

## THE DELIGHTFULLY SWEET & PRACTICAL BENEFITS OF BIBLICAL MORALITY

Psalm 119:101-102, 104

“...an alarming number of moral and cultural problems have exploded in our country since 1960. According to William Bennett’s index of leading cultural indicators, violent crime has risen 550 percent; births to unwed mothers are up 400 percent; teenage suicide has risen 300 percent; divorce has doubled; and the average S.A.T. score has fallen 73 points (this despite a doubling in education funding). Meanwhile the population of the United States has risen only 41 percent.”—*N. Geisler and Frank Turek, Legislating Morality, 7*

*Within biblical Christianity morality is a fixed branch of knowledge dependent upon the divine revelation of Scripture, concerned with right and wrong conduct, duty, and responsibility as reflected in the nature and character of God revealed in the inspired Scripture.*

### I. PREVENTATIVE MORALITY—MORALITY THAT \_\_\_\_\_ US \_\_\_\_\_ *COMMITTING SIN (Psalm 119:101)*

A. Preventative Morality takes place *before sinful thoughts, words, or actions occur—I hold back my feet from every evil way*

Search the Scriptures for individuals who struggled with the same sins, and ask the following questions:

- What did God say?
- What did God do?
- How did they react?
- What can I learn from this?

B. Preventative Morality *is based on and strengthened by the Word of God—in order to keep your word*

**1. Morality is based on the Word of God**

**2. Morality is strengthened by the Word of God**

**Q.** 135. What are the duties required in the sixth commandment?

**A.** The duties required in the sixth commandment are, all careful studies, and

*“To know Him and to make Him known”*

lawful endeavours, to preserve the life of ourselves and others by resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any; by just defence thereof against violence, patient bearing of the hand of God, quietness of mind, cheerfulness of spirit; a sober use of meat, drink, physic, sleep, labor, and recreation; by charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, kindness; peaceable, mild, and courteous speeches and behavior: forbearance, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil; comforting and succoring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent.

*Eph. 5:28-29; 1 Kings 18:4; Jer. 26:15-16; Acts 23:12, 16-17, 21, 27; Eph. 4:26-27; 2 Sam. 2:22; Deut. 22:8; Matt. 4:6-7; Prov. 1:10-11, 15-16; 1 Sam. 24:12; 1 Sam. 26:9-11; Gen. 37:21-22; Ps. 82:4; Prov. 24:11-12; 1 Sam. 14:45; Jas. 5:7-11; Heb. 12:9; 1 Thess. 4:11; 1 Pet. 3:3-4; Ps. 37:8-11; Prov. 17:22; Prov. 25:16, 27; 1 Tim. 5:23; Isa. 38:21; Ps. 127:2; Ecc. 5:12; 2 Thess. 3:10, 12; Prov. 16:26; Ecc. 3:4, 11; 1 Sam. 19:4-5; 1 Sam. 22:13-14; Rom. 13:10; Luke 10:33-34; Col. 3:12-13; Jas. 3:17; 1 Pet. 3:8-11; Prov. 15:1; Judg. 8:1-3; Matt. 5:24; Eph. 4:2, 32; Rom. 12:17, 20-21; 1 Thess. 5:14; Job 31:19-20; Matt. 25:35-36; Prov. 31:8-9.—Westminster Larger Catechism QA 135*

## II. DIRECTIVE MORALITY—MORALITY THAT \_\_\_\_\_ US \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ COMMITTING SIN (Psalm 119:102)

“I wouldn’t invest too much into language—”oh, I am lying” You can be clear in other ways. *“I’ll argue in this paper that the most biblical response to transgender people’s pronouns is a posture of unequivocal pronoun hospitality.”* That is, I believe that all Christians can and should use pronouns that reflect the expressed gender identities of transgender people, regardless of our views about gender identity ethics. If a person identifies herself to you as ‘she,’ I hope you will consider it an act of Christ-like love to call her ‘she’ out of respect, whether or not you believe that the way she expresses her gender identity is honoring to God” (11.1).”—*J. D. Greear*, <https://jdgrear.com/podcasts/when-talking-with-a-transgender-person-which-pronoun-should-you-use/>

## III. ANIMATIVE MORALITY—MORALITY THAT \_\_\_\_\_ GOD IN \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ TO SIN (Psalm 119:104)