

# Can We Be Moral Without Becoming Moralistic?

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Matt. 12.1-8

- To be moral is to have a code that defines right and wrong.
- To be moralistic is to be judgmental about it.
- A moral person can be trusted. A moralistic person condemns others.

The Modern Moral Dilemma:

1. We are living in an age in which a major moral change has occurred.

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- The basis for the morality of self-fulfillment is identity.
- Institutions are the basis for the previous morality.

2. We rejoice in shamelessness which gives us emotional

license to be judgmental .

- We must own the fact that our culture is delivering what we ask it to.

Jesus and the Pharisees meet in the grain field:

- Israel had a culture of hospitality to the hungry, the poor and the stranger.
- Jesus and his disciples encounter some Pharisees while taking advantage of that.
- The Pharisees were good people who had a morality of rules. This is the least effective form of morality.
- Jesus dismantled their argument by showing the contradictions within it.

The Key Thing:

Jesus understood them. .

You want to be moral without being moralistic?

1. Offer the other person understanding.
2. Proceed mercifully.