

V. Integrity Cannot Be Sustained Without Morality: Rogers and Evans

One of the best examples of this I recently discovered in a book given to me and Jo Henra by Shaefer for Christmas:

Rogers, Roy and Dale Evans. *Happy Trails: Our Life Story*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994.

Prior to meeting Dale Evans, Roy Rogers was an unbeliever. But his lifestyle was one of exemplary establishment morality. After having been evangelized by his wife, his historical impact became global in its scope and it remains so even today.

If you, young people, want to read a story which dramatizes the differences between the culture in which your parents grew up and that in which you find yourselves today, then you need to read this book and your parents need to make sure you get a hold of a copy.

If you want to see a real-life example of what we have been studying then give this book a try. Roy Rogers is a person who excelled in establishment morality as an unbeliever and then, following salvation, executed the plan of God to the level of Christian integrity. His historical impact on a generation is no small measure of what God can accomplish through one person who is willing to execute the plan of God in his life.

Rarely do you find a famous personality who has the status of “*role model*” thrust upon him who then takes the personal responsibility to live up to the standards such a position implies. Roy Rogers accepted the mantle of role model and used his position in the motion picture industry to communicate moral standards to America’s youth.

Here now are some excerpts from the book which I believe will crystallize the difference between establishment morality and Christian integrity while at the same time sharpen the differences between human good and divine good.

Rogers, Roy and Dale Evans with Jane and Michael Stern. *Happy Trails: Our Life Story*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994, *passim*:

Back in 1982, Rex Allen, Jr., sang a song he wrote that posed a very poignant question, “*Where Are the Heroes for My Boy Today?*” Unfortunately, I’m afraid, there aren’t many prospects to consider who can measure up to the standards established by Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.

The music we have for halftime is designed to take you down a few memory lanes to some trails you may have ridden with Hoppy, Gene, and Roy. The one which will bring us back for the second session will be “*Happy Trails*.”