

Practical Ways to Normalize Righteousness

Key Texts:

Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version (NIV)

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 2:11-12 New International Version (NIV)

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Thoughts to Consider

1. There will never be an exhaustive list
2. These should continue to be works in progress
3. These are not meant to be legalistic rules that save us, or which are applied in judgement against others

CATEGORY: Sexual Purity

PRINCIPLE: God created sex for our pleasure and for procreation, but has ordained it to be enjoyed within the bounds of marriage

SCRIPTURES:

1 Corinthians 6:18 New International Version (NIV)

18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

PRACTICAL INCORPORATION:

- Abstinence before marriage
- *In a “hookup” society I practice abstinence* (Angela Smith)
- No sex outside of marriage
- Unplug from sources of temptation
- Put filters on your devices
- Proclaim God's design (God created genders and made men and women to compliment and complete each other)
- It starts with the eyes
- Lust IS adultery
- Accountability is good

CATEGORY: Spending Time with God

PRINCIPLE: God created us for fellowship with himself. In that fellowship we are strengthened, without it we are weak

SCRIPTURES:

1 John 1:7 New International Version (NIV)

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 [\[a\]](#) sin.

Genesis 5:24 New International Version (NIV)

24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

PRACTICAL INCORPORATION:

- Prioritize your time in the word, prayer and fellowship with other believers
- Spend some time every day in the word and in prayer
- Every time you check your phone or want to get on Facebook, read a scripture or two first or instead of
- *Back east we had several of these weeks, I can remember. We had to put away all media devices, TVs, radio, cell phones & anything else that causes noises for 1 week. Then we had to eat simple meals with our families, all in one room & I think we had to camp out & sleep on the floor. We could play games as a family, but not the media. It was amazing, how close families grew together & to God. I remember my mind became so clear, from all the distractions in life. It was also to help us understand & get more of a burden for those who live on the mission field, without the luxuries of life that we have.*
- Let your houseguests know that you will be attending church and that they can come along if they want

CATEGORY: Contentment

PRINCIPLE: Our lack of contentment can lead us away from God

SCRIPTURES:

1 Timothy 6:6 New International Version (NIV)

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Philippians 4:11 New International Version (NIV)

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

PRACTICAL INCORPORATION:

- Refuse to buy into the world's continual greed for more
- Cut back at Christmas and other times of gift giving
 - *"We don't know exactly how the devil gained control in the life of Judas before he betrayed our Lord. Scripture hints at GREED."*
- Don't get drawn into the materialism of black Friday etc...
- Be thankful for what you do have
- There is a freedom to simplicity
- Apply the standard of needs and wants to your desires
- The more stuff you have, the more headaches you have
- Watch Madam Blueberry at least once a year
- @Preachersnsneakers - \$1500.00 T-shirt, \$3,000 pair of sneakers