

It's interesting to note that *most* of those who are *so* intent on inflicting this new lack of morality on the minds and hearts of youngsters, are quick to acknowledge that any *physical* or *sexual* abuse of a child is *not* acceptable. However, those individuals are the very same ones who will take *every* opportunity to engage in *mental sabotage* of the Godly principles taught to that child by his or her parents. Would Christ allow his children to be subjected to vile and immoral teaching without a whimper of resistance? Christian parents must become informed as to what is being taught to their children in regard to moral issues and then take actions with the schools when they learn that Godly principles are being undermined. Children learn how to defend what's right by seeing parents defend what's right. It may not be pleasant — but it *is* right.

Jesus faced situations that weren't pleasant — but He didn't tolerate wrong.

"But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan!' he said. 'You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.'" (Mark 8:33 NIV-1984)

"Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 'It is written,' he said to them, 'My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.'" (Matthew 21:12-13 NIV-1984)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white-washed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness." (Matt. 23:27 NIV-1984)

"You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart." (Matt. 12:34 NIV-1984)

Paul also experienced times when he found it necessary to confront others.

"When Peter came to Antioch, I [Paul] opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong," (Galatians 2:11 NIV-1984)

"Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company..." (Acts 15:37-39 NIV-1984)

When Christians tolerate a society where everyone does what is right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25) and have no determination to do anything *about* it, they have forsaken their belief that the Scriptures *are* absolute truth. They have bought Satan's lie that intolerance is the greatest sin of all.

*"Diligence" is a privately funded publication of:
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DILIGENCE

"We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure." — Hebrews 6:11

A ministry of Dennis and Sherri Owens

Volume 11

May 1, 2012

Issue 7

Intolerance

The previous issue of *Diligence* mentioned *The Hayes Code* and how very much our world has changed from the days when an entirely *different* moral standard existed — not *all* that many years ago. For the most part, that issue of *Diligence* focused on how the New Testament Church has — and *is* — experiencing its *own* departure from a regulatory Code — i.e. following the Scriptures.

While we mostly focused on the Church in that previous issue, we pointed out that the changes we have seen in *society* didn't happen overnight — they occurred in small incremental steps. Often, those steps were *so small* that they went *unnoticed* by Christians who were quite busy functioning *within their own* protected and somewhat isolated environment. Sometimes, those changes were even *tolerated* by well meaning Christians who desired to display what *they* perceived as "showing a loving attitude" toward those who were *not* believers. Those well meaning Christians somehow seemed to think that doing nothing more than demonstrating "love" toward a society that was sinking deeper and deeper into a sinful "method of operation" would cause *everyone* to see the error of their ways and return to a fear of God — but that didn't work out so well. Unfortunately — immorality and sin became more and more common while the fear of God became less and less common.

Immorality quickly becomes a companion of Godless people. The attraction power of Satan exists in his appeal to the fleshly weaknesses of mankind. This means that tolerance — without discipline or correction — by God-fearing people allows the unabated spread of immorality. Satan has managed to maneuver society in such a way that the very *thought* of showing *any* disapproval — no matter *what* the sin might be — is just *intolerant* — and intolerance is the *greatest* wrong of all! Satan has convinced many individuals that there is no sin *worse* than intolerance — and many Christians have bought into that lie. So while not personally engaged in the immoral acts going on today, many good people are standing silent as society accelerates into greater and greater moral decline.

A somewhat recent episode of the CBS television show *60 Minutes* came up at lunch among co-workers. The topic was the Penn State coach who masterfully orchestrated a lifelong assault of sexual abuse on young boys. He did so as he purported to be a crusader for young disadvantaged boys. This evolved into a discussion of similar situations that involved Catholic priests worldwide and the impact that such actions have had on the Catholic Church. A statistic that was quoted by the person who brought up the subject was that only ten percent of

Catholics attend worship at this point in time. As a Catholic he *doubted* that statistic but *did* acknowledge a serious decline in attendance.

As the conversation continued, it moved to a more general discussion of the moral structure today as compared to when most of those present at the table grew up in the sixties. One individual who was much younger could not attest to the degree of change since that time period, but *did* agree that society today is very amoral. A notable part of the discussion was that many actions that are *common* among *very* young people today were once treated as absolutely *immoral* and generally practiced only by adults. There was also a general agreement to the fact that many of the things that occur today were simply unknown of just those few years ago.

The conclusion of the conversation was that we — as an overall society — are in a *very* different place morally than we were forty or fifty years ago — and it is *not* good. Lunch ended and we returned to work before we could discuss how we got there and what possible changes could be made to redirect the course of morality in our country.

As Christians, we would *like* to think that good Christian families are isolated or insulated from such immorality, but we know that is simply not true. It has become commonplace to see headlines involving a “Christian” leader succumbing to the temptations that abound. As forgiving people, we are willing to forgive as they ask God for forgiveness, but the damage done to family, friends, the Church and morals in general takes another hit.

Our society has continued to erode to lower levels of immorality and we are so bombarded that we begin to save our outrage for the “big issues.” It has become quite difficult nowadays however to know what defines a “big issue.” Is a big issue the fact that children are being taught in grade school how to use condoms? Is a big issue the fact that children are allowed in some school systems to get contraceptives without parental knowledge? Is it a big issue that public schools insist on teaching that ones gender is a *choice*? Is it a big issue when children are taught that homosexuality is not wrong, but rather to make such a statement is hate speech and worthy of punishment or possibly suspension from school? Is it a big issue that a young girl may be advised to have an abortion without parental knowledge? Is it a big issue that a teenage son or daughter has chosen to move in with a boy or girlfriend of the opposite sex? Is it a big issue that a son or daughter plans to go away to college assuming part of the expected college experience is cohabitation and you are a prude to disagree? Is it a big issue when a son or daughter decides that getting married is a *tradition* that has outlived its usefulness in current society and chooses to start a home without marriage? A totally *new* moral structure is in place — and it is a moral structure from man — not from God.

Christians today are *expected* to be *tolerant* of those who do not subscribe to God’s moral standards — even when it affects our own children. To do otherwise is framed as an *intolerant* act of attempting to force *our* moral standards on others

when in fact it *should* be framed as an intolerant act of attempting to force *immoral* standards on those of us who accept *God’s* Word as the moral standard by which society should be guided. Tolerance of immorality does nothing more than aid Satan in succeeding to install his new morality into a society that he has maneuvered into feeling *guilty* for opposing sin.

Children are being taught during their school day that they should accept as “normal” many immoral things. Parents must express their intolerance of those things. It is not appropriate for those who have a moral standard that is *different* from *God’s* standard, to force the children of believing parents to accept immoral activities, lifestyles, etc. as “normal.” It is simply not acceptable for Christian parents to *ask* — or *allow* their children to *tolerate* teachings that are not in line with the moral standards dictated by God Himself. God *has* no “alternative lifestyle” mentioned in His Word. God *has* no “alternative family structure” mentioned in His Word. God *has* no mention of “moral relativism” in His Word. God *has* no mention of “cognitive or ethical relativism” in His Word. Yet “alternative” and “relativism” are buzz words prevalent in society today. There are “alternative lifestyles” — alternative lifestyle resorts” — “alternative lifestyle cruises” — “alternative lifestyle vacations” — “alternative lifestyle relationships” — “alternative lifestyle magazines” — “alternative lifestyle groups” — “alternative lifestyle websites” — and on and on and on. There *is* no “alternative” to God’s Word and God’s Word is not based on relativism. God’s Word is absolute truth! Education systems nowadays however continue to push immorality and indecency as “normal” and parents — as well as all Christians — are expected to *tolerate* it. We are being encouraged to *accept* homosexuality, pornography, fornication, and a host of other sins that were once considered wrong but are now being tolerated and even promoted in society. Those who speak out against such moral relativism are often labeled as intolerant bigots. Every one of us should ask ourselves if *God* would classify us as intolerant bigots for standing *against* such things. What would He think of us if we *fail* to stand against such things?

The previous issue of *Diligence* included this quote —

“When an opponent declares, ‘I will not come over to your side,’ I calmly say, ‘Your child belongs to us already... What are you? You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time they will know nothing else but this new community.’” — Adolph Hitler

That is the very reason it has become so important that *children* be taught *tolerance* for this *new* morality to those who wish to *change* the standard. It won’t be unusual for *them* if they grow up with it being *their* normal. Parents have an *especially* big job today. For many years now, schools have marched forward teaching *tolerance* — *while* they trample the morals *we* are trying to instill in our children. Those who wish to change our society into an amoral one *know* children are not *equipped* to defend the beliefs of their parents and are therefore easily intimidated.