

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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WHAT IS MORALLY ACCEPTABLE IN AMERICA?

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A recent survey from the Barna Research Group sets forth an alarming picture of the sense of morality in our country. The group headed by George Barna, an “Evangelical”, tabulated results from a phone survey of 1,024 adults in the 48 continual states.

61% of all adults indicated that *gambling* was “Morally Acceptable”. *Cohabitation*-living with someone of the opposite sex without being married was “Morally Acceptable” to 60% of all adults. 59% of all adults believed enjoying *sexual thoughts or fantasies* about someone was “Morally Acceptable”. 38% of all adults believed it “Morally Acceptable” to *look at pictures of nudity or explicit sexual behavior*. 36% of all adults believed using *profanity* was “Morally Acceptable”. *Getting drunk* was “Morally Acceptable” to 35% of all adults. *Homosexuality*—having a sexual relationship with someone of the same sex is “Morally Acceptable” to 30% of all adults.

Gambling contradicts the teachings of the New Testament regarding “love”-seeking the well-being of others, and thrives on

“greed” or “covetousness” which is a form of idolatry (Matthew 7:12, Colossians 3:5). Having sexual fantasies about a person, other than one’s spouse, looking at pornography, or cohabiting with one of the opposite sex without being married to them is equally condemned by the Bible (Matt. 5:28, Jn. 5:18, 8:3,4). The Bible also clearly teaches that it is wrong or sinful to get drunk (Eph. 5:18, Gal. 5:21). Homosexual acts are described by the Holy Spirit as being the product of “vile passions” and “against nature” (Romans 1:26-27). And finally, profanity, which is corrupt speech, is not “Morally Acceptable” to God (Eph. 4:29, 5:4-6).

If everyone allowed the plain teachings of the Bible to be their guide, there would be 0 % of us who thought the various practices considered in the survey were “Morally Acceptable.”

Those surveyed have backgrounds ranging from “born again” Evangelicals to “atheists or agnostics”. 87% of those who doubt or openly disavow the existence of God believed cohabitation was “Morally Acceptable”. Using profanity was “Morally Acceptable

to 68% of these adults . In stark contrast, 12% of the “Evangelical” adults believed cohabitation was “Morally Acceptable”, and 7% believed using profanity was “Morally Acceptable”.

Believing in an *absolute standard* is no doubt one reason for the differences in what is “Morally Acceptable”. According to the survey, “Evangelicals” believe the Bible “is totally accurate in all its teaching”, while “atheists”, honor only their own wisdom. This respect and disrespect for God’s absolute standard is clearly reflected in the differing percentages.

The survey clearly shows the need to teach God’s absolute standard to our children when they are young. 40% of those 18-19, and 41% of the 20-38 year olds believe homosexuality is “Morally Acceptable”. Only 14% of those 58 years of age and above agreed. As judges redefine *marriage* to include homosexuals, a younger generation may not set forth much resistance, especially those untaught.