

MORAL CONFORMITY

- Pharisees believed that blessing came through strict obedience to the law
- Moral conformity says: I'm not going to do what I want but what tradition and the community want me to do
- By implication: because I've never disobeyed you—you must do things my way
- Self-righteousness is a most dangerous thing

Jesus does not divide the world into moral good people or immoral bad people. He shows that everyone is dedicated to self –salvation.

THE GOSPEL IS ABOUT A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD—NOT MORALITY OR IMMORALITY—NOT RELIGION OR IRRELIGION

This parable shows us that a man who is morally upright can be every bit as spiritually lost as the most immoral person. The Christian gospel condemns the licentiousness of the younger brother and the moralistic stance of the elder brother.

The Parish of Cannock and Huntington *Creating Community with Christ at the Centre*

Lent Course — The Prodigal Son

Session Three: Both wrong—both loved

Luke 15:20 'The father saw him and was filled with compassion'
Luke 15:28 'His father came out and began to plead with him'

Jesus uses the younger and elder brothers to portray the two basic ways people try to find happiness and fulfilment in life

1. The way of moral conformity
2. The way of self discovery

- Two sons: one bad by conventional standards—one good yet both alienated from the father

- Even though both sons are wrong the father loves them

SELF DISCOVERY

- Individuals must be free to pursue their own goals regardless of custom and convention

- I'm the only one who can decide what is right or wrong for me