

MORALS

Morals are the rules or behavior of living considered right by some standard. Much concern in the Christian, world view is not that morals exist or are practiced; rather, that the standard for the morals has changed in a direction away from Biblical truth. In this concern, the view for American culture could be that morals of fifty years ago were of a higher or more Biblical standard than morals of today.

There is a definite link between the media and morals: the media, in particular television, has been able to shape and fashion morals through the type programming that it produces and broadcast. Because television is distributed over such as large market or viewing audience, the effect is pervasive and penetrating. My belief is not that television as a whole is immoral; but that mainstream programming has been very instrumental in the shifting of the standard away from Biblical truth.

Some may argue that the media is simply a representation of society – that the programming and broadcasting is a direct reflection of the general public views and standards. Some may counter that the media is the driving force, while others may be confused or even ambivalent in the mix of this *chicken and egg* scenario.

As I write this letter, a current concern is over the morality of the war in Iraq. At the center of this controversy, is whether Americans be fighting and dying for the establishment of a democracy; whatever the reason or reasons for the war, are the causes worth the costs and casualties? Some would argue that the war is immoral – the cause(s) is not worthy of the costs. Again, the counter argument is that the war is being fought to preserve peace in the homeland and to initiate peace in Iraq and perhaps the Middle-East.

Over and above this war, and all previous wars, morality will never be achievable in this world – immoral behavior or sin will remain even if the standards did not change; however, as standards have changed, the degree of immoral behavior has heightened in my generation, in my society and culture. Trends of various indicators would show that the standard has shifted and the level of moral conduct has changed in this time period and place. My uncertainty and concern lies with your generation and the developing standard for morality.

As I ponder this matter, my prayers remain consistent for your development and growth. Having little contact with you and no opportunity to provide any direct parenting, prayer remains the balance of my responsibility and duty to you as my children.

In a **WORD**