



## Who Sets our Moral Standards?

**Micah 6:8:** (NKJV) *He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*



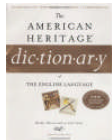
Our world can be a confusing place. When it comes to defining right and wrong, there are inevitable interpretations, applications and disagreements. When it comes to making a decision which includes some level of moral judgment, there are a myriad of possibilities, factors and extenuating circumstances which cloud the issue. When it comes to doing what we consider right for ourselves, there are always the mitigating factors and details that need to be sorted through...wait a minute! Does it have to be so confusing? Is what we know to be right *that* hard to find? Do moral judgments *have* to be painful and tentative? Is doing what's right for us *THAT* important? Stay with us as we look into the world of standards, morality, conscience and social acceptance.

### Our Only Question for consideration:

**What, or who should our moral standards be built upon?**

*Dictionary.com:* **Standard** - 1. Something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. 2. A rule or principle that is used as a basis for judgment. 3. Those morals, ethics, habits, etc., established by authority, custom, or an individual as acceptable.

Standards are an approved model established by authority, custom or an individual considered to be acceptable. A standard is used to measure other things against.



*American Heritage Dictionary:* **Morality** - The quality of being in accord with standards of right or good conduct. A system of ideas of right and wrong conduct: religious morality; Christian morality. Virtuous conduct. Rule or lesson in moral conduct.

Morality is in accord with standards, so both pieces are necessary. One can't live a moral life without the standard with which to measure that life.

So who sets those standards? Our parents? Our church? Our teachers?

### **Individual Standards vs. Godly Standards**

Who is "right" - the individual? The neighborhood? The collective?

(Source: Quodlibet Journal: Volume 6 Number 3, July - September 2004, Johnson, "Do Objective Moral Standards Exist in the World Today?") ...Lewis is pointing out that moral relativism cannot be lived out consistently. Even if one holds to moral relativism as his ethical theory, he will not be able to carry out his beliefs in all areas of his life. Lewis shows this by saying how a moral relativist would not put up with someone breaking a promise or a treaty with him because he would say it was unjust and would be upset about it. Lewis' point is that the very fact the relativist would be upset about someone breaking a promise to him shows that he is not consistently living out his relativistic beliefs. A true relativist could not be upset about this because there would be no absolute standard saying one must keep his promises or treaty. Right and wrong would be determined by each individual person, and if one did not believe he had to keep his promises, no one could hold it against him.



Relativism is measuring the standard by the circumstances. This is an adaptable standard.

The Bible tells us that there must be standards for living and those standards must be firm.

**First let's look at an example of an internal, personal standard:**

**Genesis 3:1-6: (KJV)** <sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? <sup>2</sup>And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: <sup>3</sup>But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. <sup>4</sup>And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup>For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. <sup>6</sup>And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat...



**Observations:**

To Eve, things LOOKED like they were in order:

- She knew the rule; (she wasn't even supposed to touch the tree.)
- She LISTENED to a contradiction of the rule;
- She framed the contradiction in the context of "more information." Sometimes more information is very appropriate. In this case, however, it was built on a contradiction of the rule;
- She wanted that fruit, and the serpent said it was a good thing.

She was exhibiting an internal personal standard - this is not good! Why not? Because it's personal! How you are feeling should not alter the standard.

**Matthew 22:36-40: (NRSV)** <sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" <sup>37</sup>He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

This is an external standard, based on Godly instruction - MUCH BETTER! Why? It is a standard given by that which is higher *for the purpose of eternal guidance and direction!*

**Here is the condition of humanity when we choose to ignore those standards:**

**Romans 1:18-23: (NKJV)** <sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup>because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup>because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.



## Observations:

- God's wrath focused on those who suppress truth; in God's eyes, truth is of critical importance;
- God provided the clear witness of creation to show His power and sovereignty;
- By ignoring the magnificence of the creation, men's thoughts moved towards futility; if we have such a big ego, how can God be our standard?
- Men now worship idols - that which is created rather than the Creator.



Our need for spiritually-based standards is clear:

Proverbs 29:18: (KJV) *Where there is no vision, the people perish:*

**Perish:** Strongs #6544 *pa'ra'* paw-rah' to **loosen**; by implication to **expose, dismiss**;

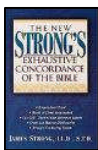
**Young's Literal Translation:** *Without a Vision is a people made naked*

**Rotherham:** *Where there is no vision, a people is let loose,*

**New Jerusalem Bible:** *Where there is no vision the people get out of hand;*

**ASV:** *Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint.*

**The "Rick" Translation:** *Where there is no vision, the people are vulnerable, confused and heading toward utter defeat.*



Not only do we need God's Standards, we must focus on appreciating them!

Proverbs 19:16: (ASV) *He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his soul; But he that is careless of his ways shall die.*

Psalms 119:165-176: (NRSV) <sup>165</sup>*Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.* <sup>166</sup>*I hope for your salvation, O LORD, and I fulfill your commandments.* <sup>167</sup>*My soul keeps your decrees; I love them exceedingly.* <sup>168</sup>*I keep your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before you.* <sup>169</sup>*Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word.* <sup>170</sup>*Let my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.* <sup>171</sup>*My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.* <sup>172</sup>*My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right.* <sup>173</sup>*Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.* <sup>174</sup>*I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight.* <sup>175</sup>*Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me.* <sup>176</sup>*I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.*

This shows a deep appreciation and dedication for God and His standards. We have to focus not only on having the standard, not just abiding by the standard, but loving and appreciating the standard with our whole hearts.

James 1:17-18: (NRSV) <sup>17</sup>*Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.* <sup>18</sup>*In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*

Job 38:5-7: (KJV) <sup>5</sup>*Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; <sup>7</sup>When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*



**Isaiah 55:8-11:** (NRSV) <sup>8</sup>*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

God sets the standard and Jesus is the model. Jesus shows us how the standard should be applied and implemented.

**Ephesians 3:17:** *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love...* that's a standard! Being grafted into that level of a standard, you are now in a position to live a really wholesome, dedicated, contributory life. That's where fulfillment comes from.

### Belief vs. Truth

(Source: Quodlibet Journal: Volume 6 Number 3, July - September 2004, Johnson, "Do Objective Moral Standards Exist in the World Today?") ...Another point that Horner raises is the reformer's dilemma: If what is right is just defined as whatever the cultural majority believes is right, then a reformer (one who disagrees with the culture and seeks to reform it—e.g. Jesus, Martin Luther King) is—by definition—morally wrong. What Horner is saying is that cultural relativism leaves no room for any kind of moral or cultural reform because that implies that something needed changing with the culture in the first place. Horner goes on to say the following: "This means that Martin Luther King in trying to change dominant racism in our society was morally wrong; abolitionists who tried to end slavery were morally reprehensible; Jesus, Gandhi, Vaclav Havel, those who worked against apartheid [separation and discrimination against blacks] for decades—the very people who are generally viewed as moral heroes, who stood up against a deeply immoral system—these turn out to be the only ones who were *immoral*—and the ones who acquiesced, who perpetuated the system, were the moral ideals.

If your standards are set on cultural norms, standing against a moral norm (not a moral right), or those who challenge that norm are considered to be the immoral ones. Our standards need to be from above and not what is "culturally acceptable."

**We all have ideas that we believe in. Is it enough to believe - especially if that belief is with all your heart?**

**Romans 1:28-32:** (NKJV) <sup>28</sup>*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup>being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, <sup>30</sup>backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup>who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

Just because something is culturally acceptable doesn't mean it is morally correct. We need to examine things to see where they are in relation to God's





standard, because our standards tend to shift with time, feelings and circumstances.

Psalms 72:17: (KJV) *His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.*

Luke 18:27: (KJV) *And he said, the things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*

**This next text is Jesus discussing himself with the Pharisees: Jesus' words represent firm truth and the words of the Pharisees represent a firm belief:**

John 8:23-36: (NKJV) <sup>23</sup>And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup>Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." <sup>25</sup>Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. <sup>26</sup>I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him." (This is a clear reliance of Jesus on God's standards.) <sup>27</sup>They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. (Their belief shut out all of the goodness he was bringing to them.) <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. <sup>29</sup>And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." (Jesus upheld God's standard.) <sup>30</sup>As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. <sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup>And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" (Their belief was constricting their ability to see truth.) <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup>And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. <sup>36</sup>Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

While belief is important, truth must be behind it. Otherwise it can shut us out from what is right.



**A Key Point: Faith (belief) is NOT credulity!**

cre·du·li·ty: readiness or willingness to believe especially on slight or uncertain evidence (gullibility)

Faith is standing for something, gullibility is falling for anything.

**This next text is a good example of a belief that is grasping to rid itself of its doubts and become firm in its foundation:**

Mark 9:17-27: (NKJV) <sup>17</sup>Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. <sup>18</sup>And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." <sup>19</sup>He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." <sup>20</sup>Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup>And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." <sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" <sup>26</sup>Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.



There is a continual work involved in the binding of our faith to truth. One of the key oppositions to this work is housed inside of our very core - it is our emotions.

### Emotion vs. Principle

Our emotions are mankind's lowest common denominator and therefore they are our most common meeting place. Look at the actions and reactions of those around you - listen to their conversations, follow their thoughts - all of these things find their home in our emotions.

Built upon our last section regarding belief and its placement, let's take a moment and examine how that works in a practical sense and see if we can pinpoint the role of emotion:



## Our faith (belief) can be based on many different things:

- Science: A system of knowledge based on study and observation;
- Medicine: The science and art of dealing with prevention and curing of disease;
- Opinion: One perception of reality vs. another;
- Preference: A personally preferred perception of reality;
- Tradition: Specific patterns of the past as a template for the present and future;
- History: The accounts of the past as a tool to prepare for the future;
- Astrology: The alignment of stars and planets as tools to plan your life;
- Prophecies: Nostradamus, The Mayans;
- Paganism: We are the gods;
- The Secret: The concept that the universe waits for your direction to fulfill your life;
- Atheism: The belief that God does not exist or should be ignored;
- The Bible: A book of history, prophecy, philosophy, tradition, medicine and science.

The bottom line is that all of the above approaches to life or parts of our life rely on faith. In many of these cases, our faith is well placed and necessary and will yield life-enhancing results. In other cases, our faith would be better placed elsewhere. It's easy to place your faith in something you are emotionally sold out to, but that doesn't mean that your faith belongs there. This is one of the things we have to look at regarding our standards. "But it feels right..." We have to learn to separate the emotion from the principle. If there is no principle, then the feeling of it being right is actually wrong!

**James 1:19-27: (NRSV)** <sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Our standards ought to be based not on how we feel, but on what is right. This is hard to uphold.

**James 3:13-18: (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup>This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Don't make self more important than the standard, even if the standard isn't comfortable in our lives!







## Convenience vs. Conscience

A conscience that is truly tuned to righteousness oversteps the boundary of convenience on a regular basis:

1 Timothy 4:1-5: (NKJV) <sup>1</sup>Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup>speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, <sup>3</sup>forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup>For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; <sup>5</sup>for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

The Apostle Paul is telling Timothy that in latter times, some will depart from the highest standard. What is your approach to religion? Is it based on true, Godly biblical standards or is it based on tradition or other things that water down and take away the truest essence of what Christianity is supposed to be?

James 2:1-7: (NKJV) <sup>1</sup>My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. <sup>2</sup>For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup>and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," <sup>4</sup>have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup>Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

Psalms 45:6-7: (NKJV) <sup>6</sup>Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. <sup>7</sup>You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

It is much easier to just love that which is right, because the actions required to display the hatred of wickedness are actions that are NOT convenient! When you hate that which is wrong, it requires you to stand up and be heard. Often times, that which is wrong is part of society's norms. But we are to hate the sin but not the sinner.

The value of the higher standard, the standard that is not built upon emotion, circumstance or personal gain, but is built upon obedience to a vision of integrity, is clearly laid out in the Bible.

The following is a good example of a conscience that is firmly founded on God:

Mathew 4:1-12: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and





serve only him." <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. <sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

Relativism would have shattered Jesus' standard. He didn't do that which was convenient. Eve went wrong by accepting the contradiction to the standard as more information. Jesus, on the other hand, abided by what was scripturally sound. Do we ever get into a position where it would be more convenient to take the short cut, even though the long way around is the way of integrity? Jesus was being tempted with that. The only words Jesus said of his own were, "Away with you, Satan!" He didn't dialogue. He made affirmative statements of clear spiritual conscience because there was a standard that was set that was so much higher from which he would not budge. That is the value of a higher standard.

Where are we in relation to that? Are we willing to avoid convenience for the sake of conscience? Are we willing to put emotion in its place for the sake of principle? Are we willing to make sure our belief is built on truth? Are we willing to avoid our individualized, personalized standards for the Godly standard?

With God as our standard setter, we can rest in the fact that His will for us is always for our highest eternal benefit. That is why the Apostle said, "when I am weak, then am I strong!"

James 1:2-8: (NKJV) <sup>2</sup>My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup>But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. <sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Lamentations 3:22-24: (NRSV) <sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup>they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Psalms 121:1-8: (ASV) <sup>1</sup>I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains: from whence shall my help come? <sup>2</sup>My help cometh from Jehovah, who made heaven and earth. <sup>3</sup>He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. <sup>4</sup>Behold, he that keepeth Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. <sup>5</sup>Jehovah is thy keeper: Jehovah is thy shade upon thy right hand. <sup>6</sup>The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. <sup>7</sup>Jehovah will keep thee from all evil; he will keep thy soul. <sup>8</sup>Jehovah will keep thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

If we truly take God as our standard setter, than it is really more spiritually convenient for us to follow His standards. Sometimes things will be difficult as we "swim upstream." Have your standards built on Godliness.

*So who sets our moral standards?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*