

The Consequences Of Lowering God's Standard

I. Introduction: This is a follow-up to "We Cannot Lower God's Standard"

A. Obviously, the major consequence of lowering God's standard is being lost spiritually (**Ezekiel 18:4** and **John 5:28-29**).

1. We know that sin doesn't bring salvation (**I Corinthians 6:9-11**).
2. All unrighteousness brings about the wrath of God (**Romans 1:18**).

B. Sin is... (**I John 3:4**).

1. It doesn't take a stack of sins to be lost (**James 2:1-13**).
2. All unrighteousness is sin (**I John 5:17**).
3. Then there are principles of expectations based on abilities (**Matthew 25:14-30**), matters of conscience, etc. too (**Romans 14:23**).

II. Body: If We Lower The Standard Of God, We Are Then Perverting His Word (**Galatians 1:1-9**).

A. You may lower the standard to make yourself feel better about sin, but on the Day of Judgment the standard will be unchanged (**John 12:48** and **Romans 2:16**).

1. God's not changing no matter how much you want Him to (**Malachi 3:6**, **Hebrews 13:8**, and **James 1:17**).
2. We have hope through His promise of eternal life for those who obey Him (**Hebrews 5:8-9** and **I John 2:25**).
3. God's word is not changing (**Psalms 119:89**, **Psalms 119:152**, **Psalms 119:160**, **Matthew 24:35**, and **I Peter 1:23-25**).
4. Our salvation comes down to His unchanging word (**John 6:63**).
5. God's principle is not to move what He puts in place as boundaries (**Deuteronomy 19:14**, **Proverbs 22:28**, and **Proverbs 23:10**).

B. Think about what happens when a child of God errs (**Isaiah 1:1-31**). **With caution using this text understanding that it being an Old Testament text some things have changed (Hebrews 8:1-10:22).*

1. Your relationship with God is broken (**II Chronicles 24:20**).
2. God's view of His people change when sin enters the picture (**Amos 5:21** and **Hebrews 1:8-9**).
3. You hurt God (**Psalms 95:9-10**, **Isaiah 63:7-10**, **Luke 19:41-44**, **Romans 2:23**, **Hebrews 6:4-6**, and **Hebrews 10:26-29**).
4. Your prayers are hindered (**Psalms 66:18**, **Isaiah 59:1-3**, **Proverbs 21:13**, **Proverbs 28:9**, **Micah 3:1-4**, **John 9:31**, and **I Peter 3:7-12**).
5. Brethren become troubled (**Romans 9:1-3**).
6. You have no authority to help a fellow saint that errs (**Luke 6:39-42**).
7. Your sins give an opportunity for the enemies of God to speak evil of Him (**II Samuel 12:1-14** and **I Timothy 5:11-14**).

C. Consider a FEW additional things that happen when the standard is lowered...

1. Teaching becomes loose and thus creates a false hope that leads to eternal damnation (**II Peter 2:17-22**).
2. The boundaries of fellowship (**Ephesians 5:6-11**) get extended because no consistent standard exists and that brings consequences (**II John 1:9-11**).
3. With no consistent standard, instability abounds (**Ephesians 4:14**).
4. Evangelists and elders become more authoritative than the word of God because the Scriptures are diminished. Faith needs to be in the Lord, not men (**I Corinthians 2:1-5**; cf. **Romans 1:16-17**).

III. Conclusion: Do you really want to lower the standard (**Revelation 22:14-19**)?