

Rules Vs. Righteousness

Rules = A principle or regulation governing conduct, action, procedure, arrangement, etc.
"Lines & Parameters" Focused on yourself

Righteousness = Pleasing God - Focused on what makes the one you love happy

In a rule based assumption of the christian walk, everything is fair game so long as you don't cross a certain line.

We think its acceptable to walk the line. to exist right up to the limit without breaking the rules. The problem with this outlook is that it ignores another command (2 Timothy 2:22) Pursue righteousness.

In a righteousness perspective, you cant get far enough way from the line

Genesis 39:1-20

(Joseph and Potiphar's wife)

v. v.3 Potiphar - Egyptian: Saw that the Lord was with Joseph. Potiphar was no jew and knew not their god. So what does it say about Joseph that potiphar saw these things? Josephs relationship with God showed. It was clear. He saw that Josephs relationship with God was meaningful and consequential to him. And even Potiphar benefitted from it.

vi.

vii. V. 8-9 Josephs behavior: "How can I sin against God?" suggest that he was not following a religious rule. His focus was on making God happy.

viii. V. 10-11 -Refuse to even be near her, - Ran out without his cloak. Where was Josephs' line? it was far from her.

Point: Was Joseph resisting temptation vs. Asserting Conviction

Some would say setting boundaries is a good idea. Perhaps not a bad idea. but the only boundary I see from the scriptures regarding unrighteousness is RUN!!!

2 Timothy 2:22

"flee not flirt"

Don't even play.

Put as much distance between yourself and unrighteousness as humanly possible.

Purity myths

-Old school vs. new school

With God, this difference does not exist. God and his word have been the same since the beginning of time. The only thing we should be concerned about is

- 1) Did god God command it? and
- 2) Will you choose to obey it?

-Making light of the Lords's discipline (Stop using terms that are not biblical) Using terms that play down the true spiritual nature of what you are doing. (Hebrews 12:4)

"I can handle it" - Christianity is not about what temptations you can withstand before breaking We are not to treat righteousness like a drinking game.

"It doesn't make me struggle"

Fine, but are you obeying God? Does His "no" mean no only if you cant handle it?

Purity and the Big Picture

Purity of heart

Remaining pure is really difficult when your interest in pleasing God is low that's why purity of purpose is important.

Purity of purpose

Matthew 16:21-23

Purity of mind

Philippians 4:8

Purity of body

1Cor 6:19 "body's a temple"

Purity of spirit

Galatians 5:16-17

Purity of Social Groups

2 Corinthians 6:17

1 Corinthians 5:11 "don't even eat"

Purity does not refer to an old-fashioned restrictive list of rules. It is giving honor to a relationship that deserves it, requires it and demands it.

Joseph was engaged in a relationship that mattered to him. He wasn't following rules, we see that his heart was to make God happy, to honor the things he'd already been given. This is the essence of biblical purity - to give 100% honor to the ones you love.

When you are in a relationship with someone where you are constantly searching for how far you can push before you cross the line and get in trouble, that is the spirit of someone's heart that is not with you.

It's not about rules. It's about honoring the one you love. If it matters to them, it matters to you.

There will never be a time when putting my wife second to another woman will be acceptable. My devotion to her will never be done "in moderation"

In the same way, putting God's expectations in this relationship second is not an option either. Is this too much to ask? Is your salvation too much to ask God for? Yes, as a matter of fact it is. But he gave it to you anyway. Now it's our turn. It IS too much to ask. But we give it anyway, that's what makes this meaningful.

This is the spirit of purity. It is what drives our desire to be pure. All scriptures on purity point to this heart.