

Beware Of Double Standards

Many people in this world base their decisions on the circumstances they are in at that moment.

If you ask such people, *“Is it wrong to do this?”* they may answer, *“Well, it depends...”*

Each person chooses for themselves and does what is right in their own eyes.

This was the original Satan-inspired sin that was given to Eve, for humans to decide for themselves what is right or wrong.

Genesis 3:1-5 [New King James] *“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”*

This attitude was passed on to Adam by Eve and has continued to flow through human nature ever since.

The result, even if unintended, is that people usually try to make ethical and moral decisions that allow them to obtain what is best for themselves; Eve enjoyed eating the forbidden fruit, [verse 6].

Let us now see what the Creator God has to say about standards

1) Physical standards –

Deuteronomy 25:13-16 [New King James] *“You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light. You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God.”*

The Creator God gave to the nation of Israel instructions about standards, these verses illustrate physical standards.

In ancient times, merchants carried balances and leather bags containing weights, the weights determined how much was being bought or sold.

These weights were stones that were supposed to weigh a standard amount. But shades and densities varied, so stones of the same weight might look different, you had to trust the merchant.

Some traders carried two sets of stones in their bags, heavy stones when they were buying, so they could put a larger quantity of goods on the other side of the balance, thus getting more for their money.

These merchants had a double standard.

The above verses required merchants to conduct business honestly, to use the same standard when buying or selling.

God's response in **verse 16** is powerful language and no light matter.

2) Behavioural standards –

Another double standard that the Creator God warned the Israelites to avoid is discrimination based on wealth and perverted justice.

Exodus 23:1-9 [New King James] *“You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice. You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute. If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it. You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute. Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked. And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous. Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”*

These standards were to pervade throughout all the social levels of society.

James 2:1-4 [New King James] *“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 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, 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,’ have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?”*

James the physical brother of Jesus Christ tells us it is wrong to show favouritism to the rich, to perhaps wanting to present a “good image” or to impress them.

James 3:8-12 [New King James] *“But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.”*

Double standards can extend to our speech, the choice of words that depend on the situation.

Nothing in the physical created world is hypocritical like such speech.

Double standards continue to be a problem in relationships today.

We may have one lifestyle on the job but another at home.

A man could even compliment his wife in public, yet abuse her at home.

The image presented among other Christians could change once we are away from their fellowship.

Perhaps we are courteous to the people we want to impress and rude to those we care little about.

3) What the Creator God expects –

A double standard in our lives is **not** the way the Creator God expects His future created children in His Eternal Kingdom to act.

God looks on such double standards as hypocrisy because His way of life is not in your heart or mind.

Read how Jesus Christ responded to the Pharisees, [**Matthew 23:13-15, 23, 25, 27, 29**].

The strong words in **Deuteronomy 25:16** are **not** directed against a mistake in judgement, but premeditated consistently dishonest way of getting ahead in business.

God is very concerned about all who live a double standard, who have rejected the Creator God's authority as to what is right and wrong.

James 1:5-8 [New King James] *“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. 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. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

The Creator God does not want us to be double minded, [the Greek means “double spirited” that is Satan and Holy Spirit.]

Wavering in what we believe, tossed to and fro by society that is governed by Satan, [**1 John 5:19**] but following the lead of the Holy Spirit, [**Galatians 5:22-25**] thus producing the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit which are the very characteristics of the Triune God.

The Creator God's standards of right and wrong demand integrity, we need to keep them even when it is not convenient, even if we might suffer for doing so, [1 Peter 4:12-19].

An unshakable commitment to God's standards is what this society needs today, it is what will prevail in the world tomorrow after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

All true Christians should be living now by the Creator God's perfect standards so as to be prepared to teach them to all the rest of humanity after Jesus Christ's Second Coming, [Revelation 20:4, 11-13].

For then the rebellious Satan will be bound and unable to influence human beings, [**Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10**].

May this new world tomorrow dawn soon.