



Step Three: Being Ready

Studying to Give a Thoughtful Answer

to the Disciple, the Skeptic, and the Scoffer

Disciples: _____ of Christ who are looking to learn

Proverbs 3:5-7 – “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”

Skeptics: unconvinced, confused, _____

If morality (what's right and what's wrong) can change over time, then who decides when it has changed? The only answer seems to be 'society' – whatever the current culture deems to be good or bad.

Certainly you can see how terrifying this view is? Big majorities supported everything from Hitler to the Salem Witch trials to the genocide of entire people groups in Africa!

When the Old Testament was written, the overwhelming cultural norms were for the rich and powerful to get special treatment, different standards for justice, and to have as many wives and slaves as desired.

When the New Testament was written, the overwhelming cultural norms approved of prostitution, slavery, and had very different standards of 'morality' for men than for women. Christianity was condemned as the religion of 'slaves, women, and little children' for advocating treating all people equally. (notably by 2nd Century Greek Philosopher, Celsus)

Scoffers: mocking, uninterested, _____

Anything that's TRUE can be seen as radically new... or seen as hopelessly old – depending on when we learned it. But the truth itself isn't new or old: it's timeless. I think some things (like honesty and fairness) are always moral, and some things (like lying and murder) are always immoral.



Step Four: Shine as a Light

Living out an Answer with our Lives

If we believe that the Bible's morals are timeless...

→ Don't just hear... _____ according to the Bible's teachings!

Matthew 7:24-25 – “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock... And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand...”



Ready to Give an Answer

Answering the tough questions with our words and with our lives

Part 10: “Aren't the Bible's Morals Old-Fashioned?”

The Text: Romans 1:28 – 2:16

1:28-31 – The Moral _____ of Rejecting God

“Reprobate” = *adokimos* = unfit, not approved, fake, illegitimate

→ NO ONE thinks it's _____ when someone...
Cheats on them. Steals from them. Tears them down in front of others. Kills one of their loved ones. Lies to them. Gossips about them. Stabs them in the back. Is always boasting about themselves. Has their own kid disrespect them. Breaks a promise. Helps or encourages someone else to mistreat them...

2:1 – We are condemned by our _____ law!

→ NO ONE thinks it's good... but we've all _____ these things!
We just think we're excused, because 'those people' we did these things to were bad and also, we had 'good' reasons!

2:2-3 – We cannot escape God's _____ Judgement

2:4-6 – God's Mercy gives Maximum Time to _____

“Repentance” = *metanoia* = change your mind, change opinion, purpose

2:7 – Seek Eternal _____... and Find _____!

Matthew 7:7 – “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

2:8-9 – Reject _____... and Reap the _____!

2:10-13 – Knowledge of the Law gives _____... not _____!

Luke 12:47-48 – “And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”

2:14-15 – The _____ of the Law in Our Hearts

2:16 – We are ALL inexcusably _____... but Jesus _____!

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Therefore...

➔ The true test is NOT: ‘Did you Keep the _____?’
The answer for *everyone* is ‘No!’

➔ The true test is: ‘What did you do with _____?’
John 3:17-18 – “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”



Step One: Understanding *Honestly Considering the Hard Questions*

➔ “The Bible is so old – it’s morals are from a _____ age!”

- The 10 Commandments are about 3,500 years old!
- The total world population in Christ’s day was about 170 million people (almost exactly HALF the current population of the USA)

➔ “The Bible is out-of-touch with _____ knowledge and modern values!”

- Leading philosophers of the 2nd and 3rd century said the same thing!
“Christians show they want and are able to convince only the foolish, dishonorable, and stupid, only slaves, women, and little children”
- Celsus

“But Origen, [when he converted to Christianity], went over to the barbarian recklessness... mingling Grecian teachings with foreign fables.”
- Porphyry of Tyre

“They have collected from the lowest possible dregs of society the more ignorant fools together with gullible women (readily persuaded, as is their weak sex); they have thus formed a rabble of blasphemous conspirators...”
- Marcus Fronto



Step Two: Strengthened Belief *Being Thoughtful About What We Believe*

Faith ~ Reason ~ Experience

Faith: A reasoned trust in the _____ of Jesus and the Bible

Trust Jesus: He taught that Morality is _____ and Universal

Matthew 5:18-20 – “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Trust the Bible: It is _____ communication to us

Hebrews 1:1-2 – “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds”

2 Peter 1:20 – “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Reason: consider the evidence and _____

- ✓ With no _____ standard for morality, all that’s left is societal consensus.

History clearly shows the disaster of this model for morality. It’s easy to get a consensus to mistreat ‘those other people’

- ✓ The Bible’s morality has been deeply _____ from the very beginning. The Bible NEVER shared the values of the cultures and times which surrounded it.

Consider the ‘morality’ of the Sumerians, Babylonians, and Egypt
Consider the ‘morality’ of the Greeks and Romans

- ✓ Any true morality would also have to be _____!
If the crowd decides what’s ‘right’ – then it would never be ‘right’ to stand up to the mob!

Experience: finding it to be _____ in our own lives

- ➔ My feelings and opinions _____. I need *objective* standards.
- ➔ It’s easy to _____ my own sin. I need objective standards!