
BIBLE TALK

This week we are continuing our investigation of the question: **Are moral values relative?**

Last week we noticed that 3 out of 4 Americans have been convinced that there is no absolute truth – that everything is relative. In other words, no one has the right to say something is definitely wrong for all people.

- People argue, "It may be wrong for you personally to commit adultery, but don't say it's wrong for everyone."
- Others say, "If two adults are consenting, it doesn't matter if they engage in extra-marital sex or homosexual sex."

The list could go on and on, but you get the general idea here. Does anyone have the right to say something is definitely wrong?

- Does anyone have the right to say, for example, that homosexuality is wrong or that premarital sex is wrong or that extramarital sex is wrong?
- Does anyone have the right to say divorce for trivial causes is wrong?

The reason people argue there are no definite rules of right or wrong is because of at least two reasons:

- a) They want to practice immoral living without feeling guilty about it.**
- b) They don't believe there is really a living God who created them and before whom they will have to stand one day in judgment.**

In other words, when God is removed from the equation, then everything is relative. If there is no living God who created us in His image (Gen. 1:27), then man really is just an animal. This is why some people are living like animals – they've been convinced that's what they are.

Romans 1:22-24

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

When people insist on living like animals, God steps back and allows them to do so. God created men with free-will. He wants men to serve Him because they choose to serve Him, not because they are robots who have no choice. Consequently, when men choose to live like animals, God allows it ... but not without consequences.

FIRST: There are earthly consequences.

When men and women choose to live like animals, there are consequences which must be faced here on earth – during this lifetime. There are diseases which are contracted and all the repentance one may practice will not remove the disease which comes from immoral decisions.

Proverbs 5

3 ... the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil;

4 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell.

8 Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house,

9 Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel one;

10 Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors go to the house of a foreigner;

11 And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed,

12 And say: "How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction!"

Immoral living produces homes in which children don't even know who their father is – homes without a loving mother ***and*** father; homes where a woman alone has to struggle to even feed and clothe the children; homes in which society has to decide to

enact a welfare program to care for children who entered the world thru immoral acts of men and women.

SECOND: There are eternal consequences to immoral living.

People living immorally think they are "getting away with it." They have falsely concluded that no one knows what they're doing. Or they have falsely concluded that it really doesn't matter. Listen to this passage of scripture:

Ecclesiastes 11:9

9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth,
And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth;
Walk in the ways of your heart,
And in the sight of your eyes;
**But know that for all these
God will bring you into judgment.**

Again:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments,
For this is man's all.
14 **For God will bring every work into judgment,**
Including every secret thing,
Whether good or evil.

People who believe everything is "*relative*" are willfully ignorant of the judgment which is coming one day upon all the world. Men and women are free to blaspheme, curse, drink, drug themselves, and engage in any immorality they choose to, but they will one day stand before their Creator and give an account of why they chose to dishonor Him and His law.

SUMMARY

In summary: People who argue that "*truth is relative*" are people who do not want to feel guilty for their immoral choices and they do not want to acknowledge the Creator who created them and sustains them daily.

For these ungrateful people, everything is relative. Nothing is definitely right or wrong. But for those who acknowledge that there is a Creator, the outlook is radically different. For the believer, truth is determined by the Creator. God, by His very nature, is a God of order and truth. He sets the standards and it is up to man to discover and respect those standards.

We'll talk more about this subject next week as we continue to study the subject: ***Are moral values relative?***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.