

An Objective Standard Is Important

We all spend much time watching television and movies. These media often portray moral and ethical situations, questions, and problems. One character must decide, "Shall I be sexually immoral?" Other characters face other moral dilemmas, "Shall I rob the bank?" Or, "Shall I lie?"

These media portrayals often leave the impression that each person must decide what is right or wrong in the light of his or her particular circumstances. Many times, a situational ethic is applied. What gives one pleasure now, or what is most beneficial now, overrides any objective standard of truth.

Many people believe that we, each one, create our own truth, and that there is no definite divine truth. In many subtle ways, the media present the idea that there is no such thing as an objective divine standard by which God measures all of our acts. Some even contend that the only legitimate and right answers are human answers.

The idea that each one decides what is moral and ethical avoids answering many Biblical questions. How does one decide what to believe and practice in religion? How does one decide what religious name to wear? How does one determine the necessity and purpose of baptism? Must one be a member of Christ's church? How should one worship? Are these questions and others like them to be answered by human judgment and opinion?

Human wisdom cannot provide answers to the pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father (James 1:27). Jeremiah stated, "I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23)." If religious standards are not in man, where are they? There is a definite, objective body of divine truth, obedience to which will result in the salvation of the soul (1 Peter 1:22-23). The truth is the Bible, the inspired word of the eternal God (2 Tim.3:16). This truth has the power to save and make one free from all sin (Rom.1:16;John 8:32).

God's truth does not change. His truth is just as relevant today as it was when He delivered it. If we depend upon human opinion, materialistic philosophies, or skeptical theories, such as agnosticism or atheism, we will walk down life's pathway uncertain and confused. God's word is the authoritative and objective guide in all things that pertain to spiritual life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4). Let us remember in all of life's situations: "It is not in man that walks to direct his steps."