



Moral living in an immoral world

The Christian Mind

SOURCES OF MORAL AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD:

Conscience

Gen.1:27; Is.30:21; Rom.1:18-20

What, if any, values are common to all societies?

Family upbringing

Prov.22:6; Prov.22:15; Eph.6:14

How far do we adopt our parents' values?

Tradition and society

How reliable are society's norms?

How does acceptable behaviour shift from generation to generation? Give examples.

How does our society view absolute right and wrong?

Government

Rom.13:1-5

What role do governments have in maintaining morality?

How far does what is legal reflect what is moral?

Democracy

Is what the majority of people want always right? Why?

What about the views/rights of minorities?
("Tyranny of the 51%")

What is the problem shared by all the above views?
Ps.14:3; Rom.3:23; Rom.5:12

What areas of our lives does this affect?
Gen.6:5; Jer.17:9

SOURCE OF MORAL AUTHORITY FOR THE CHRISTIAN:

Where do Christians look for direction in moral issues?
Why?
Ps.119:105; Ps.19:7-11; 2Tim.3:16

What about issues not specifically addressed in the bible?
Gen.18:25^b; Ex.34:6-7; Hab.1:13^a; 2Thess.1:6^a; 1Jn.4:8

How can we hope to understand God's mind?
Jer.31:33-34; Rom.12:2; 1Cor.2:14-16; Eph.1:17

CHRISTIAN MORALITY IN SOCIETY:

How should the attitudes and behaviour of Christians affect society?
Mt.5:13-16; 1Pet.2:12; 1Pet.3:15

What is the purpose of drawing attention to ethical/moral issues in society?

FRAMEWORK FOR CHRISTIAN THINKING:

- Creation
- Fall
- Redemption
- Eschatology