

Normalizing Righteousness – Part 4

Sunday, September 29, 2019

So far we have learned that **Normalization**, or social normalization, is the process through which ideas and behaviors that may fall outside of [social norms](#) come to be regarded as "[normal](#)".

From the world's perspective this means that ideas and behaviors that are contrary to God's Word have, overtime, come to be accepted as normal and acceptable. On the other hand, what God has declared to be good and right is now regarded as outdated, abnormal and even wrong

It is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophetic declaration...

Isaiah 5:20, 24 (NIV)

20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

24 ...for they have rejected the law of the Lord Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One.

The challenge of this series has been to reverse that process by making righteousness (clean and God honoring living) - something that currently falls outside of social norms - a normal part of our everyday lives

We have already seen that normalizing righteousness is a process in which we must

1. Stop treating it as something abnormal
2. Start Living it out in public daily
3. Stop Being Ashamed
4. Start Inviting Others To Join You

We also learned that it requires a transformation of our hearts and minds that only comes through the power of God. A power that saves us, delivers us, cleanses us, sets us free, forgives us, and makes us new.

1. He WANTS us to be clean (righteous)
2. He DOES the Work (Cleansing)
3. We need to Ask
4. We need To WALK In It

Last week we turned our attention to answering the question "What is Truth?" As we sought to get **God's definition of normal**, His ...decrees and instructions, and that show us the way we are to live and how we are to behave. (Exodus 18:20)

NORMAL IS...

1. One God and One Way To Heaven
2. God in First Place
3. Clean and God Honoring Language
4. Prioritizing Church and Spending Time With God
5. Love, Respect and Submission in Relationships
6. The Sanctity of Human Life
7. Sexual Purity In All Its Forms
8. Financial Integrity
9. Truthful & Respectful Speech
10. Thankfulness and Contentment

This morning we want to look at the lies that keep us from walking in these truths and how we can defeat them. Our text comes from Luke Chapter 18

Luke 18:18-30 English Standard Version (ESV)

18 And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" **19** And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. **20** You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" **21** And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." **22** When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." **23** But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. **24** Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! **25** For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." **26** Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" **27** But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." **28** And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." **29** And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers and sisters[\[a\]](#) or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, **30** who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

DEFEATING THE LIES

1. Confronting The Lies

- a. The Overall lie... Evil is good and good is evil
- b. I am o.k. just like I am

1 John 1:6-10 New International Version (NIV)

6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.**

- c. I can have my cake and eat it too
- d. I won't have anything
- e. What God asks is impossible

2. Recognizing The Source of The Lies

- a. Ourselves

2 Corinthians 5:15 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

- b. The World
- c. The Enemy

John 8:44 New International Version (NIV)

⁴⁴ ...the devil... was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 New International Version (NIV)

9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve

the lie, **10** and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **11** For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie **12** and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

3. Immersing Ourselves In The Truth

- a. The more we are told a lie the more believable it becomes, and the more we immerse ourselves in the truth the greater the likelihood that we will incorporate that truth into our everyday life.

The Bible is God's written message to all people. It helps us better understand who God is and how to make him part of our lives

- b. God was calling him to come out of that which was continuing to influence him
- c. God is calling us to go all in

Titus 3:3-8 New International Version (NIV)

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. **4** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. **8** This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

4. Trusting God For The Impossible

- a. It's not my strength, but His

Zechariah 4:6 New International Version (NIV)

6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

- b. What God calls us to do, He will Empower us to accomplish
- c. The rewards far outweigh the sacrifices

1 John 3:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **3** All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.