

## Moral Excellence

The word “excellence” is defined as “the quality of being excellent.” The word “excellent” refers to that which is “superior” or “eminently good.” We refer to many things as being excellent. Our favorite athlete is “excellent” as he rises above his peers in his accomplishments. A play, movie or television show can be excellent. A meal can be excellent. Each of these, however, is based on a standard that is prone to shift. What I perceive as excellent may be second rate to you. I may be very excited about what I see as excellent and you may be indifferent. That is because we are basing our perception on a different standard.

As Christians we are to manifest a moral excellence in relation to our fellow man. Moral excellence, however, is not based on criteria I may establish; rather, it is based on God’s standard. Many today operate on the standard of feelings/emotions, peers, culturally accepted norms and whatever they consider to be an “expert opinion.”

We must understand that the standard for determining our morality is that of God’s word. Something is deemed as right or wrong, not based upon an emotional response or majority rule, but by that which God determines in His word to be right and wrong. May we be those who operate upon His standard and manifest the moral excellence that He demands of His children.

### Sermon: Moral Excellence

#### 1. Different Standards Used Today

- A. Feelings (Prov. 14:12; 28:26; Jer. 10:23)
- B. Conscience (Acts 23:1; 26:9-11)
- C. Peers (Matt. 7:13-14)
- D. My Preacher (Mt. 15:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; 2 Pet. 3:1-3)

#### 2. The Proper Standard (Mt. 28:18; Jno. 12:48-50; Eph. 4:17-24; Mt. 10:40; Jno. 14:26; 16:12-13; 1 Cor. 14:37; 1 Thes. 4:1-8)

P.M. – NT Survey: John (2)