

Isn't All Truth Relative?

The belief that truth is relative has become more and more popular with each passing year. A favorite phrase of many people is: "Well, that may be true for you, but it's not true for me." The desire of the relativist is to promote acceptance of people's different values and behaviors. Tolerance is the ideal. The popular definition of tolerance is being open to and accepting of all ideas. The relativist believes that people shouldn't judge others' viewpoints or values. In addition, some supporters of moral relativity believe that people don't need God in order to be good. Should tolerance be our goal?

Tolerance sounds great to most people. It seems to promote peace and harmony between those who disagree. Even the most influential book in human history provides some statements that *seem* to endorse moral relativity.

The Bible Seems to Describe Moral Relativity

"...Do to us whatever seems good and right to you."

Joshua 9:25

"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit."

Judges 17:6 (repeated in Judges 21:25)

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Matthew 7:1-2

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

What are the Results of Relativity?

The widespread belief in relative truth has increased the range of activities that are considered acceptable behavior. For example, living a homosexual lifestyle and viewing pornography are no longer regarded as socially deviant. The majority of Americans and Europeans seem to believe that homosexuality is an alternative lifestyle that should not be condemned as wrong. The amazing popularity of pornographic sites on the Internet suggests that most young people deem pornography as a permissible entertainment option. Anything goes in today's lawless world.

Moral relativity seems to increase individual freedom and personal expression. However, the true results of relative standards are more people being trapped in lust, pleasure, and sin. These bad habits cause people to hurt each other emotionally and physically as they seek to fulfill their own desires. A huge surge in the number of deaths from AIDS is one tragic consequence of society adopting relative truths.

The Bible Condemns Moral Relativity

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."

Proverbs 14:12 (repeated in Proverbs 16:25)

"All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart."

Proverbs 21:2

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.'"

John 8:34

"The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction...."

Galatians 6:8

What Absolute Truths are in the Bible?

The existence of God is the most important absolute truth in the Bible. God's existence is shown by His creation—the earth, nature, and people. God has clearly revealed Himself to everyone by what He has made (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-20). God has proved that He is the only true God by predicting future events. Man-made gods can't predict the future (Isaiah 41:21-29; 42:8-9; 44:7-8; 45:20-21; 46:9-10). A polytheist has no excuse (Jeremiah 10:1-16).

God has given people laws based on the truth of His existence and His expectations. The Ten Commandments require people to love God and each other (Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-6). The Ten Commandments reveal that people sin by making idols, committing adultery, killing, stealing, lying, and envying (Exodus 20:20; Romans 3:20). New Testament commands also tell people what is sinful.

The Bible Reveals God and His Laws

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

Romans 1:20

"The commandments, 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not covet,' and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Romans 13:9

"But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips."

Colossians 3:8

What does the Bible say about Jesus?

Most people believe that Jesus was a good teacher or a prophet. According to this view, Jesus was a wise teacher like Moses, Buddha, and Muhammad. He was a great leader and social reformer who cared about people.

In contrast to this view, the Bible reveals Jesus as the only sinless and divine man who has ever lived. Jesus made claims for Himself that no other religious founder ever made. Jesus claimed to forgive sins (Luke 7:48), to judge everyone (John 5:22), to offer eternal life (John 11:25-26), and to provide the only way to God (John 14:6). He said that He offers the truth that sets people free from sinful living (John 8:31-36). Jesus also stated that He has the same divine essence that God has (John 8:58; 10:30).

The Bible Reveals Jesus and His Deity

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; He has crossed over from death to life.”

John 5:24

“‘I tell you the truth,’ Jesus answered, ‘before Abraham was born, I am!’”

John 8:58

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

John 14:6

“...Jesus answered, ‘You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to Me.’”

John 18:37

Will You Believe the Word of Truth?

The common belief that truth is relative promotes chaos, corruption, death, and destruction. Imagine a world in which anything is acceptable—prostitution, rape, kidnapping, stealing, and murder. This is the kind of world that moral relativity is leading us to right now! The Bible calls itself and the gospel message the word of truth (John 17:17; Ephesians 1:13). The gospel reveals that there is one mediator between God and us, the sinless man Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5). We know that all other paths to reach God fail because they are based on our good works—not on God’s finished work for us through Jesus (Ephesians 2:1-9).

The Bible Reveals God’s Gift to Us

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:9

Your Prayer: Saved from Eternity without God

Dear God, I have sinned by breaking Your laws. I believe the truth that Jesus is God. I trust in His work on the cross for heaven, not in my works. Help me to love You and others. Amen.

Bible references: NIV.

SHOULD PEOPLE BELIEVE IN ABSOLUTE TRUTH?



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