

#### Life Application Principles from People of the Book of Genesis

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#### LIFE APPLICATIONS FROM NOAH

**The righteousness we are to pursue does not require a righteous society** (Genesis 6:1-8, 22; 7:5).

Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him, in the midst of people described as *every intent of the thought of their heart was only evil continually* (6:5). Most of the heroes of the Bible lived for God in the midst of a society which didn't. A godly society would certainly encourage godliness among its people. But the reality is, godly societies are hard to find, anywhere throughout all of history. Those who find grace in the eyes of the Lord are those who walk with God, blameless in their own time (6:8-11). Except for the nation of Israel (from 1500 B.C. to the cross), **God never called on people to change their society. He looked for those who were righteous in the midst of that society.** The American church today is full of sermons, tapes, and books condemning individualism as an influence from the world. Actually, the world's societies promote community as much as they do individualism.

**Our primary community is our family** (Genesis 6:18).

Noah's walk with God did not come from the influence of his society, but it did influence his family. Not only did his wife and sons get on the ark but his daughters-in-law left their parents behind to get on. **Leadership in the church is to come from those who manage their own households well** (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1), not those who succeeded in business, politics, or those who were socially prominent. The church is an extended family, not an extension of the society. It's a network of families who create a community throughout a city not a bunch of separate competitive organizations dividing up the community of believers within that city.

**The will of God is known from, and only from, obeying the Word of God** (Genesis 6:9, 22; 7:1, 5).

Noah determined the will of God by looking at only one thing—the Word of God. He did not look to circumstances, the advice of other people, or coincidental happenings in this life. No community, congregation, board, or accountability group decided that Noah should build an ark. **To look at anything but the Word of God amounts to determining the will of God by our own or someone else's imagination.** And we can imagine conflicting, confusing, contradictory things. I could pray to my coffee cup and find answers to my prayers in the circumstances of my day. That's how the mysticism of all religions function. But God is to be understood through His revealed Word—which for us is the Bible. Plus, nothing! Believe in God and His Word. Not religion.

**Our sin has far reaching consequences** (Genesis 9:20-25).

Noah's drunkenness resulted in sin for his son and a curse on one of his grandchildren. **The consequences of sin are rarely restricted to the sinner.**