

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." **Genesis 15:1**

## Store In My Heart 1Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

Every action we take is with our body. Since we have been bought by God and God dwells within us, we must be careful about how we use our physical body. We need to remember the connection between our actions and our responsibility to God.

We would not purposely spoil our clothes before we went out for an event with our spouse. We ought not spoil our being with the wickedness of sin when we are supposed to be with God. Our whole being, body and soul, belong to God and we need to keep ourselves pure and righteous for Him.

This will take diligent effort and study so that we are able to identify and avoid those things that might soil our soul. Sin will stain us. Keep it out of your life.



## By What Standard

Jerry L. Henderson

Webster gives the following as one definition for the word "Standard": "That which is established by sovereign power as a rule or measure by which others are to be adjusted." We are quick to recognize that our "standard" is God's word. Jesus, in **Matthew 5:46-47**; **John 12:48** and Paul, in **2Corinthians 10:12** teaches a lesson we all need to learn regarding our standard. The lesson taught is that Christians have a higher standard to live by than others. Obviously, God wants everyone to live by this standard, but most do not. In **Matthew 5** Jesus taught at least five lessons concerning a higher standard of living than what people had been used to observing. Jesus said that even the publicans (those considered by the Jews to be a lower class of people) lived by the standard of returning good for good. The account in **Luke 6:32-33** refers to these as "sinners" that know how to return good for good. However, Jesus shows very clearly that His standard is higher than just returning good for good.

Christians are expected to live better and do more than people of the world. Our religion is worth little if it does not make us better than the average. We are raised to walk in newness of life **Romans 6:3-4** and **2Corinthians 5:17** says: "old things have passed away, behold all things are become new." We were once darkness but are now light according to **Ephesians 5:8** and must therefore walk as children of light. The apostle Paul teaches us that we are to be different from the world **Romans 12:2**. Again, in **Colossians 3:7-10** we learn that we once walked according to the world but have put on the new man. Jesus shows that the righteousness of the self-righteous Pharisee was not sufficient **Matthew 5:20**; **23:4-7**.

There are many standards that people abide by today but only God's is the right one. Yet, some members of the Lord's church attend no more, pray no more, study no more, work no more and love no more than their religious neighbors. Some religious groups meet as early as 7 AM for their assemblies and some of the Lord's people can't seem to get to the assemblies by 9:30 AM. Some religious groups work very diligently from door to door promoting their form of religion. How hard do we work

trying to find someone willing to engage in a Bible study or even visit our assemblies? Are we willing to exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees as Jesus talked about in **Matthew 5:20**? As we would say today: "They talked a good line, but they did not practice what they preached." What about us today? If we are going to "talk the talk" we must "walk the walk" also.

The Christian is in constant danger of being dragged down by "Mr. and Mrs. Average." Most people are satisfied living up to the standards of the average person. Contrast the standards of Jesus with the standards of the average person in our society. Taking human life **Matthew 5:21-22**: many are willing to take a human life if it suits their aims and purposes such as in abortions. Faithfulness in marriage **Matthew 5:27-28**: such is not even given consideration by much of our society. Truthfulness in speech **Matthew 5:33-37**: people will lie anytime it suits their own agenda. And we could go on with non-resistance to evil **Matthew 5:38-42**; love even for enemies **Matthew 5:43-48**; taking property of others **Mark 10:19**; **Ephesians 4:28**; intoxicating beverages **1Peter 4:3**; **1Thessalonians 5:22**; obeying civil laws **Romans 13:1-7**; dressing modestly **1Timothy 2:9-10**; thinking only of self **Philippians 2:4**; the exclusiveness of the religion of Jesus **Matthew 15:9,13**. These contrasts between what Jesus taught and what is practiced today should be sufficient to prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that we as His children must excel the average.

Jesus, not man, is the Christian's standard. Jesus left us an example and we should follow his steps **1Peter 2:21**. Jesus said, "*I am the way*" **John 14:6**. The apostle Paul warns us about measuring ourselves by ourselves and comparing ourselves among ourselves **2Corinthians 10:12**. Note the wording of this passage in the Amplified Version: "*Not that we [have the audacity to] venture to class or [even to] compare ourselves with some who exalt and furnish testimonials for themselves! However, when they measure themselves with themselves and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding and behave unwisely.*"

Christians are expected to follow the example left us by our Lord, Jesus Christ **1Peter 2:21**. The standard set by our Lord is far above the average. Let's examine ourselves and see if we have been satisfied with just average. If we have been and still are satisfied with just being average, then think about the question Jesus asks those He was teaching:

***"What Do Ye More Than Others?"***

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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## For Our Information

**Malcolm Rigsby** is to see a cardiologist for some more monitoring next week.

**Ruben Keisler** is scheduled for foot surgery later this week.

**Jim Soliday** is still waiting to get his cardiac ablation scheduled.

**Sue Soliday** is still dealing with problems from her Bells Palsy.

**Richard Tolleson** is dealing with the flu.

**Ruben and Brenda Keisler** are flying home today.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 2** Wednesday – **John 17**

**Gospel Meeting – April 27-May 1 – Alan Blaylock**

The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study