

THE DOCTRINE OF STANDARDS

TEXT: (Proverbs 20:10, NIV)

¹⁰ Differing weights and differing measures—the LORD detests them both.

I. WHY STANDARDS?

A. Landmarks

1. Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your forefathers” (Proverbs 22:28, NIV).

B. Clarity

1. “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” (Isaiah 5:20, NIV).
2. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9, KJV).

C. Separation from the World

1. “For thou art an holy **people** unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth” (Deuteronomy 14:2, KJV).
2. “And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments” (Deuteronomy 26:18, KJV)
3. “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14, KJV).
4. “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (I Peter 2:9, KJV).
5. “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession” (Deuteronomy 14:2, NIV).
6. “And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands” (Deuteronomy 26:18, NIV).
7. “Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good” (Titus 2:14, NIV).
8. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (I Peter 2:9, NIV).

II. SETTING A STANDARD

1. “Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death” (Exodus 19:12, NIV).

A. Protection

1. “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings” (I Peter 5:8-9, NIV).
2. “With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity” (Romans 12:1-2, PHILLIPS).
3. “One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. ‘Where have you come from?’ the LORD asked Satan. Satan answered the LORD, ‘I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that’s going on’” (Job 1:6-7, NLT).
4. “Do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:27, NIV).
5. “‘Everything is permissible for me’—but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible for me’—but I will not be mastered by anything” (I Corinthians 6:12, NIV).
6. “‘Everything is permissible’—but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible’—but not everything is constructive” (I Corinthians 10:23, NIV).
7. “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid” (Romans 6:1-2, KJV).

B. Identification

1. “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”
 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God” (II Corinthians 6:17-7:1, NIV).
2. “But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (I Peter 2:9, KJV).
3. “You are the children of the LORD your God. Do not cut yourselves or shave the front of your heads for the dead, for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession” (Deuteronomy 14:1-2, NIV).
4. “Manasseh also sacrificed his own sons in the fire in the valley of Ben-Hinnom. He practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft, and he consulted with mediums and psychics. He did much that was evil in the LORD’S sight, arousing his anger” (II Chronicles 33:6, NLT).
5. “Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, ‘Listen to this message from the LORD: The time is coming when everything in your palace—all the treasures stored up by your ancestors until now—will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. Some of your very own sons will be taken away into exile. They will become eunuchs who will serve in the palace of Babylon’s king” (II Kings 20:16-18, NLT).
6. “‘The word of the LORD you have spoken is good,’ Hezekiah replied. For he thought, ‘Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?’” (II Kings 20:19, NIV).

III. STANDARDS OTHERS CAN SEE

1. "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (I Samuel 16:7, NIV).

A. Dress

1. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27, NIV).
2. "When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female" (Genesis 5:2-3, NIV).
3. "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so *are* abomination unto the LORD thy God" (Deuteronomy 22:5, KJV).

B. Hair

1. "Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him" (I Corinthians 11:4, 7, 14, NIV).
2. "And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is just as though her head were shaved. If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut (shorn, scissor) or shaved (razor) off, she should cover her head. A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man...For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head...Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?...but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering" (I Corinthians 11:5-7, 10, 13, 15).
3. "For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head" (I Corinthians 11:8-10, NIV).
4. "If a woman has no covering, let her be for now with short hair, but since it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair shorn (cut) or shaved, she should grow it again" (I Corinthians 11:6, NIV footnote).

C. Adorning

1. "Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious" (I Peter 3:3-4, ESV).
2. "Women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works" (I Timothy 2:9-10, ESV).

CONCLUSION

1. "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19, KJV).