



# CCN LEADERSHIP TRAINING SERIES LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SEPT. 11, 2001

## George Barna *Barna Research Group*

### Part One: A Look at Morality and the Church

#### **Moral Concern**

74% of adults are concerned about the moral condition of the nation

Faith inclinations are minimally related:

- 73% Catholics vs. 80% Protestants
- 76% of mainliners vs. 83% of non-mainline Protestants
- 89% of born agains vs. 68% of non-born agains
- 56% associated with non-Christian faiths vs. 77% self-described Christians

In a postmodern society, contradictions and illogical conclusions are the norm.

What is the basis of people's moral decisions?:

- 1/5 seek behaviors that satisfy others
- 1/2 pursue behaviors that produce pleasing results
- 1/6 lean on their parents' values or upbringing
- 1/5 rely on the Bible or religious teachings

Most people rely upon a combination of influences, with the Bible one of the least relied upon, even among born again adults

#### **State of Christian Morality**

We should be concerned because:

1. Most people's moral choices are generally not based on God's word or principles
2. The moral perspectives of Americans – even Christians – often conflict with God's principles
3. Most Americans see other people's values and behaviors as the problem, overlooking their own failings

New survey and Barna Update report (available at [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)) on 7 areas of morality

1. Abortion
2. Homosexuality
3. Sexual fidelity
4. Substance use
5. Financial stewardship
6. Integrity
7. Pornography

	Type of Church Attended:				
	All Adults	Main-Line	Not Main-Line	Regularly Attend Church	Born Again
<b>1. Abortion</b>					
- Should be legal in all or most circumstances	41%	50%	29%	27%	23%
- Having an abortion is morally acceptable	36%	45%	26%	22%	19%
<b>2. Homosexuality</b>					
Sexual relations between consenting adults of the same gender should be legal	48%	49%	35%	36%	34%
Homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle	45%	49%	29%	31%	27%
Approve of clergy performing or blessing gay marriages	30%	30%	18%	17%	15%
Sexual relationship with someone of the same gender is morally acceptable	25%	24%	13%	13%	9%
<b>3. Sexual fidelity</b>					
Except for adultery, divorce is not a sin	63%	70%	49%	54%	39%
Having an affair with a married person, other than your spouse, is morally acceptable	5%	3%	5%	4%	4%
Having an affair with a single person who is not married is morally acceptable	17%	14%	12%	12%	12%
Co-habitation is morally acceptable	58%	54%	43%	42%	36%
Having sexual fantasies is morally acceptable	58%	54%	43%	43%	39%
Have had a sexual relationship with someone other than your spouse	29%	23%	29%	24%	23%
<b>4. Substance use</b>					
Using marijuana for non-medicinal purposes is morally acceptable	25%	21%	17%	15%	11%
Getting drunk is morally acceptable	36%	30%	20%	23%	20%
<b>5. Financial stewardship</b>					
Declaring personal bankruptcy is morally acceptable	61%	62%	54%	54%	54%
Cheating on income tax filings is morally acceptable	9%	6%	4%	6%	4%
Refusing to give money to a poor person is morally acceptable	47%	43%	40%	42%	41%
Said they tithed in past year, but did not	65%	67%	63%	63%	63%
Have no intention of tithing to a church	43%	39%	24%	25%	20%
<b>6. Integrity</b>					
- Getting more change than is due to you at a store and knowingly keeping the excess change is morally acceptable	16%	9%	14%	13%	12%
- Lying about personal achievements on a resume is morally acceptable	9%	10%	8%	9%	6%
- Using profanity is morally acceptable	37%	29%	25%	24%	22%
- Breaking the speed limit is morally acceptable	39%	39%	34%	33%	33%

Submit Questions To CCN By:

Phone: 650-938-7802

Fax: 650-960-8527

Email: questions@ccnonline.net

	All Adults	Type of Church Attended:		Regularly Attend Church	Born Again
		Main-Line	Not Main-Line		
<b>7. Pornography</b>					
-Watching a movie with explicit sexual behavior is morally acceptable	49%	44%	33%	33%	29%
- Reading a magazine with nudity or explicit sexual pictures is morally acceptable	43%	42%	25%	26%	21%

**Subgroup Considerations**

- \_\_\_\_\_ are generally statistically different, but not by much
- Attenders of \_\_\_\_\_ churches are quite similar to national norm
- Attenders of \_\_\_\_\_ Protestant churches are less similar
- Among church-goers there are 3 major, “at-risk” subgroups:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Residents of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - Attenders of \_\_\_\_\_ churches

**Church Applications**

1. Teach/Preach for \_\_\_\_\_ as the primary outcome
2. Invest heavily in the moral development of \_\_\_\_\_
3. Implement effective \_\_\_\_\_
4. Tirelessly promote \_\_\_\_\_ as our core behavioral standard
5. Reinforce people’s tough but appropriate \_\_\_\_\_
6. Equip \_\_\_\_\_ for moral success

For more information: download “Outcomes Replace Bible As the Moral Standard,” the Barna Update of September 10, 2001, at [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)

**Part Two:**  
**Churches That Change Lives:**  
**A Visit with Fellowship Bible Church – Little Rock**  
**With: Bill Parkinson, Robert Lewis, and Paul Stevens**

**1. Mission and Vision of FBC-LR**

Mission Statement and 6 Behavioral Characteristics: i<sup>2</sup>

To equip Christians to change the world through irresistible lifestyles and influential works of service which are:

1. Passionately committed to Jesus Christ
2. Biblically measured
3. Morally pure
4. Family centered
5. Evangelistically bold
6. Socially responsible

**2. Leadership principles and process**

**3. Ministry strategy and planning**

**4. Evaluation of ministry influence**

**5. Discipleship**

- a. Discovery I – newcomer orientation – 8-10 weeks
- b. Season of Life small groups – life-stage orientation – 3 years

Personal Development Plan

<u>Season of Life Congregations at FBC-LR</u>	
Change Point	Single adults 18 to 30
High Point	Single adults over 30
Marriage Builders	Young marrieds without children
Home Builders	Young marrieds with children
Mainstream	Mid-life marrieds
Cornerstone	Empty nesters and beyond

- c. Common Cause small groups – gift-based service – year-to-year

**6. Role of community service**

- a. Share Fest
- b. Church partnerships

The Two Key Elements To Partnering With Other Churches:

- Prayer- The new relational unity established through prayer together
- Service- The new credibility established through serving the community together

## Resources:

*The Church of Irresistible Influence*, by Robert Lewis, Zondervan, 2001  
(available for purchase at [www.fellowshipassociates.com](http://www.fellowshipassociates.com))

*Growing True Disciples*, by George Barna, WaterBrook Press, 2001  
(available for purchase at [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org))

*The Habits of Highly Effective Churches*, by George Barna, Regal Books, 2000.  
(available for purchase at [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org))

The Barna Update – free bi-weekly reports accessible at [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)

Church of Irresistible Influence Conference – May 2002, Little Rock  
(Details accessible from [www.fellowshipassociates.com](http://www.fellowshipassociates.com))

Barna 2001 Seminar – day-long in 10 markets, September 20 through November 6  
(Details at [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org))

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