

What Is the Law Good For?

Lesson #5 – Moral Absolutes in the Law

Two competing ideas about morality:

- 1) Moral Relativism – the belief that morality is a real concept that is _____ by human beings who share common values; no act is intrinsically immoral, but some acts can be deemed immoral in a society.
- 2) Moral Absolutism – the belief that morality is a real concept that humans can understand but cannot decide; some acts are _____ immoral no matter what people believe.

Bible study considerations that help in using the Law of Moses to establish moral absolutes:

- Ask: “Who was it written to, and why?”
- Look for stated reasons for individual laws.
- Compare with Scripture outside the Law of Moses.
 - No truth revealed by God will contradict previously-revealed truth.
 - God’s ways of dealing with people have changed over time under various dispensations.
 - The New Testament is a valuable resource in confirming that our view of moral absolutes is fair.

Examples of moral absolutes included in the Law of Moses:

- 1) Murder is wrong. (Exodus 20:13)
 - a. Genesis 9:6 (before the Law) – reason stated: humans are made in God’s image.
 - b. Matthew 5:21-26 (under the Law) – Jesus pointed to a heart-issue behind murder.

- 2) Idolatry is wrong. (Exodus 20:3-6)
 - a. Exodus 7:5 (before the Law) – God wanted the Egyptians to know Him.
 - b. Colossians 3:5, 1 John 5:21 (after the Law) – Christians are warned against idolatry.
- 3) Homosexuality is wrong. (Leviticus 18:22)
 - a. Genesis 2:24 (before the Law) – God demonstrates His design for gender & sexuality.
 - b. Romans 1:26-27 (after the Law) – God explains that homosexuality is a deviation.

Reasons it makes sense to conclude that Leviticus 18:22 is a law that represents a moral absolute:

Context Questions –

- What do all the restrictions of Lev. 18:6-23 have in common?
- According to Lev. 18:1-5 and Lev. 18:24-30, why are these restrictions given?
- According to Lev. 18:24-30, what would be true of the person who violates these laws?
- According to Lev. 18:24-25, who had already been accountable for defiling themselves?

Details of Leviticus 18:22 –

- What words indicate that homosexuality is contrary to God's design?
- What explicit reason is stated for this prohibition?

Other Scriptural support for the absolute moral standard of sexuality according to God's design –

- Genesis 2:24, Matthew 5:27-32 – God's original design is the basis for sexual standards.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-20 – A variety of sexual sins, including homosexuality, are described as unrighteousness, unnatural, and sins directly against God.
- Romans 1:18-32 – A departure from truth and righteousness includes a departure from God's design for sexuality; the righteous judgment of God requires a death penalty for many sins, including sins of homosexuality.