

Traffic Lights-When to Go, When to Stop, and When To Yield

Intro:

- **The purpose-Management tool**
- **God's traffic light-**
 - Includes morals, values and ethics
 - What's the difference? (Actual do vs. ought to do)
 - 70's moral relevance-Absolute truth?
 - Scary stats: 1992-74%, 66% 2008-68%, 72%
 - 2010-80%,

Guess who said the following

- I think it's fairly obvious why I was married. As strange as it may sound, I am a very moral woman. I was taught by my parents that if you fall in love, if you want to have a love affair, you get married. I guess I'm very old-fashioned." Answer: _____
- Dennis Prager-Christian Researcher-Studied teens for 15 years. =Asked "In an emergency situation would they save their dog or a stranger first?"
- Overwhelmingly teens answered they would save their dog first. They loved their dog but didn't love the stranger.
 - Critical observation: The feeling of love has supplanted God or religious principle as the moral guide for young people.
 - He concluded that "what is right has been redefined in terms of what an individual feels.

Definitions from Webster dictionary (see chapter emailed to you for further discussion)

- **Moral:** concerning or relating to what is right and wrong in human behavior; based on what you think is right and good; considered right and good by most people; agreeing with a standard of right behavior
- **Ethics :** rules of behavior based on ideas about what is morally good and bad ; an area of study that deals with ideas about what is good and bad behavior; a branch of philosophy dealing with what is morally right or wrong
- **Values:** Something (as a principal or quality) that is intrinsically valuable or desirable. In relation to family values-especially of a traditional or conservative kind which are held to promote the sound functioning of the family and to strengthen the fabric of society.

What is a moral absolute?

- *An absolute is a universal norm or moral law that applies to all men and women, everywhere, under all circumstances*
- *Our standard that we base these absolutes of course is the Bible.*
- *Example:*
 - *Hollywood “make believe”-Mad Max-No absolute truth=anarchy.*
 - *God’s Word=Absolute truth-Prov. 16:25, Judges 21:25*
 - *Real World vs. God’s Absolute truth-Ex.20:16, Eph. 4:25*
 - *“Men lie to women. Women lie to men. And most people agree that some lying is even necessary—to avoid petty squabbles and to grease the wheels of a relationship.” Dr. Joyce Brothers*

So What’s Our Driving Manual say about God’s Traffic Lights?

Morals, ethics, and values starts with an absolute truth about God.

- ***“The Lord reigns; let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. Clouds and thickness surround Him: righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. [Ps. 97:1-2]***
- ***“The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.” [Ps. 19:8-9]***
- ***“For the word of the Lord is right and true; and He is faithful in all He does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice: the earth is full of His unfailing love.” [Ps. 33:4-5]***

What does God’s word say about those who refuse to acknowledge his absolutes?

“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. “ 1 Cor. 2:14

“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.”Eph. 4:17

“The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. Do all these evildoers know nothing? They devour my people as though eating bread; they never call on the Lord.” Psalm 14:1-4

- **What would the world say about the above verses?**

Let's play red light/green light!

- You shall have no other gods before me (R or G ?)
- You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below (R or G?)
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain (R or G?)
- Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy (R or G?)
- Honor your father and mother (R or G?)
- You shall not murder (R or G?)
- You shall not commit adultery (R or G?)
- You shall not steal (R or G?)
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor (R or G?)
- You shall not covet (R or G?)
- 8 red light and 2 green lights. Why?
- Is a red light always something negative? Answer: _____

Teens thinking God's red lights are negative

- *Teens and sex*
- *"It is God's will that you should be **sanctified**: that you should avoid sexual immorality" I Thess. 4:3 (red light)*
 - 12=%2 15=16% 16= 33% 17=48% 18= 71% 19=71%
 - What's would be the moral (standard) and what would be the ethic?
- *"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body." I Cor. 6:18 (red light)*
- *On average 17=sex 26= marriage (What does this mean?)*
- *If sexual purity wasn't a moral issue before marriage why would it be after marriage?*

- *Could it play a role in the lack of success of marriages today?*

Red lights that turn to green lights

- **Example:**
 - Phil. 2:3 says, *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves”.*
 - Selfish ambition is personal desire to achieve something for yourself regardless how it affects others.
 - Vain means to have a high opinion of yourself or think your worth more than others
 - Conceit means to have excessive pride in yourself.
 - **What’s God’s “red light”**
 - Give example of how a teen fits into these definitions

Key Red light/green lights (Absolute truths)

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.... “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Matt. 5:21-24

- **(Any red lights or green lights? What’s the moral or ethical?)**
- *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. Matt 5:38-42*
- **(Any red lights or green lights? What’s the moral or ethical?)**
- *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor-and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Matt. 5: 43-48*

- **(Red lights? Green lights? Moral or ethical?)**

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matt. 6:1-4

- Any red lights? Green Lights?
- What’s the main moral or ethical or value?

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy—your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Matt. 6:19-24

- Any red lights or greed lights? What’s the moral, ethic, or value?

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matt. 6: 25-34

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matt. 7: 7-11

- *Any red lights? Green Lights?*
- *What's the main moral or ethical or value?*

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." Matt. 7:1-5

- *Any red lights? Green Lights?*
- *What's the main moral or ethical or value?*

What about the yellow lights?

- Ask yourself what would Jesus do in this situation from what you know He has taught
- Ask will this glorify God?
- Ask will it edify me and uplift me?
- Does this cause me to even take on the appearance of evil?
- Could this cause me to make someone stumble?
- Is this activity a positive seeking of God's righteousness?