

THE MORALLY MATURE CITIZEN
OF HEAVEN AND EARTH:

Part One: Without Scripture References

Part Two: With Scripture References

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The Morally Mature Citizen of Heaven and Earth

The morally mature citizen habitually:

- I. Shows love for his fellow man by
 - A. Displaying caring actions
 - B. Displaying thoughtfulness in word and actions
 - C. Showing compassion to the less fortunate
 - D. Exercising humility and gentleness when another makes a slip in judgment

- II. Displays respect for all human life by
 - A. Eliminating racial prejudice from thought
 - B. Eliminating racial prejudice from word
 - C. Refusing to be a party to racial prejudice
 - D. Protecting the most innocent of society

- III. Exercise self-discipline as way of life
 - A. By using will power and not demanding my own way
 - B. Judicious use of restraint when I am tempted to do judge falsely
 - C. Obedience to righteousness and a proper way of living
 - D. Realize that discipline is the lamp to a successful life
 - E. Responsibility for our conduct must be carefully exercised

- IV. Realizes that perseverance will reap a lasting reward
 - A. Striving is needed when I am tempted to give up
 - B. Any righteous endeavor worth doing is worth doing well the first time
 - C. Confidence, when invested with the right people, results in great joy
 - D. Endurance develops strength of character
 - E. Endurance in time of trouble causes others to be strengthened and encouraged

- V. Serves others as a selfless gift and recognizes that it is of great value
 - A. Serving people with a right spirit is a selfless way to gain approval
 - B. Laziness is an undesirable trait to have when working for others
 - C. Helpfulness words and actions are an encouragement to others

- VI. Works for harmony in the lives of others, even when little progress seems to be made
 - A. Optimism will enable me to persevere through difficult circumstances, and to show others that can too
 - B. Cooperation enables us to work with other people who may not share all our ideas, but will allow us to get the job done
 - C. Enthusiasm conveys to others that there is joy in banding together in doing a job for someone else, and that we are excited about it

- VII. Extends forgiveness to all who will ask, without favoritism, but shows that we all need forgiveness, now matter how many times we may fail in life
- A. Compassion necessitates me to pour pity on one who has gone astray, has returned, and asked for forgiveness
 - B. Mercy demands that, as I was once an unworthy individual, go to all kinds of people and do for them what they are unable to do for themselves
 - C. Understanding enables me to share important truth with another, how it can change their life, and how they can use it for others
- VIII. Makes gratitude and thankfulness a way of life, even when others may choose not to extend that attitude
- A. Generosity and sharing allows me to share generously out of my own storehouse of reserves, either via funds or caring, merciful acts, of those who may have no other means of sustenance
 - B. Thankfulness enables me to bear up under the trials of life, but to also rejoice when blessings come
 - C. Appreciation causes me to reflect on all that has been given to me and that I am lacking in nothing
- IX. Recognizes that devotion to an important person or cause is what gives meaning and purpose during our life on earth
- A. Attentiveness to the small details of life ensure that I leave nothing important undone
 - B. Calmness allows me to block out unpleasant thoughts and to rest assured that everything will turn out for the best
 - C. Focus causes me to direct my thoughts and efforts toward that which brings about a fulfilled contentment of life
- X. Makes purity of mind, and actions a conscious, deliberate way of life in order to avoid causing offense
- A. Perfection in this life is not possible, but mankind should strive to avoid causing offense
 - B. Simplicity is highly desirable when it pertains to understanding the ways of evil, but wise in the ways of righteousness
 - C. Innocent in the fulfillment of the law; seeking to be in obedience, not a breaker of what is right
- XI. Decides to follow principles of integrity, that is, by being honest and having strong moral principles that cannot be changed
- A. Holds themselves accountable by being responsible for decisions and giving a satisfactory reason for doing it
 - B. By being truthful and honest in all dealings with mankind; not a promulgator of lies or shady in character
 - C. The courage to stand for righteousness, even in the face of overwhelming adversity
 - D. Exercises discernment in judging people and circumstances wisely

- XII. Is willing to take the next step in faith, without fear or looking back and yet have the patience to work through the situation without trying to force the results.
- A. Trust in the goodness of a Sovereign Being who knows what is best, and that all things will work together for good
 - B. Place hope and confidence that good things will happen in my future
 - C. Patience in waiting for the results without trying to demand my own way
- XIII. Strives to live a life of humility by not raising ourselves up with a sense of self-importance
- A. In modesty of speech, seeking not make obvious your own abilities and achievements
 - B. Sincerity of heart, and not being a hypocrite, causes people to trust you and desirous of working with you
 - C. Gentleness in action when one has been caught in a wrong doing, remembering that the same could happen to you as well

The Morally Mature Citizen of Heaven and Earth

The morally mature citizen habitually:

- I. Shows love for his fellow man by
 - A. *Displaying caring actions*

Ps. 119:5 - Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your principles!
 - B. *Displaying thoughtfulness in word and actions*

Ps. 142:4 - I look for someone to come and help me, but no one gives me a passing thought! No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me.
 - C. *Showing compassion to the less fortunate*

Lu. 10:33, 34 - Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt deep pity. Kneeling beside him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.
 - D. *Exercising humility and gentleness when another makes a slip in judgment*

Eph. 4:2 - Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

- II. Displays respect for all human life by
 - A. *Eliminating racial prejudice from thought*

2 Cor. 10:5 - We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ
 - B. *Eliminating racial prejudice from word*

Titus 2:8 - ...sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.
 - C. *Refusing to be a party to racial prejudice*

Prov. 13:20 - He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.
 - D. *Protecting the most innocent of society*

Exodus 21:22-25 - If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. But if there is {any further} injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

- III. Exercise self-discipline as way of life
 - A. *By using will power and not demanding my own way*

Prov. 5:12 - And you will say, "How I hated discipline! If only I had not demanded my own way!
 - B. *Judicious use of restraint when I am tempted to do judge falsely*

Prov. 19:11 - People with good sense restrain their anger; they earn esteem by overlooking wrongs.

- C. *Obedience to righteousness and a proper way of living*
Col 2:6 - And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to live in obedience to him.
- D. *Realize that discipline is the lamp to a successful life*
Prov. 6:23 - For these commands and this teaching are a lamp to light the way ahead of you. The correction of discipline is the way to life.
- E. *Responsibility for our conduct must be carefully exercised*
Gal. 6:5 - For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

IV. Realizes that perseverance will reap a lasting reward

- A. *Striving is needed when I am tempted to give up*
Rom. 5:3, 4 - And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope...
- B. *Any righteous endeavor worth doing is worth doing well the first time*
Eccl. 5:3 - For the dream comes through much effort and the voice of a fool through many words.
- C. *Confidence, when invested with the right people, results in great joy*
2 Cor. 7:4 - Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.
- D. *Endurance develops strength of character*
Rom. 5:4 - And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation.
- E. *Endurance in time of trouble causes others to be strengthened and encouraged*
2 Thess. 1:4 - We proudly tell God's other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering.

V. Serves others as a selfless gift and recognizes that it is of great value

- A. *Serving people with a right spirit is a selfless way to gain approval*
Rom. 14:18 - If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God. And other people will approve of you, too.
- B. *Laziness is an undesirable trait to have when working for others*
Rom. 12:11 - Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically.
- C. *Helpfulness words and actions are an encouragement to others*
Eph. 4:29 - Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

VI. Works for harmony in the lives of others, even when little progress seems to be made

- A. *Optimism will enable me to persevere through difficult circumstances, and to show others that can too*

2 Cor. 4:8 - We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit.

- B. *Cooperation enables us to work with other people who may not share all our ideas, but will allow us to get the job done*

2 Tim. 2:24 - The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people.

- C. *Enthusiasm conveys to others that there is joy in banding together in doing a job for someone else, and that we are excited about it*

2 Cor. 9:2 - For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to our friends in Macedonia that you Christians in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago. In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of them to begin helping.

VII. Extends forgiveness to all who will ask, without favoritism, but shows that we all need forgiveness, now matter how many times we may fail in life

- A. *Compassion necessitates me to pour pity on one who has gone astray, has returned, and asked for forgiveness*

Lu. 15:20 - So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him

- B. *Mercy demands that, as I was once an unworthy individual, go to all kinds of people and do for them what they are unable to do for themselves*

Esther 4:8 - Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews, and he asked Hathach to show it to Esther. He also asked Hathach to explain it to her and to urge her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people.

- C. *Understanding enables me to share important truth with another, how it can change their life, and how they can use it for others*

Prov. 3:5, 6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

VIII. Makes gratitude and thankfulness a way of life, even when others may choose not to extend that attitude

- A. *Generosity and sharing allows me to share generously out of my own storehouse of reserves, either via funds or caring, merciful acts, of those who may have no other means of sustenance*

Acts 3:1-10 - Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter

said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--walk!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God; and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

- B. *Thankfulness enables me to bear up under the trials of life, but to also rejoice when blessings come*
Ps. 142:7 - Bring my soul out of prison, So that I may give thanks to Your name; The righteous will surround me, For You will deal bountifully with me.
- C. *Appreciation causes me to reflect on all that has been given to me and that I am lacking in nothing*
2 Kings 4:13 - Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tell her that we appreciate the kind concern she has shown us. Now ask her what we can do for her. Does she want me to put in a good word for her to the king or to the commander of the army?" "No," she replied, "my family takes good care of me."

IX. Recognizes that devotion to an important person or cause is what gives meaning and purpose during our life on earth

- A. *Attentiveness to the small details of life ensure that I leave nothing important undone*
I Thess. 4:11-12 - ...and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.
- B. *Calmness allows me to block out unpleasant thoughts and to rest assured that everything will turn out for the best*
Prov. 12:16 - A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted.
- C. *Focus causes me to direct my thoughts and efforts toward that which brings about a fulfilled contentment of life*
I Timothy 4:12-15 - Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. Until I get there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them. Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecies spoken to you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you. Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress.

X. Makes purity of mind, and actions a conscious, deliberate way of life in order to avoid causing offense

- A. *Perfection in this life is not possible, but mankind should strive to avoid causing offense*
James 3:2 - For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.
- B. *Simplicity is highly desirable when it pertains to understanding the ways of evil, but wise in the ways of righteousness*
Rom. 16:19 - For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.
- C. *Innocent in the fulfillment of the law; seeking to be in obedience, not a breaker of what is right*
Rom. 13:1-6 - Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience sake.

XI. Decides to follow principles of integrity, that is, by being honest and having strong moral principles that cannot be changed

- A. *Holds themselves accountable by being responsible for decisions and giving a satisfactory reason for doing it*
2 Cor. 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- B. *By being truthful and honest in all dealings with mankind; not a promulgator of lies or shady in character*
Matt. 22:16 - And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any.
- C. *The courage to stand for righteousness, even in the face of overwhelming adversity*
Ephesians 6:10-17 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the

preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- D. *Exercises discernment in judging people and circumstances wisely*
I Kings 3:9-12 - So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours? It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.

XII. Is willing to take the next step in faith, without fear or looking back and yet have the patience to work through the situation without trying to force the results.

- A. *Trust in the goodness of a Sovereign Being who knows what is best, and that all things will work together for good*
Rom. 8:28 - And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
- B. *Place hope and confidence that good things will happen in my future*
Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
- C. *Patience in waiting for the results without trying to demand my own way*
Ephesians 4:2, 3 - with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

XIII. Strives to live a life of humility by not raising ourselves up with a sense of self-importance

- A. *In modesty of speech, seeking not make obvious your own abilities and achievements*
Philippians 2:3-5 - Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...

- B. *Sincerity of heart, and not being a hypocrite, causes people to trust you and desirous of working with you*

Acts 2:44-47 - And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people.

- C. *Gentleness in action when one has been caught in a wrong doing, remembering that the same could happen to you as well*

Gal. 6:1 - Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.