

Throw Out Your Moral Compass 2-15-15AM

What is a “Moral Compass”? It is an expression we use to discuss or reference to a person's ability to judge what is right and wrong and act accordingly. We often say that our actions tend to be guided by a “moral compass”, our constant sense of right and wrong. The problem is, this is NOT how God would have us behave.

The Problem of Moral Compasses is found here:

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

Proverbs 20:24 A man's steps are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?

Generally speaking, there is no ability to naturally know right from wrong. You have no sense of right & wrong (Galatians 5:17). Right & wrong are understood, NOT felt (Genesis 2:9,17). What happens when feelings dictate morality? Isaiah revealed in Isaiah 44:14-20 that when men followed their own “moral compasses”, they turned to idolatry.

We know that most of the world has a broken moral compass. The problem of Moral Compasses is that Christians struggle with moral compasses too. We trust ourselves too much. The answer is that we need to visit our decisions with fresh eyes. We need to throw out our moral compass; it may only point to what you want.

In a movie several years ago based on the ride from Disneyland on the Pirates of the Caribbean, the main character had a very special compass. It did not point north, but instead to that thing that the pirate wanted most (treasure, etc). That describes well our problem. When we rely on ourselves to make decisions we need to make, we are probably deciding what we want most.

So how can we have righteous conduct that we can be certain is the spiritual true north, not our hearts desire? The Bible commands that we examine ourselves constantly (2 Corinthians 13:5). Every action we take we need to consider is susceptible to being our desires, not the Lord's. We can learn to ask ourselves questions like this:

#1 – What would Jesus do? 1 Peter 2:18-24

#2 – What would the apostles teach? Philippians 3:17, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

#3 – How would a child approach this? Matthew 18:1-6