

1 Moral Compass

How not to get lost in times of trouble by following True North.

2 Scripture

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3 NIV)

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. (Ephesians 1:4 NIV)

In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. (Ephesians 1:5–6 NIV)

3 Scripture

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. (Ephesians 1:7–8 NIV)

And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure,

which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment —

to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. (Ephesians 1:9–10 NIV)

4 Scripture

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that . . .

we (Jews), who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11–12 NIV)

And you (Gentiles) also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. (Ephesians 1:13 NIV)

Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:14 NIV)

5 Introduction

I don't know if you know this or not, but all sorts of bad things can happen when you're without navigational equipment.

In fact, you might not realize how much we rely on a compass or a GPS signal — until you find yourself in Wichita, Kansas, instead of Denver, Colorado.

This actually happened, in case you're wondering, when my father kicked his chief navigator to the backseat of the car to let his little sister ride shotgun.

6 Introduction

A blogger on a drone website, almost hit a tree while flying his new drone.

He encountered compass interference and a loss of GPS control.

FYI - Flying your drone without GPS is not recommended.

He writes,

"I just bypassed the GPS connection because I was a noob (newbie) and didn't realize how important it was.

I was trying to get a quick shot of my hotel balcony and was surrounded by tall buildings with Wi-Fi interference."

7 Introduction

However, you don't have to fly drones or hike in the woods to need a compass to augment your orienteering skills.

If you travel at all, you're using navigational equipment without being aware of it.

Your vehicle, especially if it's relatively new, probably has a screen with a map option.

If not, many people use their smart phone's map, which basically does the same thing.

8 Introduction

In fact,

Pilots,

Uber drivers,

Truckers,

Civil engineers, and
the military
all use a compass or a sophisticated form of one in their work.

9 Introduction

Now, we all know what compasses are.

But did you know there are many types of compasses.

Perhaps you remember the little hand-held compass we used as kids in scouting or at summer camp.

It was round, and there was a little needle under the glass bouncing around on a pin, and it sort of pointed north.

This is a magnetic compass, and you can build a basic one with a needle and a cork in a bowl of water.

10 Introduction

Another type is a gyrocompass.

This compass does not use the Earth's magnetism to show direction.

Instead, a spinning gyroscope works in conjunction with the Earth's axis of rotation to point to true north.

And did you know that magnetic north and true north are two different places.

Then there is the solar compass that uses the sun as a navigational tool.

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12 Introduction

But there is also a moral compass.

This compass for Christians uses the Son — the Son of God — as a directional tool.

It is a compass that points to our True North and it never changes or wanders.

It keeps us on a good and trustworthy path.

In other words, a compass helps us travel with confidence in the right direction.

If it doesn't, we need a new compass.

13 Introduction

As a new year begins many people start planning or thinking on what they want to do and perhaps where they want to travel.

Many others have professional dreams and goals and can't wait to get going.

We may even have a new baby on the way.

Limited by lockdowns for the past two years, we might want to blow things wide open in 2022 — to realize our potential and go and do things we always wanted to do.

We may be saying to ourselves, this is going to be a big year and I can't wait to put things in action!

14 Introduction

But we had better check our navigational tools and the skill set we have for using them.

A review might be in order, and one place to start is by considering what compass we are going to use to arrive at our destination.

Using the wrong compass or shooting for the wrong position of north (true vs. magnetic), can take us to a place we don't want to go.

In fact, it can do more than that, it can take us to a place that can do us actual harm, especially to the well-being of our souls.

15 Moral Compass

In 2018, Cheryl K. Chumley of The Washington Times, summarized a recent Gallup Poll by stating the following.

"Americans say the country, as it stands, today is worse off morally than in past years — and worse off, morally speaking, to a tune that's never before seen."

According to the survey, a record-high of 49% of Americans rated moral values as poor and a record-tying-low 14% rated them as excellent or good," Gallup reported.

When asked whether U.S. moral values are getting better or worse, 77% of Americans in 2018 said, they were worsening.

16 Moral Compass

According to the article, the good news is that many with sex addictions, unwanted pregnancies, homosexual tendencies — those with abusive pasts that fuel negative and harmful and immoral behaviors and habits — can come forward to receive whatever help they want.

The bad news is that cultural ills have now become so understood and tolerated, they've become accepted and normalized.

In other words, the pendulum has swung so wide open that it is hard for even the most "open-minded" or "liberal" Americans to ignore the problem.

17 Facts About the Moral Collapse

America has the highest STD infection rate in the entire industrialized world.

The United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the entire industrialized world.

89% of all pornography is produced in the United States.

More than half of all couples in the United States "move in together" before they get married.

America has the highest divorce rate in the world by a good margin.

18 Facts About the Moral Collapse

The United States has the highest abortion rate in the western world.

An all-time high of 59% of all Americans believe that the traditional definition (one man and one woman) of marriage needs to be changed.

America has the highest incarceration rate and the largest total prison population in the entire world by a wide margin.

America has the highest rate of illegal drug use on the entire planet.

Of all the major industrialized nations, America is the most obese.

19 Facts About the Moral Collapse

88% of American boys and girls are addicted to video games.

Average SAT scores have been falling for years, and the level of education in our public schools is a total joke.

Many of our elected officials in Washington have become multi-millionaires while serving in congress.

Since the 1950s, weekly church attendance has dropped more than half to only 24%.

Today, 54% of Americans seldom or never go to church.

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So then, if we are using the moral compass from contemporary American culture then we are probably in trouble.

Why? Because they are obviously pointing in the wrong direction and if we follow them they will probably lead us to where we don't want to go.

Unfortunately, too many Christians do the very thing.

They sit in front of movies, TV shows, and listen to all kinds of music that promotes and celebrates all kinds of hedonistic values.

They seem to forget the words of the Apostle Peter who said on the Day of Pentecost, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." (Acts 2:40 NIV)

21 Moral Compass

Our society today no longer uses a biblical moral compass.

We today live in a world where truth has become relative and up for personal interpretation, where it seems—everyone does what is right in their own eyes. [Judges 17:6]

The sad part of this idea, is that it doesn't all come from pop culture but also from our academic institutions who are now so post-modern in their worldview where there is no such thing as absolute moral truth anymore or even absolute truth.

That is why in our society today,

feelings are more important than facts, and

one's fantasies are more important than reality.

22 Moral Compass

In ancient Israel, Moses knew ahead of time what would be the most serious moral issue for the people.

He addressed this in Deuteronomy 7:2-4,

[W]hen the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally.

Do not intermarry (or develop close relationships) with them.

. . . for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.

23 Moral Compass

Joshua, Moses' successor, says the same thing,

Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them.

You must not serve them or bow down to them.

But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now. (Joshua 23:7–8 NIV)

“But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them, then you may be sure that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. (Joshua 23:12–13 NIV)

Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the LORD your God has given you. (Joshua 23:13 NIV)

24 Moral Compass

The evidence is clear, Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” (1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV)

I can remember in Elementary School when we had a Bible Devotion to start each day and in every class there was posted on the wall the 10 Commandments.

While society at that time wasn't necessarily heaven on earth or pointed to true north, it did closely support, value, and honor biblical morals.

So did most movies and TV shows.

However, starting in the late 60s and continuing up to the present, there has been a steady decline of biblical morals, which seems to be accelerating where the America of today is nothing like the America of the past.

25 Moral Compass

What has changed is our moral compass.

As stated before, our society has become almost totally secularized, where in the public discourse of ideas

the God of the Bible is ignored and

American history under the Judeo-Christian worldview is rewritten and demonized.

If you sit at the troth of our contemporary culture, taking in all of its values and morals, you may very well find yourself accepting some of their radical positions.

Such as radical feminism, abortion on demand, the definition of marriage, cohabitation, gender identities, wokeism, and many many more.

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In other words, when you sit yourself down in front of Netflix, HBOMax, AppleTV, Disney+, Facebook, Twitter, or TikTok, do you realize what you might be doing?

Why is this important? God can't use people who are not holy.

"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." (2 Corinthians 6:17 NIV)

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (2 Corinthians 7:1 NIV)

27 Moral Compass

The world has a moral compass but it is broken and it points 179° from True North.

Therefore, we need to be very careful on how we live because the days are evil.

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.

If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes,

made holy,

useful to the Master and

prepared to do any good work. (2 Timothy 2:20–21 NIV)

28 True North

Jesus Christ, God's Son is our compass and by His Spirit leads us into all truth.

In describing Himself, Jesus said,

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 NIV)

"I am the way (compass) and the truth and the life. (John 14:6 NIV)

Jesus is our compass and by following Him—walking out his Word, we will find eternal life.

29 True North

Unfortunately, if you follow the world and its value system, you will be lost because they don't know where they're going.

In fact, they are under God's Wrath and are spiritually blind.

Let us not be partners with them!

Instead, let us change the world by showing them what God can do through those who serve Him and direct their lives toward True North.

Perhaps then they will repent and put their faith in God. Amen!