

## II. Comparison of Morality and Integrity

### A. Introduction

In this study we will develop from Scripture two concepts:

- a. A code of conduct to which all human, believers and unbelievers alike, agree to submit for the purpose of preserving order. We will define the person who loyally submits to this system as moral.
- b. A code of conduct to which all believers agree to submit for the purpose of executing the Christian way of life. We will define the person who loyally submits to this system as a person of integrity.

We will further develop from Scripture that there are two divinely ordained systems within which one executes these codes:

- a. **The Laws of Divine Establishment:** Principles ordained by God for the protection, orderly function, survival, and blessing of the human race. A series of divine laws which are designed to hold the sinful nature in check while providing for the full expression of individual freedom.
- b. **The Operational Divine Power System:** A sphere of power supplied by the Filling of the Holy Spirit which enables the believer to access his spiritual assets for the execution of the Christian way of life.

The dictionary provides definitions for the words morality and integrity. We will utilize its definitions but we will apply them in a manner which the Scriptures indicate.

For example, we will learn what morality is and then apply its definition to those who the Bible identifies as moral.

We will learn what integrity is and then apply its definition to those who the Bible identifies as people of integrity.

The dictionary and society use these two words as synonyms. We will not.

The unbeliever is limited to mere human power and thus restricted to a human level of conduct, namely, morality.

The believer has available to him divine power and thus may not only attain the heights of human morality but also the rarefied atmosphere of spiritual integrity.

Drawing distinctions between morality and integrity will be the thrust of this portion of our study.

The Christian way of life can in no way be confused with the basic lifestyle which God requires of the entire human race.

### A. The Establishment of Morality

Morality is not a virtue as far as the Christian way of life is concerned.

Morality is God's prescribed modus vivendi for the entire human race, believer and unbeliever alike.

It is from moral principles that human laws are developed.

Civil and criminal law is a society's written chronicle of its moral beliefs.

It may be observed from history that law and order, justice and freedom always emerge in civilized societies.

One of my favorite authorities on the subject is Dr. Russell Kirk. His definitive examination of the development of order, justice, and freedom in a society is the subject of his book, *The Roots of American Order*. Here are some of his comments from the introductory chapter, "*Order, The First Need Of All*":

**Kirk, Russell. The Roots of American Order. La Salle: Open Court Publishing Co., 1974; pp. 4-9.**

Basic morality therefore can be seen as the foundation of a civilized society.

Basic morality in the souls of the people becomes incorporated into the laws of government producing a system of justice.

**Basic Morality + Law = Justice**

Justice recognizes law as the absolute standard by which right and wrong is determined.

A system of justice which is consistently loyal to a morality-based law produces an environment of freedom for the people. **Justice + Loyalty to the Law = Freedom**

It can therefore be seen that basic morality is the foundation from which both justice and freedom emerge.

These come together to form an environment in which society imposes “*enforced humility*” upon its citizens.

This system of enforced humility is what we have come to know as the Laws of Divine Establishment.

Remember the definition of the Laws of Divine Establishment: Principles ordained by God for the protection, orderly function, survival, and blessing of the human race.