

## A HIGHER STANDARD

**“E ho’opuka i kou malamalama a me kou o’ia’i’o e alaka’i ia mau mea ia’u”. O Send out your light and your truth; Let these things lead me”.  
– Psalm 43:3**



“Standards” were an important part of our Polynesian ancestors. It was handed down within the families and upheld greatly. Sometimes, family “standards” could be too rigid or unattainable, especially, when strongly encouraged by ambitious grandparents and parents. For example, though a child may come from a lineage of warriors, he may not want to follow such a calling, yet, the great expectation was that he would claim his birthright as a warrior. Likewise, a child with a history of farming in his family may continue the lifestyle of a farmer because of family traditions. The same would apply to any area of the Polynesian society (fishing, canoe making, house-building, etc.). Yet, our kupuna (elders) also sought and encouraged positive standards in hopes that it would model and shape desirable attributes, attitudes and conduct. They encouraged “standards” of kindness, helpfulness, humility, teamwork, loyalty, responsibility, forgiveness, generosity and graciousness, to name a few. On the other hand, ancestral “standards” also looked down on people that modeled less desirable and negative qualities, such as someone that was sexually promiscuous, broke promises, practiced disloyalty, or wasted resources (i.e., food, water). These people were criticized for their irresponsible acts of conduct. These levels of “standards” played an important role in our history to shape good conduct and industrious living in the Hawaiian ‘ohana (family).



Today, we live in a culture where the commitment to moral “standards” no longer exists. The once stable ‘ohana (family) is deteriorating. Marriages are falling apart. Two parent families are now the exception in our society. Unwed mothers are on the rise. Children are being directed to foster homes in great numbers. Women are being “devalued” through the curse of pornography and “gangs” have become the “substitute family” for our children. We are a “culture”

where people rather have “convenience”, instead, of an “absolute standard”. They don’t want anything that says, what is right and what is wrong. They’d rather discuss their “opinions” and live their lives the way they want to. But, I’ve come to let you know today, that if the ‘ohana (family) is to “thrive” and “survive”, we will need to be on God’s agenda and believe in the “truth”-----HIS “STANDARD”-----which is HIS WORD.



I want to encourage someone to accept, uphold and impress upon others, the “standard” of the King. In doing this, the Kingdom of God becomes the “rule of God” in the lives and affairs of His people. Then, when they expose themselves to others, the people get to see His love, grace and power. Keep in mind that in the “standard” of Heaven on earth, God is in charge. In other words, we need to understand that “heaven” rules “earth”, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. What happens “up there”, determines what goes on “down here” and when you follow the “standard” of God’s Word, you will live as He approves because He always has a “divine frame of reference” for your life.

**SIMPLY PUT:** If you’re not in touch with heaven, don’t be surprised if you’re a mess on earth. Why? Because your “standards” are not in alignment with God’s “standards”. That’s why the “rule of God” says, that you can’t make things happen-----the “human way”. Seek what God wants and follow the “standard” He has already given you. If you want “Kingdom blessings”, you need to follow a “Kingdom agenda” and if you want to know the “Kingdom agenda”, you have to follow the “King”.



At some places like schools, shopping centers, airports and others, there is a “lost and found” area where you could go to inquire if an item has been misplaced, missing or lost. In these places, there’s lots of “stuff” piling up. That tells me that either people don’t know that they have lost something or simply, they don’t care about it because it has no value. Hopefully, for the both of us, those “lost” items are not Bibles because when we disconnect with the Word of God (or don’t know where to find it), we lose our spiritual authority and divine “standards”.

Revelations 1:3 puts it this way, “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.” When we pick up the Bible, it’s not a “lucky charm”, but, the authoritative Word. When we grasp God’s message to us and give diligence to the “word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), God will supply everything we need.



I’d like to encourage someone reading this devotional today to seek the context and compensation of scripture because too many of us are trying to live life on our own and our “standards”. And when we do, we keep messing up our lives, but, if you let the Word of God be your “ruler” and only authority, you’ll see changes in your personal life, as well as, your family life. Now, I tell the people in my congregation not to take the Bible on *my* word because I may have an “off-channel” Sunday. That’s why you need to check out the Word for yourself. The high standard of God should encourage you to test everything that you hear by the Word. DO IT TODAY!....HE IS YOUR STANDARD!