

GOD'S MORALITY

What kind of morality do you see in your world, where you live? Whose standards of morality do you live by, God or His enemies? Every human being distinguishes between behaviors, that human choice is called "morality"; our morality is the choices we make. Everyone is moral, that is, everyone makes the distinction between what they believe is good or bad, right behavior or wrong behavior. You and I have standards, but we may not have the same standards! And neither one of us may be living by God's standards! That's right! Should you and I have the same standard of right and wrong? God thinks so! God thinks you and I should follow His standard of morality!

Hello I'm Larry Murdock. I preach for the Gandy church of Christ. Good morning and welcome to this program.

You and I may be from different nations; we may be of a different race. Why then should we have the same standard of right and wrong? Why should we be expected to have the same morality?

You and I should have the same standard of right and wrong because we have all descended from the great Creator of the universe. Of course, those who do not believe in God do not believe this proposition! Around 50 A.D., Jesus' apostle Paul was in the cosmopolitan city of Athens, Greece. Athens was a city of "learning." It was the home of great philosophers, orators, sculptors, painters, mathematicians and poets, and the home of a great university where many thousands of strangers were gathered for study.

This ancient city had a glorious history of learning. However, religiously they were extremely diverse. Jesus' apostle discovered the city streets lined with altars to the numerous gods and goddesses of ancient Greece. Paul's heart raced within him and he could hold his emotions no longer. This believer in one God lifted up his voice and began to teach and preach about Jesus Christ in the market places. Some philosophers heard Paul speak and invited him to address a regular gathering of scholars in the center of the city on a stony peak called the Areopagus.

"So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring." Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." ([Acts 17:22-31 ESV](#))

Jesus' apostle Paul called upon those scholars to acknowledge one standard of morality! That's right! How did Paul do that? Paul introduced those Athenians to the ONE God who will judge the world! Furthermore, Paul issued this ONE God's command to repent. Repent of what? Sin. Wrong behavior! In fact, Jesus' apostle predicted that this ONE God had fixed a day on which he would judge the world in righteousness. Righteousness is the practice of right behavior, behavior that can be justified. If the ONE God was going to judge everyone by the same standard of righteousness, then there is but ONE standard of right and wrong. We can call it, God's morality!

God's morality pinpoints right behavior and wrong behavior. You can find God's morality in the Bible, God's book. God calls wrong behavior SIN. Sometimes God even puts right and wrong behaviors in two lists, right beside each other, one list of right behavior and a list of wrong behavior. Jesus' apostle Paul, who preached to the Athenians, wrote down two lists of behaviors in his letter to the Galatian Christians. Paul wrote, "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things

there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." ([Galatians 5:19-24 ESV](#))

Wrong behavior is called "the works of the flesh." Right behavior is called "the fruit of the Spirit." Wrong behavior is sin; right behavior is righteousness because it is justified. Sin cannot be justified, although we human beings try very hard to justify our sins.

Yes, you and I may be from different nations; we may be of a different race. But we will all be judged by the God who made us and He will judge us by the same standard of right and wrong. God's righteousness is **for** all nations! That's right! God's Holy Spirit composed this song, "But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness." ([Psalms 9:7-8 ESV](#))

However, the enemies of God and His Christ want you to distrust the Bible and the morality found therein! That's right! God's enemies attempt to overthrow any restraint that you might feel because what you read in the Word of God. They ridicule the Bible and they mock those of us who believe in the Bible.

First, God's enemies attack the authority of the Bible by ridiculing its inspiration. They do not believe the Bible is inspired by God's Holy Spirit. The enemy spins the message of the Bible so as to make it sound unreasonable. They have no respect for the Book. The Bible speaks of the God who created the world and created humans. But the enemies of God teach that the universe and the inhabitants of this planet came about by chance! They teach that what we see and what we are evolved from a Huge explosion. The BIG BANG!

The enemies of God do not believe in miracles, and do not believe there is life after death. And so, they teach that humans evolved from lower forms of life over billions of years. From this God's enemies assume there is no divine standard of morality. Therefore, according to God's enemies, premarital-sexual activity is not sinful. Living together without marital commitment is not immoral. According to God's enemies there is no such thing as immodesty in dress. Nor are homosexuality and same-sex marriage immoral. According to God's enemies, a married man and woman need not remain faithful to one another. We live in an age when the light of **God's** worldview is becoming dim in the thinking and in the behavior of a vast number of people.

Where can we read of God's morality? We read about it in the Bible. Furthermore, the Bible teaches that God judges behavior! [Ecclesiastes 12:13-14](#) warns us to "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil." Friends, it is important that we learn from the Bible what God calls good, and what God calls evil!

About 500 years before Jesus Christ was born into this world, God had this to say to an ancient people, "They say to (*a piece of*) wood, 'You are my father,' and to stone, 'You gave me birth.' They have turned their backs to me and not their faces; yet when they are in trouble, they say, 'Come and save us!' Where then are the gods you made for yourselves? Let them come if they can save you when you are in trouble! For you, Judah, have as many gods as you have towns. "Why do you bring charges against me? You have all rebelled against me," declares the LORD. "In vain I punished your people; they did not respond to correction. Your sword has devoured your prophets like a ravenous lion. "You of this generation, consider the word of the LORD: "...Does a young woman forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments? Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number. How skilled you are at pursuing love! Even the worst of women can learn from your ways. On your clothes is found the lifeblood of the innocent poor, Yet in spite of all this you say, 'I am innocent; [God] is not angry with me.' But I will pass judgment on you because you say, 'I have not sinned.'" ([Jeremiah 2:27-35](#))

The old prophet Daniel was given a glimpse of Judgment Day. "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened." ([Daniel 7:9-10 NIV](#)) Jesus said, "A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will ... give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." ([Matthew 12:35-37 NIV](#)) Jesus also said, "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not

remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me." (John 12:46-50 ESV)

Friends, are you listening to the Bible? Are you listening to Jesus Christ? Do you know and practice God's morality?