Lord

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

24

Speak out against sin

Eph 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them;

Eph 5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

Eph 5:9 (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

Eph 5:10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

25

Speak out against sin

Eph 5:11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

Eph 5:12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

26

Do not compromise truth

1Pe 4:3 For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

27

Do not compromise truth

1Pe 4:4 In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign *you*;

1Pe 4:5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

28

Do not teach or have fellowship with error

Rev 2:14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit *acts of immorality*.

Rev 2:15 'So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

29

Do not teach or have fellowship with error

Rev 2:20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Rev 2:21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

30

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1. Positive effect of our moral lives upon the lost
2. When living immorally we lose our influence to save the lost and restore erring saints
3. Some examples of living right before the lost
4. Practical applications
 - Joyously obey the Lord
 - Speak out against sin
 - Do not compromise truth
 - Do not teach or have fellowship with error