

Absolute Morality

Human morality changes. What seems wrong to one generation becomes acceptable to another. By comparison, God's morality never changes. His moral code comes from love, a sense of absolute justice and a hatred of every kind of wrongdoing. These principles were laid down at the very beginning of man's existence:

Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die (Genesis 2:16-17).

Right Rules

As Creator, God has the right to set rules for those using His creation and He warned of the consequences of breaking them. The rules were set primarily to help humans, but God was also considering the well-being of the rest of His creation.

When the rules were broken, which we call sin, then the consequences were initiated, which we know as death. We can see that God's action was fully justified, because within a few generations the results of mankind's rule-breaking were clear:

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence (Genesis 6:11).

Even after God removed the evil in the flood, whilst saving Noah and his family, corruption soon returned.

The detail of God's morality is given in the laws He wrote for Israel in Exodus and Deuteronomy. Most cultures recognise that murder and theft

are wrong, but how many societies fail to see the benefits of God's absolute morality?

He instructed His people to honour parents, to keep a Sabbath day of rest, not to covet others' possessions or way of life, to show mercy and to try to reflect His character. He knew that this would make people happier as individuals and as a civilisation. The first of God's laws to Moses was:

You shall have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3).

Still Valid

The same concepts, described as "hungering for righteousness", were set out by Jesus in his 'Sermon on the Mount' (Matthew chapters 5-6). He taught in Matthew 5:8 that:

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

How many of us could even begin to think of ourselves as 'pure in heart'? God knows that without His moral guidance we would degrade ourselves completely. The actions of men and women, for example during the Holocaust, are ample evidence of how evil any of us can become. It's just as well that God gives us a moral standard to aim for, even if we can't always live up to it.

The morals God offers us provide a secure, safe foundation for how we live with Him, other people and ourselves. How much better that is than unstable human morality!

Cynthia Miles