

**Confidence & Courage Eliminate Fear: Morality Is a Human Convention, Righteousness Is the Desired Standard; What One Must Believe to Be Saved**

27. The key to courage toward life is the ability to sustain it under pressure:
- 1) Knowledge of God and His essence produces confidence toward God expressed by our love *for* God. Knowledge of eternal security sustains confidence toward God.
  - 2) One of the major heresies that abounds today is taught in many of the mainline Protestant denominations. It is not uncommon for evangelical seminaries and the pastors they produce to teach congregations that salvation and eternal life are contingent upon one's ability to lead a moral life.
  - 3) Morality is a virtue that is required for people who are fallen to coexist with each other for the purpose of maintaining order. However, that which is moral in one culture may be immoral in another. All ideologies and isms formulate moral codes and therefore multiculturalism is an effort to find a happy medium so that all cultures can coexist.

**Kirk, Russell. *The Roots of American Order*. (La Salle: Open Court Publishing, 1974), 9-10, 103:**

By definition, "ideology" means servitude to political dogmas, abstract ideas not founded upon historical experience. Ideology is inverted religion. Communism, fascism, and anarchism have been the most powerful of these ideologies.

The American order of our day was not founded upon ideology. It was not manufactured: rather, it *grew*. This American order is not immutable, for it will change in one respect or another as the circumstances of social existence alter. American laws are not like the laws which Lycurgus gave to the Spartans, never to be altered at all. (p. 9)

But we must have permanence in some things, if change is to be improvement. Americans generally retain a respect for their old moral habits and their old political forms, because those habits and forms express their understanding of order. This attachment to certain enduring principles of order has done much to preserve America from the confused and violent change that plagues most modern nations.

No order is perfect: man himself being imperfect. But if the roots of an order are healthy that order may be reinvigorated and improved. If its roots are withered, "the dead tree gives no shelter." (p. 10)

A pious man, in the Roman understanding, was one who fulfilled his duties, religious and social—one who subordinated his own desires to the claims of others.

A man was pious who gave the gods their due, through worship and sacrifice; who honored his father and his mother, and indeed all his ancestors; who stood by his friends; who was ready to die, if need be, for his country. A pious man, that is, submitted himself to things sacred, and believed unflinchingly that it was better to perish than to fail in his sacred duties. A society held together by such a cementing belief would offer strong resistance to forces of disintegration.

- 4) The introduction of absolutes into the definition of what is moral causes friction to occur between competing cultures. To make sure that no one of any ideology or ism is ever offended we have the advent of political correctness, a benign phrase for a totalitarian legal and social system that requires you to tolerate the moral codes of others but to never suggest that yours is superior.
- 5) What pleases God is not morality which is a human convention made necessary because man is carnal by nature, but rather righteousness which is orientation and adjustment to the absolute standards of God.

- 6) Therefore, morality is no more an indication of the spiritual status of a person than would be his political opinions, his choice of music, or his personal behavior patterns.
- 7) One's spiritual status is determined by whether or not he has placed his faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. When presented with the Gospel, if a person is not confident that his faith in Christ results in eternal life then he is not saved. He is not saved because he does not believe in what the work of Christ provides.
- 8) God does not present the work of Christ as an initial step in a process that *leads* to salvation. He does not assert that eternal life is granted at some future time based on how one behaves between then and the day he dies.
- 9) The Bible presents the salvation work of Christ as a finished product. When the Lord said from the cross, "It is finished!" the sin problem of the human race was resolved. The question that then remains for each person to consider is "What think ye of Christ?"
- 10) The true Gospel presents the Person and work of Christ as the only way one may acquire eternal life, in fact the Apostle John concludes His Gospel by affirming the principle:

**John 20:31 -** These have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have eternal life in His name.