

OVERCOME BLURRED MORALITY

OCTOBER 17, 2021

WORSHIP

God My Rock, Jesus,
Broken Vessels

WELCOME

What do you think is the worst thing that can happen if you have a blurred vision?

WORD

GENESIS 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

"Blurred morality" is a dangerous "toxin" that can enter our lives and families today. Morality is a set of standards that we follow to guide our behavior. It tells us right from wrong. But who determines right or wrong? Is it culture, tradition, society, or is it God? The foundation of our morality is important because it defines how we will live! We praise and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, at a time when society had blurred morality. Then slowly but surely, Christianity transformed the moral fiber of the world.

But today, people often believe that no one has the right to tell them what is right or wrong. They don't want anybody else to define their standards for morality. We have a confused mindset about "love" and "tolerance". The Bible teaches us to respect and love others. But secular tolerance pushes people not just to respect, but accept, support, and even advocate a cause that is not directly in agreement to one's morality. A confusion between truth and beliefs affects our view on morality. When we talk about truth, it's based on facts and reality; not according to feelings or preference.

We need **3Rs** to overcome blurred morality:

1. REALIZE TRUTH MATTERS

In **John 8:31-32**, Jesus emphasized how TRUTH is so important, and to "continue in My word" or obey His teachings. This means that you behave and live according to God's standards, be centered on His Word. Knowing the truth will free you from blurred morality and slavery to sin; it empowers you to see what life is about in God's design. In **John 14:6**, Jesus defines Himself as "the Way, the Truth, and the Life". Truth is not dependent on feelings. In **Genesis 3:1-3**, we are given a glimpse of how important it is to know truth. The first statement that came out of Satan (the Serpent) was an attack on the truth of God's word as he twisted the rule set by (**v1**) God, the Creator and Designer. God knows what is best, and He has set the rules on how things ought to work in His world. In His sovereignty, He issued commandments and established truths. We cannot invent truths – we only discover truths.

2. REJECT THE LIES OF SATAN

Learn the truth in order to reject Satan's lies. When Jesus was tempted, He overcame it by declaring Scriptures (**Matthew 4:4**). We must know the clear commands and teachings of God, because the Enemy is a liar and a deceiver. **Genesis 3:4** shows Satan's lies to Eve. Jesus defines Satan as the father of lies (**John 8:44**). That is why God is very strict when it comes to truth. In fact, **Revelation 21:8** says that no liar will be able to inherit the kingdom of God. The Bible describes God as One who will never lie (**Titus 1:2**).

OVERCOME BLURRED MORALITY

OCTOBER 17, 2021

WORD

People compromise moral values because they are deceived by temporal pleasure and happiness. Counterfeit truth (lies) brings counterfeit happiness – and puts us in real danger. **2 Timothy 4:3** warns of the day when people would not want to hear the truth. Today, Satan is influencing the world to desensitize us (“turn our ears from the truth”). The #cancelculture trend is on the rise, and our fear of being “cancelled” or rejected, leads us to compromise on truth and morality. Satan’s lies sound good because he wants us to believe that violating God’s truth has no real consequence and therefore can be disregarded. But the Bible warns in **Proverbs 14:12** that the way which seems right to man can end in the way of death. Beware of a short-term mentality – God’s rules are always for our good, Satan’s lies are deceptions that shortchange us. God made us for holiness – to know Him and enjoy Him. Looking for happiness in the wrong places will end in disaster.

3. RECOGNIZE GOD’S GOODNESS

A.W. Tozer said that, “**What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us**”. In **Genesis 3:5-6**, Satan attacked God’s goodness when he planted thoughts in Eve’s mind that “God is depriving (her) of something good”, and God was not after her best interest. Eventually, the woman believed the Serpent’s lies. **Genesis 2** shows us that God, in His goodness, gave man (v.8) all kinds of trees “pleasing to the sight” and even good for food! **Genesis 2:16-17** gave permission to eat from any tree except for one tree. God set that rule for protection. Recognize God’s goodness by a change of perspective. Rules are meant to protect us and for maximum enjoyment of life. **Psalms 34** reminds us to taste and see that the LORD is good (v.8), to take refuge – to put our trust and faith – in Him alone. **John 10:10** shows a clear contrast between the Enemy who “steals, kills, and destroys”, and Jesus who gives us “life, and have it abundantly”.

SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE (Eph. 4:15), not in anger or pride. For some, it’s all about love and not hurting others, they keep silent about the truth. But love seeks the good of others... if you love somebody, why will you not tell them the truth? The Apostle Paul addressed all kinds of sins in **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** that we need to REPENT from. There is hope; we can be holy and set apart for God; declared “not guilty”. Speak the truth in L.O.V.E:

- L**et them know that God really loves them by listening and having an open communication with them.
- O**pen God’s Word for truth relevant to their needs; remind them of
- V**ictory in Christ, and...
- E**ncourage them to trust in Jesus.

Romans 5:8 says that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us! Give people the hope that Jesus is at work in their lives (**Philippians 1:6**) bringing transformation and victory! As we hold on to Jesus and the reliability of the Bible, we can stand on clear morality and live the best life according to God’s masterful design!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Married couples/parents

Is God’s Word your standard in setting what is right and wrong in your marriage and family? How can you better implement God’s moral standards at home?

2. Single adults

In what ways have you been desensitized to God’s truth and moral standards by the world around you? How can you cultivate better sensitivity to God’s Spirit while still being in the world?

3. Children

What helps you believe that God is a good God? What makes you have a hard time believing that sometimes? (Ask help from your parents or older siblings to help you understand the Bible better and what it teaches about who God is!)

4. Everyone

How can you share God’s truth with others in your family or workplace/school in a loving way?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for the spiritual eyes of everyone who have “blurred” morality to be opened to the truth of God’s Word. Be a channel of God’s goodness to all people by giving them the best of your time, energy, and resources and not “cancel” anyone. Share the truth of the gospel, in love!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

John 8:31-32

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”