

The Moral Argument

An important part of morals and perhaps the most important part is the truth in John 18:38, Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" Liberals/progressives in our nation have been fighting truth since I was in grade school, I am now seventy years old, claiming there is no black and white, "there are no absolutes," they would shout out at others. Grey area is what there is and so man finds ways to justify his immoral actions. This implies something much different than what God first established, truth and morals run hand in hand. We ask ourselves what would happen if we negated truth for something a bit more acceptable for current times, say relativism? I have heard more than one person say to me, Maybe God didn't know how the world would change, maybe He never thought of those things which would bring pleasure to our modern world; and so we deal with morals and truths. Truth, God is truth, God does not move the line of distinction when it comes to truth.

Today, as we look to moral arguments we find evil is sneaking in through the back door once again, shutting down discussion of many needed topics, and because of this today we need to look at "Post-Truth." First let us look at the definition of it, here we find evil behind the deterioration of moral standards and values. Truth is the pinnacle of honesty and sincerity, and it must be, for how can we trust when deception runs rampant eroding God's values.

"Post-Truth. adjective, relating to or existing in an environment in which facts are viewed as irrelevant, or less important than personal beliefs and opinions, and emotional appeals are used to influence public opinion: post-truth politics."ⁱ

"After much discussion, debate, and research, the Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year 2016 is... post-truth. Post-truth is an adjective defined as 'relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief'."ⁱⁱ Are we not now seeing this come from the bench of our higher courts?

In this usage we as a society need to travel all the way back through time to the early books of the Bible. Deuteronomy 12:8, "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes—" Judges 17:6, 21:25, NKJV, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

Is there a law giver? One who establishes man's moral boundaries that remain consistent, and show no favoritism; yes there is and it is not a political leader nor mere man. In Mere Christianity C.S. Lewis in chapter seven discusses man, both in his natural state, and then through describing what we know as the sanctification process, man's conversion to become more like Christ. As we read John 3:3, NKJV, we realize we are born sinful, for this reason man must be born again. Lewis draws us as the tin man who sought after a heart but none was found until the curtain was removed exposing the true wizard. We know our Lord is not a wizard and that is not the point to be made here, the point being found in the ability to look straight upon the exposure of who is behind the curtain. God tore the curtain from the top down that man was no longer restrained from the access of the mighty one but was given full access to Him. For this reason and also through creation itself we are to look for a higher power, an all-powerful and sovereign maker who created all things, things now visible through the invisible, Colossians 1:16 man is without excuse for not believing and honoring God, Romans 1:20. Today man works to sew the curtain backup so as to not see God.

How can man be born again? From where does this journey begin, can a man return to his mother's womb? Over the years I have heard the very utterances of what Nicodemus asked, however, not necessarily in a sincere inquisitive manner, but instead more mocking with a tone of denial and laughter. What man has ever said to another, absent of the gospel, make the statement Jesus said to Nicodemus? Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

In our natural state we misconstrue all we are meant to understand, in our carnal minds we think of the physical impossibilities. Lewis describes to us the process and immorality we struggle with, because carnal is how we have lived, we seek to cling to the way we know. We are all as Nicodemus in verse 3:4, NKJV in part, "Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" In verse six Jesus tells Nicodemus, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." It is the spirit or should we say lack of that becomes the hurdle we all must jump over, but we cannot do so alone, it is the Spirit who walks with us. In John 6:63, Jesus says, NKJV, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

Lewis's observations in regard to his own life demonstrates to us how much we need God in our lives to answer Him as He desires for us. It comes down to having faith in what Nicodemus has just been taught. If the flesh profits nothing then we are left to be born again in the Spirit. Paul says much the same in 1 Corinthians 15:50; Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. So we must be born again, shed the old clothing and be dressed anew, no longer are we to be found in filthy rags, we are to have a radiance about us so others may see the light that is within. We were once the epitome of moral decay seeking what brought us happiness or so we thought, it was merely illusion, dishonesty, lust, insecurity, and yet we changed not our path but continued to repeat the same scene over and over, this has been defined as insanity.

In the book, "Moral Foundation according to Paul" author James W. Thompson writes of Morna Hooker, page 2, and her use of the word interchange. As interchange here describes what Jesus has done and still seeks to accomplish she addresses His desire for us, "He became what we are in order that we might become what He is." Here she borrows these words from Irenaeus, but then introduces it as the interchange of our moral thinking. She defines the analogy very simply of the car that broke down in an intersection and for this reason the tow truck came and took the car away, the car here has its intended course changed. We are much as the broken car, we are broken and need to change our direction, Jesus represents the tow truck.

As we look at today's morals, actions of societies, do we still define virtue as "moral excellence; goodness; righteousness. conformity of one's life, do we adhere to moral and ethical principles; uprightness; rectitude." iii And what about these next two topics, Chastity and Virginity? Can we claim as a society we show respect to these? Do we care or consider and uphold moral truths, or does the wine at the end of a date chase after our lust? What are the results of affairs?

Where do our morals stand when fourteen year old girls can get an abortion without parental consent, and why does it seem to be a normal thing that fourteen year old girls should even be in such a state to need one? Let's just sweep the last two descriptions of virtue under the rug, it's no longer the issue as it was with my grandparents. Where is virtue when respect for one another is not present? What does it matter and how does it infringe on God's direction for us? We call sex making love, but in most affairs or casual encounters it is the fulfillment of one's lust, two people wanting to satisfy themselves first. In

marriage it is the result of love and not lust that brings them together, there is commitment and respect. Many today would argue with this for the reason the proper understanding, the truth, convicts them and they seek to diminish and rid the conviction, not even aware of whom it comes from.

What of society's ethics? Are we seeing a change here also, a disregard for ethics? There was a time when ethics were held by most, perhaps the larger majority of society, but now it is more regional or individual. Yes, even in a large society it is every individual's choice to live according to the culture of which they live. However, is it the culture we live in that approves our actions or is it the law giver? The one who first gave us ethics, virtue, and morals and who still holds us accountable should be none other than our Lord God.

When truth is no longer appropriate for it stands in the way of wrongful living it is easier to accept the lie and make truth subject to or subordinate to emotional feelings and opinions at any given moment. Man here continues in his sinful ways as opposed to living by God's moral codes. It is at this point today's lust distorts and darkens the way to God's eternal glory and one's life begins to decay, (noun) to the point of rot, (verb). One being the beginning of the process the other being the breakdown of the substance itself, the very decomposition of all it once was. In our world today we see this process mirrored in man as God gives them over to the lust of their hearts, see Romans chapter one.

Can we and do we seek to allow God to change our hearts and minds? Do we seek God to stop the process of decay in our society? What we find in our world today has all been played out already in a place called ancient Rome, however, they didn't have the ruin of Rome to observe as we do today, they lustfully and blindly came to an end through much of their sexual escapades and the fulfillment of lust losing focus of the power they once held. We can see the same happening in our world today. Balaam was finally able to give Balak what he wanted, although he could not curse Israel as Balak sought. Balaam then taught Balak to use idol worship by eating food sacrificed to idols and practicing sexual immorality with Israeli women, Revelation 2:14. Our world today looks much like this and it is a sad commentary.

i <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/post-truth>

ii <https://languages.oup.com/word-of-the-year/2016/>

iii <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/virtue>