



What is Right?

What is Wrong?

The Answer is Simple

The questions of “What is right?” and “What is wrong?” guides all our choices in life:

- What you do
- How you interact with others
- Political Party Platforms
- Even actions between nations (for example, the reasons for wars)

What do people think is the answer?

Ask people what they think about “right” and “wrong” (morals), and you will get many different answers. Below are common answers people give to “What is Right and what is Wrong?”

Which of the following groups do you think has the correct answer?

- 1a. I know it when I see it.
- 1b. We just make it up as we go.
- 1c. Tolerance - You do you and I’ll do me.
- 1d. Moral choice is relative to the circumstances (whatever feels right).
- 2a. Right is a choice that results in the best outcome for all involved, and wrong is a choice that results in an outcome that does not work.
- 2b. Essentially, it’s a benefit to cost ratio. Something that generates more benefits than costs would be right, something that generates more costs than benefits would be wrong.
- 2c. An action is right if it promotes a greater amount of happiness for a greater number of people than would any other action performed.
- 2d. Moral judgments are just expressions of personal preference, matters of individual opinion, reflections of majority will, or commands of a higher authority.
- 3a. Morality is nothing more than an evolutionary feature shaped by our upbringing.
- 4a. God sets the ultimate standard of right and wrong.
- 5a. There are certain moral principles that are always true and should be followed, regardless of personal beliefs, belief in God, or cultural differences.

Sources for Morals

There are just 5 possible sources for morals:

Viewpoint #1 – Morals come from each person’s own opinion (Subjective)

Viewpoint #2 – Morals come from society’s majority opinion (Subjective)

Viewpoint #3 – Morals are an evolutionary trait and not based on what people think (Objective)

Viewpoint #4 – Morals come from God

Viewpoint #5 – Morals are objective and distinct from society’s and God’s opinion (Objective, Universal Morality)

Viewpoint #1

You determine your own morals

If you were the only one that set the standard for determining that what you do is right or wrong...

- There would be no right or wrong – what one person considers to be “right” and “wrong” would not apply to any other person.
- A person that sets their own morals cannot be trusted – their self-justification would overrule abiding by anyone else’s morals.
- **Proverbs 23:7** For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Examples of people with Viewpoint #1 include Absolute Monarchs, Dictators, Anarchists, and Sociopaths to name a few.

Viewpoint #2

Society determines morals

If society sets the standard for determining that what you do is right or wrong...

- For society to define a moral standard, it requires a majority of individuals to agree on the standard and put aside their Viewpoint #1.
- Individual rights, where “right” actions (i.e. Freedom of Speech) are protected from a “wrong” (i.e. censored speech) majority consensus are not supported.
- A majority opinion does not define right or wrong, it just defines a majority opinion of “acceptable” norms.
- **Exodus 23:2** Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil;

Examples of people with Viewpoint #2 are those in true Democracies and Socialism.

Viewpoint #3

Evolution determines morals

If there was a single, evolutionary set of moral standards, then all of humanity would express the same standards – and morality would have to be associated with the base genetics that the entire population shares.

These 7 morals are consistent worldwide:

1. Love your family (**Deuteronomy 5:16** Honor your Father and Mother)
2. Help your group (**Galatians 6:2**, Bear one another’s burdens)