

## **Right from Wrong – Part 2**

*Josh McDowell*

### I. Introduction.

- A. One of the most important things we can pass on to our children.
- B. The basis for right and wrong is not our parents - it is not a valid standard.
  - 1. We teach our kids because it is wrong.
  - 2. We are a channel of what is right and wrong not the source.
- C. The basis of right and wrong is the character and Person of God.
- D. Behind precepts are principles and behind principles is the character and nature of God.

II. There are two things that we must instill in our children if they are to follow His principles: God loves them and they can trust Him.

- A. It is like a maze - the problem is that one cannot see the results of his or her choice.
  - 1. When we have someone from a higher perspective whom we trust and who loves us we can get through the maze.
  - 2. The higher person can see the results of every choice.
- B. Unless our children come to understand that God loves them and that they can trust Him, they will never be able to base their lives on His character.
  - 1. We need to teach our children about God's faithfulness.
  - 2. We need to show them how God has been good in our lives so as to instill them with this trust and love.
- C. When we make right choices there is often immediate positive consequences, but later down the line there are negative consequences.
  - 1. Example of a basketball player who refused to lie about reading a book for an exam, but had to give up playing in a game.
  - 2. He suffered consequences immediately, but not later.
- D. Truth is that which has fidelity to an original.
  - 1. Example: if there is a liter of something exactly, it would have to match in comparison to the original measurement for a liter. There would have to be fidelity to the original.

2. Truth is that which equals the original.

3. Things are right which have fidelity to the original, which is the Person and character of God.

E. Four principles.

1. Consider the choice.

2. Compare it to God.

3. Commit to God's way.

4. Count on God's blessings and protection.

F. The example of Daniel.

1. He was taken into exile and was put in a high position within the king's court.

2. He was told that he must eat of the king's meat, which he could not because he was Jewish (the food was sacrificed to idols).

3. He had to go through the four principles.

4. In Daniel 1:8, he committed himself to God's way.

5. Daniel counted on God's blessing and they permitted him to eat vegetables - he became stronger and was even granted the position of prime minister.

III. Conclusion: it was the love of God and the speaker's trust for Him that enabled him to follow His precepts.

# Right from Wrong – Part 2

*Josh McDowell*

## STUDY GUIDE

### *Part 1: What do you see?*

1. What two things must we understand about God before we can choose to sincerely follow Him?

---

---

---

---

2. What are the four principles in choosing right from wrong?

---

---

---

---

3. How does the example of Daniel help illustrate the success of the four principles?

---

---

---

---

### *Part 2: What do you think?*

1. Why is trust and love so important for obedience?

---

---

---

---

2. The speaker says that being guided by God is a lot like being guided through a maze by someone with a perspective of the end results. What might the end result be in the case of God's guidance?

---

---

---

---

3. Explain what the speaker's definition of truth means in your own words. What does it mean that truth is something that has fidelity to an original? What is the original in this case? How does this help one understand the nature of right and wrong decisions?

---

---

---

---

**Part 3: What will you do?**

1. If teaching youth that understanding God's love and trusting Him is important for obedience, how can you contribute to displaying God's love and His trustworthiness? Give some examples.

---

---

---

---

2. What was your reaction to the four principles for choosing God's way? How will you integrate these in your own life?

---

---

---

---

3. What examples in your own life can you think of in which you avoided immediate satisfaction for good in the long term? What areas of your life need to be viewed more from this perspective? What will you do to make this a reality?

---

---

---

---