

# SERMON NOTES

*BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LIFE: STANDARDS!*  
Deuteronomy 6:13-19

**Memory verse:** “Then watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” *Deuteronomy 6:12*

Generally speaking, when the word “standards” is used, most people think in terms such as: legalism, laws, rules, and regulations. In reality, the behaviors we exhibit are responses to the standards we truly believe and intend to uphold. Webster defines a standard as: a weight, measure, model, quality, etc. to which others must conform, a criterion.

God’s standard is for your lifestyle to demonstrate your love for and loyalty to Him.

**Key thought:** God wants you to maintain a lifestyle standard that demonstrates your love for and loyalty to Him.

## I. The “standards” test for Christian living.

- a. Does my behavior, attitude, etc. demonstrate honor for the Lord?  
Key word = fear
  
- b. Does my behavior, attitude, etc. draw me closer to the Lord?  
Key word = worship
  
- c. Does my behavior, attitude, etc. declare my devotion to the Lord?  
Key word = swear, the word refers to their total allegiance to the God of the covenant.

## II. The steps to maintaining a standard of living that demonstrates your love for and loyalty to the Lord:

- a. Transformation of your will! (vs. 14 - 15)  
Verses 14 – 15, key words are “follow” and “jealous”
  
- b. Transformation of your trust. (v. 16)  
Verse 16, key words are “don’t test” – trust God
  
- c. Transformation of your priorities. (v. 17)  
Verse 17, key word is “diligently,” you must toil, work at, discipline
  
- d. Transformation of your convictions! (vs. 18 - 19)  
Verses 18 - 19, key phrase is “in the sight of the Lord,” transform your attitude and actions, beliefs, etc. to conform to God’s.

There is a difference between a conviction and a preference. A conviction is a very strong belief, held with great strength. A preference is a strong belief, but a belief that you will change under the right circumstances. A conviction is a belief that you will not change. Why? A man believes that his God requires it of him.

Preferences aren’t lead by the Holy Spirit, convictions are. A conviction is not something that you discover; it is something that you purpose in your heart.