

## **ETHICS / MORALITY / TRUTH**

- Using *Homosexuality* as an example

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Homosexuality is just one of many actions which society today is warming up to and embracing. Others include adultery between heterosexuals, abortion, euthanasia, and divorce. Is it true (truth) that these actions are immoral? After all, two thirds of Americans approve of premarital sex. (1)

Abraham Lincoln said, while responding on the issue of slavery and whether it is right or wrong, “It is unworthy, and ultimately untenable, to have the most basic questions settled, and unsettled, by votes. The nation needs a foundation more durable than the sand of opinion.” (2)

Many today opt for the middle ground – the most good or desirable for the most people – the popular opinion, also called utility, or situation ethics – described by Jesus as the *lukewarm* approach, which He condemned – Rev. 3:14-16.

What is the foundation for truth? If one accepts the Bible as the source of truth – the foundation – God’s word – then all society will, at the very least, have a common point of reference to what is immoral in God’s view. This was the vision of America’s founders.

Religions are basically a philosophy of living, and a speculation on existence. Religion possesses no proof of supernatural power over death. Christianity is *not* a religion. Christianity is a trust in the eyewitness evidence of Christ overcoming death, and therefore a trust in Christ. Everything rests upon the resurrection of Jesus. The **Three Great Lies** are designed to elevate man, and deceive people, and cause a person to remain condemned to hell, and eternal separation, and isolation from God, rather than finding a relationship with God.

**Lie # 1 – The Historic Lie** – Supposedly our Bible is nothing but a myth – stories taken from the ancient accounts of Sumer, Babylon, and Egypt, and adapted by the Hebrew priests into the Bible. However, the Zodiac predates even Noah. God’s Plan was originally told in the stars, and has since been perverted beginning with Sumer, Babylon, and Egypt. Actually, the Zodiac told the story of Jesus, the redeemer, coming from a virgin birth, long before the existence of these ancient cultures (see Hand Out on the **Zodiac**). But the ultimate truth is that Jesus, who gave us proof of His power over death and eternity, quoted from the Bible, including the creation, thus proving the Bibles authenticity.

**Lie # 2 – The Life Lie** – Supposedly evolution proves we were a product of natural chemical interaction, and not created by an intelligent source. However, evolution is a hypothesis which cannot be tested, and is therefore not provable. Evolution is not a science, and one must have faith in it. Faith is exactly what is needed to believe in evolution. There is ample evidence to support creation by Intelligent Design. Granted, ID also is not testable, and must also be accepted by faith. Actually, scientific evidence shows that changes in life are due to already existing information in the DNA being selected in place of other already existing information in the DNA, meaning that no new information is “created”. All information is already there, and mutations actually result in damage to existing information, thus causing other information to become selectable. No new information is being created. Here too, it is the resurrection of Jesus which disproves natural chemical processes being responsible for life. Jesus claimed to be the creator, the intelligent source, and He proved His power over death and eternity, thus proving His supernatural Power. Our choice is between the eyewitness evidence of the resurrection, versus a faith in chemicals, which cannot be tested.

**Lie # 3 – The Lie of Eternal Life** – Since 1998 our major colleges and universities have claimed that cyber-technology will soon allow everyone an eternal existence. Data storage of ones personality and brain can be transferred into a chip and uploaded whenever one wants to awake. After all, it is suggested, if life is data (DNA), housed in a temporal body of flesh, why not just transfer that data into a chip. There is no need for God

as we will soon control our eternal existence ourselves. Just think, instead of loading my body on a plane to go to another country, I can be digitally transmitted, as even the other country can be digitally represented. However, this is a “no-brainer”. Every science student knows that the universe is expanding, and therefore the entire universe, and all atomic structure will be non-existent in the future. Without atomic structure there will be no data storage. Only Jesus showed His power over death and eternity, and He told us in Revelation that His new creation will be a new dimension. Even science agrees with what Jesus told us 2,000 years ago – time is almost up – this universe is toast, and that there are other dimensions.

The only proof we ultimately have of anything is an actual eyewitness testimony. The Bible is the actual eyewitness testimonies of over 500 people to Jesus overcoming death, and teaching on this planet for 40 days before ascending into that other dimension – heaven (1 Corin. 15:1-8). Our choice is to trust in Jesus, and the eyewitness testimonies, or to have faith in philosophies, chemicals, and chips. **Note** – we spend so much time arguing the points of the charges – the lies – that we tend to overlook the testimony of Jesus on these issues, and His total authority, supported by actual eyewitnesses.

There is no such thing as different truths – “You have your truth, and I have mine.” To be truth it must be exclusive – the only real true authoritative position on an issue. For truth to be exclusive it cannot come from the sand of opinion. Truth must derive its source from an exclusive test, such as a scientific proof of nature which cannot be denied, or the exclusiveness of the being who has power over life and death, and who created all nature.

Immorality has been around since humanity began, and certain immoral acts have, from time to time in history, been accepted by different societies, including Judeo / Christian societies, which had strayed from God’s word. Immorality includes adulterous acts, divorce, polygamy, homosexuality, and the murder of children, known as child sacrifice to the gods, to in order to make life pleasurable for those adults, in addition to many others. Generally these immoral societies decline, and are eventually replaced by societies which have adopted traditional biblical, or similar morals, even though some immoral acts continue in the background. In time, many of these societies also eventually decline, as they normalize many of these immoral activities, and so the cycle continues.

Such is the case of western culture which had adopted traditional biblical teachings until the last century, with the birth of Darwin and natural evolution, and the death of God according to Nietzsche. More specifically, since the 1960’s, society has truly begun to return to its roots of sin, as defined by the Bible.

Every day there are new claims of man’s rational superiority over the myth of some god. There are new understandings of the Bible, either as myth, or as having been mistranslated. After all, as I paraphrase what was stated thousands of years ago – All things and behaviors are natural and perfectly O K. Go ahead, participate. You’ll increase your knowledge, awareness, and understanding. Your eyes will be opened. God created you, and loves you, and these actions and behaviors are naturally pleasing, and desirable, so you surely won’t die.

This brings us to the real question then. Will we surely die ? Or, put another way, knowing that we all are on a path toward death – from the moment we are conceived – what assurance does anyone have of any life after death ? Does my action in this life have anything to do with an eternal life ? Or, should we just live for the present ? Is there any evidence to support the truth of supernatural life after death, and the truth of God’s power over man ?

In all of history only one being has shown any supernatural power over death. And that person, who raised people from death, and after His own death, was raised to life, testified to us that He and His ways are the only way to eternal life in heaven after death (John 14:6). Millions of individuals, and some societies, have since based their moral standards upon the standard set by Jesus – restricted divorce, respect for the sanctity of life, and marriage between one man and one woman, with no extramarital sex, etc.

Today we are moving away from Jesus and His ways, and moving once again toward a human centered set of freedoms, tolerance, and acceptance of divorce, extramarital sex, even a redefinition of marriage, and a redefinition of humanism, or person-hood, which includes the acceptance of abortion and euthanasia.

The reason for removing God from public government education in the 1960's, was to eliminate the source of moral authority based on the God of the Bible, and to allow the value of the rational human decision to be promoted above the old authority of God. The old ways were no longer popular.

The post-modern approach to ethics is the metaphysical system known as existentialism, where the act of rational thought produces freely chosen decisions and actions. This view states that as long as the beliefs, decisions, and actions are freely chosen by each individual, they are valid for that person, and therefore authentic. Persons who follow moral guidelines, which they did not create for themselves, are considered inauthentic.

This of course means that people who humble themselves before Jesus, and follow His ways, when it is against their natural flesh inclinations, are inauthentic. Their decisions, and their opinions are not valid. We conquered Hitler on the battlefield, but have lost the war in the classroom, which has adopted metaphysical existentialism, which Hitler had popularized.

Some today in 2004 want the Bible restored to the classroom in public government schools, but this would be a huge mistake at this time. Since the 1960's, neither the teachers, nor the curriculum are adequately equipped to instruct in the areas of the supernatural, and dimensionality. The scientific evidences for intelligent design are not taught in government public education, and neither is the theological discipline. We must not entrust the study of origins, the incarnation, and the resurrection, to teachers uneducated on the supernatural. Unfortunately, the problem of theology and doctrine aren't just limited to secular education. A recent survey showed that only 45% of pastors who attended seminary have a biblical world view, which is that absolute moral truth is based on the Bible (3).

Today, if one truly wants an education, one needs to search for conduits of truth, and the term truth must be defined. For some people even knowing the truth does not change their view of self over God. The truth is Jesus proved His power over death and said He alone offers us eternal life, if we trust only in Him. One can reject this truth, and choose to live only for this life, or hope some guy named Buddha, Vishnu, Muhammad, Smith, or Guru can maybe grant you eternal life. That is our choice. There is no evidence of these or other "Holy Men", ever having any power over death - just nice philosophies for this planet. (see [burneyfam.com](http://burneyfam.com) for book The Paradigm Trilogy, or click on Updates, or Hand Outs)

The truth is Christ proved His power over death, and we will all perish without Christ, and He has commanded we endeavor to live in a prescribed manner, part of which includes love and patience, and part of which includes standards He set forth as God over all creation.

The truth of God will not be hidden. Those who desire the truth will understand that the current popular trend of fulfilling ones desires, by establishing ourselves as the authority over morality and right and wrong, in place of God and His word, is nothing more than selfish arrogance. God tells us this is normal. God tells us we are all sinful at birth, even in the womb. It is God's message that we need to rise above our selfishness, arrogance, and pride, and we are to humble ourselves before God and His ways – Not our ways. As God's word tells us, it is normal human behavior to say no to being humble, and doing things God's way. We are all sinners. Sinful behavior may be normal, but not moral.

Today society, through governmental laws, is rejecting God in favor of popular desires. But those who truly worship God, and humble themselves before Him, understand His desires, and understand those who promote acceptance of immorality, such as adultery, abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, and divorce, etc., will themselves be judged by God as unworthy, abhorrent, and not welcome in God's kingdom of heaven, even if they are applauded by the nations here on earth, and recognized as among the most loving, humane, and tolerant. God is not tolerant. Patient – yes. Loving – yes. Tolerant – no.

Following is a series of understandings the world has about the issue of homosexuality, and why the world view is that homosexuality should be accepted as being blessed by Jesus. These were arguments published in the county newspaper beginning with the issue of Gay Pride Celebrations mandated by the local, state and federal governments in 2002, and continuing into 2004 with the issue of Gay Marriage. (4)

- Many Old Testament laws should be ignored today as uncivilized, and this includes homosexual laws. Any modern religious leaders who use them are biased, homophobic, bigoted, and discriminatory by singling out homosexuals, and taking words from the Bible out of context.
- Calling gay people's love a sin is disrespectful, and doing so in the name of God, who is love, is the boldest of lies. We need more diversity training in schools, and at work.
- Jesus teaching is about love, acceptance, tolerance, compassion, and forgiveness. Gay people contribute to society, and Jesus love is all inclusive. No exceptions. The Gospel is all about the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Christians need to grasp the teachings of Jesus by focusing on the care of people, and we need to ignore the literal textual interpretation of the Bible.
- Christians are missing the lessons of the Bible by eliminating the metaphorical interpretation. The Bible is not in its original version, and has been edited and manipulated. We need to use our common sense. Jesus did not judge. God is love. The shift in consciousness is out there. It is a new day. There are too many Christians with a limited understanding of the Bible.
- Bible people are prejudiced, discriminatory, and pick and choose which Bible verse to use against people in hate. Bible people pick which translation they want, and call that translation authoritative, so they can be prejudiced.
- Bible people will change their mind when they have a gay son or daughter.
- Christianity exposed itself as a divisive tool used by its leaders against blacks with slavery and the KKK, Hitler against the Jews, Christian killers like Jim Jones, and others, and now against the homosexuality community. God is love. Christians are hate.
- Jesus changed the old laws, and Jesus never teaches about homosexuality. He taught love and tolerance. Christians just want to judge.
- God made every homosexual, and God makes no mistakes. Christians have no right to assert that homosexuality activity is a sin. God has no problem with any sexual acts – they may be biblically sinful, (Meaning the Bible is wrong, and not really God's word), but God loves all.
- Most Christians are ignorant of what God really says, and they follow self-righteous leaders. Society needs to broaden its thinking.
- Marriage being only between a man and a woman is just a religious thing. Christianity is not about God – it is about disliking gay people. Christians know it is wrong to object to gay relationships. The faithful spew garbage. God does not object to homosexuality, and gays deserve the same sacred blessings from God.
- Many Christians are gay and there are Christian church leaders who are actively homosexual. Being gay is part of our being human – like skin color. God gave us homosexuality and as long as it is used for love and not hurt, God will honor it. Christians who judge homosexuality as wrong are practicing hate. Gay people are kind, caring, loving, and considerate.
- Paul never met Jesus, and all his letters don't apply to God's love of homosexuals.

Even though it is suggested that Jesus is referred to in support of a pro-gay agenda, a common thread woven through out the arguments in favor of promiscuous behavior is the absence of any scriptures used to support the belief that God will honor this behavior.

### **JESUS DID SAY :**

- I am God – I and the Father are One – John 10:30.
- My kingdom is not of this world – John 18:36
- This world is Satan's domain – Job 1:7, Matt. 4:8-9, John 12:31.

- I am the way, the **truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me – John 14:6.
- Jesus redefined His law of the Old Testament, where Israel was to obey certain laws, or possibly suffer death (the purpose of which was to teach the holiness and sovereignty of God over all life). Jesus put in place of these laws for Israel a means of forgiveness for all of humanity, if one repents, changes their ways, and follows Jesus. Those who refuse to repent, and worship Jesus, will suffer death and eternal damnation. Jesus died on the cross to make forgiveness possible – Mark 8:31-38, Rom. 8:1-8.
- God said all are sinners (Rom. 3:23), and Jesus called homosexual behavior, as well as all adultery, a sin - Matt. 15:16-20, Mark 7:18-23. We are all sentenced to death and hell, and Jesus came to save those who trust in Him only, and endeavor to obey His word (John 3:17-18).
- There is debate over whether homosexuality is a genetic disposition, a chemical / hormonal disposition, a social condition, or a perfectly normal condition. It really makes no difference. Even heterosexuals are inclined toward adultery and extra-marital tendencies. Jesus commands us to not have sex outside marriage, and Jesus referred to His word in establishing marriage between a man and a woman - Mark 10:1-12, Gen. 2:21-24.
- Jesus did not come to condemn, but to save (John 3:16-17). This is because everyone is condemned already the very moment they are conceived (John 3:18).
- Jesus came to divide people - Luke 12:51-53. Divide those who repent, and put their faith and trust in Jesus (the saved), from those who excuse sin (the condemned).
- Jesus called all people to treat each other with love and patience, because we are all sinners, but Jesus never called people to tolerate deviant behavior as moral, or to celebrate immoral behavior with pride - Luke 6:27-36, Matt. 4:17. This even includes our own children if they embrace homosexuality or adultery. We must love them as a person, do them no harm, be patient with them, as long as no harm is done to society. Because they are blind and lost, we need to pray they will repent, but we must not accept, tolerate, embrace, celebrate, or promote their activity (actions are harmful when there is no longer any shame attached to the immoral action). If I truly love someone, I will want them to spend eternity in heaven with God, and not be condemned to hell - John 5:25-29. True love is to share the **truth** with people – the Gospel of Jesus.
- There are many Christian leaders today who interpret the Bible as embracing homosexuality, and they are deceiving the people. These leaders are evil according to Jesus - Matt. 7:21-23, Rev. 3:16.
- Jesus said He will judge all – Rev. 20:11-15. Many will not be saved – Matt. 7:13-14. (see [burneyfam.com](http://burneyfam.com) for book The Paradigm Trilogy, or click on Updates, or Hand Outs)

It is easy to make claims that the Bible is not authentic. That it is mistranslated, and inaccurate. However, all the evidence gathered by historical scholars all over the world show the Bible's eyewitness testimonies to be the most scrutinized, authentic, accurate text in the entire world. No other ancient text even comes close to the Bible's level of evidence, accuracy, and authenticity.

Christians in history have used the Bible to oppress groups, and not to be patient and love them. This is so very true. God's word has been misused many times. Just because Jesus does not approve of homosexuality, and many other immoral actions, does not mean that Christians should abuse or harm fellow human beings. Christians must be patient, show love, and pray each soul will receive the truth, and be saved, before they pass from this life, and are condemned to hell.

America, and our world, must endeavor to find the truth – a rock. Not sand. Not popular opinion. Jesus and the Bible give us evidence of eternal supernatural power over death – and therefore evidence of the ultimate truth – Jesus and His word.

To the general public who encourage people to engage in activities which God's word describes as abhorrent, I would say : This is normal. Jesus understands that we are all sinners, and that we are wandering in this life without His Truth to guide us. He offers us truth and forgiveness, if we will repent and put our faith and trust in Him only. This is why He came – to save fallen souls. Non-Christians, who do not yet understand God's truth, must be shown patience, and loved as lost souls, and also be informed of the truth – God's word. Jesus loves each person. It is our actions which separate us from God.

Some people think because God loves us all, that everyone will be going to heaven, except for those society condemns as evil, or except for those few that we are certain God condemns as evil – the Hitler types. Actually this is exactly backwards. Without Jesus **all** people are condemned to hell, whether Hitler, or the little old lady next door who bakes all her neighbors cookies. God loves us, and shows this love for us by coming as Jesus, and dying in our place, to save us from that eternal damnation we are **all** otherwise headed for. We all need to worship Jesus, or perish in His judgement.

**To the Christian leaders** who encourage souls to believe some god not found in the Bible, I will simply say : Your killing people with your love. Your kind of love is short sighted, self indulgent, and in God's Plan, leads only to eternal damnation. True Christians understand our need to repent, change our ways, and our need to follow the only truth – Jesus and His Word. Christians who disobey God's truth must be disciplined – Matt. 18:7, 1 Tim. 1:8-11, 2 Tim. 3:1-5, 1 Corin. 5:6-13.

**To those who desire** to be free and enjoy total peace, Jesus said **“The truth shall set you free” and “I am the truth”** – John 8:32, 14:6.

- (1) *Ethics for a Brave New World*, Feinberg, Crossway Books, Wheaton, Ill, 1993, pg 152
- (2) *Newsweek*, November 10, 2003, page 74.
- (3) *World*, February 7, 2004, page 25.
- (4) *Ukiah Daily Journal*, 2002-2004, including editorial November 30, 2003

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