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## WEEK 3 - DISCERNING GOD'S MORAL VISION OVERVIEW

All we have to do is read the Bible and do what it says, right? Well, it may not be quite so simple. For one thing, the Bible is full of "rules" which, for one reason or another, we no longer consider binding. Some biblical rules are emphasized differently (or ignored entirely!) in different parts of the Church. And it's obvious that the application of some biblical rules has changed significantly in the Church over time. How are we to make sense of the moral vision of the Bible with so many complicated factors to consider? In this message, we will explore the grand storyline of Scripture and see how God's Spirit weaves core moral principles throughout the text which call us to a way of living far deeper than simple rules. A way of living which, if we trust God enough to try it, can lead to his image being restored in each of us and to the very healing of our world.

*Be careful to obey all my commands, so that all will go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and pleasing to the LORD your God.*

**Deuteronomy 12:28**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever questioned rules in the Bible? How do you know which rules are "binding" for Christ-followers?
2. Why is submitting to the will of God essential for moral integrity?
3. Barry said, "we are not called to live up to some legalistic pile of do's and don'ts. We are called to reflect the character of our Maker to a broken world. To be his images." What is the difference, and why is it important?
  - a. For example: What does it mean to be Christ-followers who don't just avoid the sin of lying, but who stand for truth in this complicated time while also standing for compassion?
4. Discuss the [moral principles handout](#) from Sunday's service. How might this be helpful? What questions do you have? (note: scripture references for each principle are listed in the Grace app)
5. Barry suggested, "It's time to learn and trust God's will for you, and to become the person of life and love and abundance that you were created to be." How do you do that? (see [Romans 12:2](#))

## THE PRACTICE OF MORAL INTEGRITY

Disciples of Jesus reject the corruption of sin and reflect Christ to the world as image bearers of God.

## RESOURCES

*The Moral Vision of the New Testament*, by Richard B. Hays

*Kingdom Ethics* by David P. Gushee and Glen Stassen

Moral principles [handout](#)

[Men's Life Roundtable](#) on Sexual Integrity, September 12, 6:30 p.m.