Abstain From All Appearance of Evil

**1 Thessalonians 5: 14-22**

# Introduction

1. As a Christian we are to be examples of what God wants in His people. (Holy)
2. Imagine what it must have felt like (Those mentioned positively in Paul’s epistles).
3. If this is (Your/Our/My) desire than we must follow Biblical teachings.

**Discussion:**

1. **The Thessalonians.**
   1. (1Thes. 1:1-9) Great example of Holy Living!
   2. But even in their time of righteous living Paul still exhorts (To urge by earnest appeal; advise or recommend strongly), the brethren (1Thes. 5:12-22).
   3. How can we be like this righteous group in Thessalonica?
2. **The Authority of The Bible in Ethics.**
   1. Authority refers to ‘the power or right to act or command.”
   2. Ethics has a reference to “a set of moral principles or values; the principles or conduct governing an individual or a group.”
      1. The chief priests and elders of the people came to Jesus and asked him, ***“By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?”*** (Mat. 21:23).
      2. Though they themselves may not have been honest at heart, at least they recognized two things:
         1. The need for religious authority
         2. The fact that such authority must come from the proper source.
   3. Jesus taught by the authority granted to him from the Father.
      1. The will of God as revealed in the Bible, is our authority in doctrine and practice.
      2. It serves as the Christian’s guide in dealing with human conduct.
      3. Paul described this authority as the “pillar of truth” (1Tim. 3:15).

# Human “Situational Ethics.”

## **Ethics** means “a series of rules and laws and principles by which we act and which tells us what to do.” **Situation Ethics** is not geared to rules and regulations.

* + 1. This system of ethics refuses to be circumscribed by rules and laws.
    2. There is nothing right or wrong – decision made on the situation at hand!
  1. Slide – examples of situation ethics decision process.
  2. Jesus and situational ethics (Mat. 12:1-8).
     1. Jesus vindicated his disciples, according to situationalists, by his approval of David’s breaking the law of God in eating the forbidden shewbread (1Sam 21:1-7; Lev. 24:9).
     2. They tell us that human welfare has preference over the laws of God. By sanctioning David’s action, Jesus in turn justified the **sin**. (Not True!)

3. Jesus never approved or encouraged breaking or violating God’s Law under any circumstances. Eating on the Sabbath was not a violation of God’s law.

**IV. God Is Always Correct in His Guidance.**

* 1. It is a standard much easier to understand. It is the standard that will establish the greatest good for all; not just for now, but for eternity.
     1. Man has limitations and is ignorant of what God knows. This is evident as why the smartest men cannot even agree to things, (flounder around with various moral theories, unanswered questions, and conflicts).
     2. God has said, ***“It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”*** (Jer. 10:23),
     3. (Prov. 12:15; 21:2).
     4. (Hosea 14:9) ***“Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.”***
  2. (1Thes. 5:22) ***“Abstain from all appearance (every form) of evil.”***

**Conclusion:**

In the coming of Christ “all authority” (Mat. 28:18) was given to him by God, and that is why our only standard of moral authority for the exercise of moral rightness is found in the doctrine of Christ. It is “The Word” that will finally judge (John 12:48).