The Value in Living a Moral Life

Mark 10:17-22

Living a moral life in an evil and immoral world is tremendously important – it almost goes without saying. It can’t, however, go without saying. We live in a society where men and women live together, where drunkenness is looked upon as not that bad, where stealing, lying, adultery, fornication, cheating, refusing to work are looked upon as either being okay or tolerated.

It seems strange that there is a need to talk about value in living a moral life – but that it is necessary all we have to do is take note of how society actually is. More than that, there is inside of each of us a trigger, if pulled, will fire (initiate) an eruption (to whatever degree) of immoral thoughts, words, and/or actions. Can you imagine your car running just as it ought to when you have not changed the oil after 16,000 miles, or your eight spark plugs are miss-firing on three?

A great many people live their life in misery; inside they know what to do that is right, but they fail to do it and, consequently, the guilt is overwhelming. In time, without addressing the moral standard the Lord put within each of us we become hardened, dead to those things of righteousness, having bought in lock, stock, and barrel the ways of Satan. “I’ll stop,” we declare, “tomorrow!”

Moral living is associated with living happily. A happy life is a productive life; there are no regrets with regard to what was not done when it ought to have been done. There are no regrets with regard to what was done when it ought to not have been done. We have no regrets because we don’t have to look behind us and figure out how to cover our tracks. Living for Christ is an ideology that is beneficial in this life and one that has eternal consequences when this physical life is over.

“If Christianity does not make a man happy, it does not make him anything at all” (John Barcus, p. 24 “Moral Issues Facing the Church”, Hurts Creek Church of Christ, 1993).

I. Moral Living Defined. Romans 12:2

A. There are two things of note to be understood.
B. First, there is the PRESENTATION.
   1. The idea of a presentation is associated with a man living under the authority of the old law and presenting his animal sacrifice to the Lord.
2. This was not just any animal, but one that had to meet the specifications of the Law of Moses (Leviticus 1 and 2).
3. Emphasis is on two things: what is presented and to whom.

C. Second, there is the TRANSFORMATION.
   1. A Christian is to consider that which this world offers and decide that it is not anything with which to be associated.
   2. Thus he goes through a transformation, and this is accomplished by education.
   3. "The problem with living sacrifices is that they keep crawling off the altar" (NET, Study note, E-Sword).

II. Moral Living Discussed. The following passages give us what it is we need to understand when we talk about living a moral life.
   A. Titus 2:11-14 – we are taught to look
   B. Philippians 4:8 – we are taught to think
   C. Galatians 5:22-25 – we are taught to produce
   D. Ephesians 6:10-18 – we are taught to protect (guard, defend)
   E. 2 Peter 1:5-8 – we are NOT to rest (cf. 3:18)

   When we think of living a moral life as one lives the life of Jesus Christ we learn there are benefits to doing such:

III. The Benefits of Living a Moral Life.
   A. A moral life brings joy because it keeps us in God’s care.
   B. It helps us to avoid physical problems.
   C. It encourages and keeps us happy.
   D. It helps one to not be ridden with guilt.
   E. It is a proper example.
   F. It pleases the Lord.
   G. It has the promise of living with the Lord in eternity.

CONCLUSION. The value of a Christian in a dark world is not only for each to share the love of Jesus in word for those who have no hope, but it is also share the love of Jesus is a life transformed. Jesus teaches us that we are to live godly and righteously. He is calling upon you to do that now.