

Special points of interest:

- Holy Land Journey Center

August 2020



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Volume 30 Issue 7

Stump the Pastor

Our question this week comes from Robin McAlpine and was spurred by an article entitled “Lauren Green: Can You Be Moral without Believing in God?”. You can find the article at the following link:

<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/lauren-green-can-you-be-moral-without-believing-in-god>

A question which can be answered a number of ways for sure. But how do we understand moral, morals, and moral behavior?

With regard to establishing a baseline definition of “moral” Meriam-Webster provides the following:

mor·al | \ 'môr-əl , 'mär- \ (adjective)

1a: of or relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior

b: expressing or teaching a conception of right behavior

c: conforming to a standard of right behavior

d: sanctioned by or operative on one's conscience or ethical judgment

e: capable of right and wrong action

2: probable though not proved

3: perceptual or psychological rather than tangible or practical in nature or effect

The question focuses on “moral” as an adjective, or descriptor, i.e., a lifestyle based on choices identified as good and evil. While this simplifies matters it should be remembered that moral behavior is the root of ethics which becomes a complex area of study to say the least.

So is it possible for someone to live a moral life without faith in God? Of course but with the following understandings: 1) The root of “moral” as a standard or teaching is of God; and, 2) Moral without a basis or standard will over time change, or morph.

The root of “moral” as a standard or teaching is of God. Let’s not confuse the idea of moral which has its basis outside of a society of culture with more’s which are largely established by a society or culture.

(Cont'd on back page)

Grief Support Group

This is for anyone mourning or grieving a loved one. We will meet at 6:00 Monday evening, **August 3** in the Fellowship Hall. Supper will be provided. We should have enough room to distance ourselves with 2 or 3 at each table. This will be a planning meeting so largely we will discuss needs of the group.

Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, August 5, 10:30 a.m.

We will get the sign in information out via email and text. Please call the office Wednesday morning prior to 10 am to get sign in information.

Additional Small Services

Beginning **August 9**, each Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 am we will be holding an abbreviated service of Holy Communion in our Sanctuary. This service will be limited to 7 participants. Please call and let us know you are coming. This service is for those who would like a service with limited participants for safety's sake. If you are attending our Sunday services please allow others to participate. Once the weather breaks and the heat wanes we may try an outdoor service. We will keep you



Lunch Bunch is postponed until further notice.

Bible Study is will be held on Zoom. Stay tuned!

Lydia Circle is postponed until further notice.

Council meeting date will be determined.

Piecemakers is postponed until further notice.

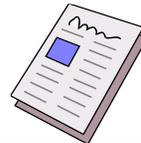
Afraid of change? We're not!

PLEASE START SAVING YOUR CHANGE



FOR THE NEXT NOISY OFFERING **AUGUST 30!**

The monthly deadline for newsletters is the second Friday of the month.



August Birthdays

02	Harold Fike	16	Carmen Nord
04	Jan Hanes, Sr.		Tara Price
08	Allen Hawkins	21	Michele Studer
11	Robin McAlpine	24	John Cooper
	Carole Kibler		Sylvia Varn
13	Joey McClain	26	Carlyle Baxley
	Gerald Williams	28	Allison McAlpine
15	Everett Thomas	30	Sandra Cooper
		31	Kim Butler
			Linda Layman



September Birthdays

01	Mathis Butler	15	Damien Seymour
03	Beth Ryan	16	Jim McAlpine
10	Amanda Downey	19	Lanning Risher
11	Delmar Irick	28	Maggie Eckert
	Barney Ransom		David McAlpine

August Anniversaries

04	Frank and Martha Bernhardt
08	Richard and Linda Whitehouse
10	Gil and Frances Rennhack
16	Lanning and Dean Risher
21	Jim and Robin McAlpine
29	Dale and Susanne LeClair
31	Walter Fitzgerald & Linda Layman

September Anniversaries

01	Will and Jean Loving
	Delmar and Janie Irick
17	Harold and Pat Fike



(Cont'd from front page)

The word absolute can get us in trouble, however, with regard to “moral” as a standard we could say the standard is unchanging or absolute. In other words, the moral life we live as God’s people having its root in the heart and wisdom of God is unchangeable. For us as the Church we default largely to a moral code established by Judeo-Christian tradition. This moral code serves as the basis for legal code in western thought and much of eastern thought.

So as Christian or Jewish, we acknowledge the basis of moral belief and behavior as originating with God, a gift if you will on how we live harmoniously together as a holy people. As such we have a standard which is consistent.

This brings us to the second caveat that “morality without a basis or standard will over time morph.” For example, a carpenter who needs a dozen twelve inch pieces of 2 x 4 uses the first cut as the standard. If he/she decides to use the last cut piece to measure the next, the pieces will lengthen with each cut and twelve inches is no longer the standard. We need a standard that is consistent and, well, standard, by which to check our course.

Yes we can live a moral life without faith in God though there is the danger of understanding the idea of what is moral being reduced to mere subjective rules and policies.