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## Higher Versus Lower and Strict Versus More Strict

by John R. Van Gelderen

Occasionally someone has said to me, "I take a higher position than you do on that issue." Is this a legitimate statement? Many bristle when these words are spoken to them. However, all of us must be honest in the light of Scripture. The psalmist prayed under inspiration, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Ps. 61:2). The context indicates that God is the "Rock." Thus we may legitimately sing, "On Christ the solid rock I stand." Certainly you cannot go higher than the Rock of Christ. John 1:1-3 and 14 teach us that Christ is the living Word. Therefore you cannot go higher than the Word of God. However anything less than what the Word of God teaches is lower than God's standard. We all must recognize it is

possible to have a higher or lower position depending on the position's relationship to the Rock of Truth.

For example, let's focus on the issue of the inroads of the immorality of Hollywood via the movies, television, cable TV, and videos. Does the Scripture address this issue? Honesty must admit that it does. The third commandment states, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain." Some may say, "As long as you are not the one taking God's name in vain, you are not responsible for it." Certainly in the marketplace of life, you may hear God's name cursed. But your home is another

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