

Bigger Than... | God Is Bigger Than Our Unbelief | Discussion Guide

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Have you ever doubted or questioned that the moral guidelines given by God are still relevant today?

Many people believe that there are many codes and morals to live by, but as Christians, we accept and believe the morals given by God through the scriptures. All Christians should agree that the Bible is the standard of truth for Christians. Since it is, then obviously, the way to see if something is true is to see if it lines up with the Word of God. Each Christian has the responsibility to prove everything they hear by the Word and by the witness of the Holy Spirit to its truth. We believe and understand intellectually these rules, but following those rules are challenging because of our fallen and sinful nature. Unless we recognize, understand and strive to follow the morals handed to us by God, we are destined to follow the sinful desires of our own sinful nature.

Judges 21:25 NASB In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

God is the Judge

Genesis 6:5-8 ESV The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Because God is holy and cannot tolerate sin, there must be some way to judge wrongdoing. His holiness demands justice for the sins that are committed. It was our sin that separated us from the holiness of God. God's word says:

Isaiah 59:2 ESV But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

God is omniscient, knows every motivation and every extenuating circumstance. Don't think you are the exception. God is impartial he cannot be fooled by a sharp suit and a smooth tongue, neither can He be swayed by a pretty face or attractive figure. Outward beauty fades, but the humble and pure heart of a true believer pleases Him. God is all-powerful. He doesn't need anything, so He can't be bribed or corrupted. There is nothing He wants, not even people's good opinion of Him. God is eternal. He is now, always has been and always will be. He wrote the law. He understands it fully and He alone administers justice. God is omnipotent. He has the power to carry out his judgments. He will never make empty threats or promises He can't keep. God is Good, He is holy without spot or blemish. Impeachable. God is holy, holy, holy.

What is Good?

God created us, so He has the right to hold us to His moral standard.

We inherently know this ultimate standard of right and wrong because God has written His law on our hearts.

Romans 2:15 ESV ⁵They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.

God's moral standard flows from His unchanging nature, so His standard is absolute. God Himself testified, "For I am the Lord, I do not change" He didn't ever think up a moral standard to decide right from wrong. Rather, His moral standard flows from His perfectly pure and holy nature. Since His nature is unchanging, His standard is absolute. God cannot sin, so His standard is absolute and based on His unchanging nature. He is perfect, holy and sinless.

What is Wrong?

Mankind's fundamental problem is the corruption and condemnation of sin.

1 John 2:16 ESV For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

There is a sin problem in this world and that sin problem infects every individual who lives in this world. You are born with a natural tendency to sin. You like to rebel.

You can be Righteous or Stay Condemned

Romans 8:1 ESV There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²or the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

You have the choice to renew your mind in Christ or to flounder in the worldview thrust on you by the influences in your life. You must recognize your enemy and choose to align yourself with the truth of who Jesus is. Every person has the ability to walk with the true God or walk the path to destruction.

Talk about it...

- *What are your first thoughts regarding today's topic: Please share with the group*
- *What is your moral code, where does it come from?*
- *Does God's law have true purpose in your life?*
- *Do you pay attention to the leading of the Spirit? Give some examples.*
- *Discuss some consequences of not following God's laws.*
- *Do you truly believe you have the choice to follow God and accept His worldview?*
- *How will you strive to incorporate God's worldview into your life this week?*