

Moral Relativism

Moral Relativism - The name sounds sophisticated and complex, but, if we take some time to think through this concept, the definition can actually be quite easy to understand.

Moral Relativism is the idea that there is no universal or absolute set of moral principles by which individuals make judgments, ethical, or moral decisions. It holds to the idea that morals are defined by things such as society, culture, beliefs, or feelings.

The way we hear this stated most often is, "What is right for you... may not be right for me."

Doesn't sound so bad, right? We apply the same idea in other areas, like food for example.

Some say that hotdogs need mayonnaise... while others like mustard. "What is right for your hotdog may not be right for my hotdog."

So what is the problem with MORAL relativism??

Morals are defined as - a person's standards of behavior or beliefs concerning what is and is not acceptable for them to do.

Morals define how we interact with others.... So the Moral Standards that we adopt absolutely have consequences for the society, the culture, and the people with which we interact. (For more on this statement, see our study topic entitled "The Consequences of Moral Relativism)

In the name of tolerance and acceptance, and disguised under an all inclusive cloak of "It is wrong to offend anyone", our culture has adopted the idea Moral Relativism.... The idea that everyone has the right to decide what is "right" or "wrong" for themselves, regardless of how it effects the rest of society.

There is a tremendous flaw within this idea of Moral Relativism, though.... How do WE know what is "right" and what is "wrong"?

Moral Relativism says that everyone gets to decide for themselves.... But is there a point where everyone says, DEFINITELY, "THAT" is wrong... or "THAT" is right??? (Whatever "THAT" may be.)

Is there even such a thing as a definitive right and wrong? And if there is, who gets to decide? You.... Me... the Taliban???

Ask anybody in the world, and you will find that everyone will have a stance where they believe that some things are "right" and some things are "wrong"....

And, even if they do not agree on what those things are, there is still this internal “moral compass” that individuals will use to define “right” and “wrong”...

So.... IF there is such a thing as right and wrong.... IF there is such a thing as Morals.... Then there MUST be a Moral Law.... There must be a set of standards by which we base or conclude what is DEFINITELY “right” and what is “wrong”.... AND are applicable to everyone!

And IF there is a Moral Law.... Then there MUST be a Moral Law Giver.... And IF there is a Moral Law Giver.... Who is it?

The bottom line is this.... Every individual sets their moral standards (their standards of right and wrong) based on their worldview. (For more on this statement, see our study topic entitled “Presuppositions”)

Which leaves us with two categories of people:

- 1) Those that believe the Bible, and therefore GOD is our Moral Law Giver
- 2) Those that do not believe the Bible, and therefore man becomes the moral law giver

By the way... This is not a new concept. Moral Relativism can be seen in the Bible, which is just one more reason for why we can trust the Bible to be TRUE!! (For more on this statement, see our study topic entitled “Why We Believe the Bible”)

One of the most obvious passages that records the idea of Moral Relativism is found in Judges.

Judges 17:6 (and again in Judges 21:25) says - “In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”

But, actually, moral relativism was first recorded in the Garden.... And it is revealed to us in the first sin and the fall of man!

God had defined what was DEFINITELY RIGHT and what was DEFINITELY WRONG for Adam and Eve. God set the Moral Law!

Genesis 2:15-17 says - And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God **commanded** the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden **thou mayest** freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, **thou shalt not** eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God made it very clear... there was a COMMAND... there was an absolute RIGHT - thou mayest... and there was an absolute WRONG - thou shalt not...

This absolute right and wrong.... This Absolute TRUTH.... Excluded every other option and became MORAL LAW! (For more on this statement, see our study topic entitled "Absolute Truth")

Now.... as the Bible moves into Genesis Chapter 3, satan has fallen... and as satan is tempting Eve in the garden, listen closely to what he says:

Genesis 3:5 - For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**

Did you catch that?? YOU will be as gods.... YOU will know what is good - "right"... YOU will know what is evil - "wrong"!!!

And the moment that Adam and Eve decided for themselves what was right and wrong... as soon as Adam and Eve adopted the idea of Moral Relativism.... SIN entered the world and man fell.... And the rest is history!

We live in a sin cursed world today, in part, because of Moral Relativism!

We see things.... We want things... and our pride tells us we deserve these things.... So we make choices and decisions based on the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life!

And, with this idea of Moral Relativism, we fool ourselves into believe that every decision we make is ok and without consequence because "what is right for me, may not be right for you"!

The Bible also tells us that mans heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it? - Jeremiah 17:9

Moral Relativism is a LIE!!! It CAN NOT work!!!

We NEED a Moral Law Giver who is FAITHFUL and JUST. One who is RIGHTEOUS above ALL OTHERS!

And we have ONE.... He is the God of the Bible.... the ONE and ONLY TRUE GOD!!!