

A Life without Standards

Can you imagine what it would be like if we had no standards in the world today? Everywhere you look there is something that is standardized. According to Webster's Dictionary a standard applies to any definite rule, principle, or measure established by authority. Consider these examples and think of how chaotic things might be if there were no standards to go by.

Buying a pair of shoes. Suppose you went to the store and attempted to buy shoes and there were no standard sizes. The first thing you might do is to choose the style of shoe you want to wear. Then you must find shoes that fit, here lies the problem. There are no sizes marked on the shoes because there are no standard sizes. Not only that, but there were no standard categories for the shoes. Shoes for men, women, and kids would be all in the same place and because there are no sizes to divide the shoes, you would have to search through who knows how many pair to find the type shoe you wanted. Oh, and by the way, shoes don't come in pairs (that's a standard too). So now you are searching through a huge inventory of unmatched, un-sized shoes. Who knows how long it would take to find a matching pair, then would they be the same size? And would that size fit your foot?

What about fishing? All fishermen know that the law requires a standard length for certain fish before they can be kept. But what if there was no standard to measure the fish by? Many of you fishermen reading this right now are thinking "Boy that would be great!" But hang on for a minute. Because there is no standard, there is no guidance for the game warden to make a judgment about your catch. Therefore if he thought that your fish was too small or that you had too many fish in your live well, how could you argue if he had the authority to make his own decisions based upon his opinion and not the standard of the law? Besides, how could you describe the big one that got away if you could describe it using inches or pounds?

Standards are important, especially in matters of religion. In order to be pleasing to God we must follow His standard, the Holy Bible. Inspired by Him (through the Spirit) it contains the ruler, the yardstick, the scale by which all of mankind will be judged. Jesus said, "*the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*" (John 12:48). So when it comes to determining what is right and wrong, how to become a Christian, how to properly worship God, there is only one standard. It is not a standard written by men, determined by some council or board but a divine guide for all of our life, service and worship to the Heavenly Father. If we are to have real unity, if all believers are to worship and serve God together as Jesus desired us to do (John 17), then we must let go of our traditions, our opinions and let God's Word be our guide in all truth, God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Without a standard chaos reigns, if you doubt that then take a look at the state of religion today. Please include in your daily prayers that we can all begin to follow God's standard in unity, in spirit, in love and in Jesus Christ!

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