

I Believe in Morality

2 Timothy 2:19-22

Every person has a sensitivity to right and wrong, a moral sense. Only God could give us our sense of morality. We didn't get this from evolution, no, It was God who made us moral beings!

Each of us has within us a moral faculty called a conscience that accuses us when we do what is wrong and excuses us when we do what is right. When we violate our conscience, we feel the pain of guilt and shame. We feel guilty, because we know we have sinned; we feel ashamed that we are the kind of person who could do something so wrong. Everyone has a conscience. Sin defiles conscience, but the blood of Christ can cleanse our conscience.

Thankfully, God trains our consciences, He does it through the Scriptures, so that we can avoid sinning against God and defiling our hearts. When people don't know Scripture, they may fool themselves into thinking what they have done is right, when actually God regards it as wrong.

Our moral senses aren't physical but spiritual and God given. To suggest that we are moral beings because we evolved from non-living matter or from animals isn't rational. Our self-awareness and our ability to evaluate the morality of our thoughts and behaviors must arise from being made in the image of God. We are moral beings who judge ourselves and judge what we see and experience in this life. *This moral sense is a universal experience, found in every age and every culture of mankind.* Only people who

are made in God's image have the emotions to feel shame, to feel guilt and have the ability to judge ourselves and others by moral standards of right and wrong.

There is a universal law of God that is higher than human law. And just because something is legal in the eyes of a society doesn't make it right in God's eyes.

During the Nuremburg trials after WWII, Robert Jackson, the prosecutor of this trial, told the Nazis they weren't prosecuted for breaking British law or American law, they were being judged by a law higher than the "provincial and the transient." What they did was always wrong, for all persons, in all places, and at all times.

Evolution does not and cannot account for this moral sensitivity. They cannot be found in physics, or chemistry, or biology. Indeed,

the only thing that can account for this common moral experience is a Supernatural Moral Lawgiver. And this is what we mean by God.

Jeremiah knew the nature of man was to downplay sin and even deceive himself about it. The prophet wrote in **Jer. 10:23**, “*I know, O LORD, that a man’s way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.*”

Man left to his own devices will try to justify whatever he says and does. **Prov. 14:12** says, “*There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*” People can do very foolish, hurtful things simply because they want to. And love for sin will cause people to ignore all the warning their conscience gives them, and plunge themselves into ruin. **Prov. 16:2** says, “*All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives.*”

You can fool yourself, you can fool your family, and your friends; but you cannot fool God. **Prov. 15:3** says, “*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good.*” Nothing escapes the notice of God. What we think trivial may be a serious matter to God. God loves us, but He cannot overlook sin. The prophet spoke about God in **Habakkuk 1:13**. He said about God, “*Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and you cannot look on wickedness with favor.*” Our consciences are a moral governor, but they must be brought into harmony with the will of God.

The serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer had been brought up to believe in God, but he was exposed to atheistic evolution which devastated his faith. Dahmer placed the blame for his murders on his atheistic beliefs and in

the theory of evolution. From these beliefs, he found no reason to respect human dignity or life. In his interview with Dateline on NBC, he pointed out, “If you don’t...think that there is a God to be accountable to...what’s the point of trying to modify your behavior to keep it within acceptable ranges?” Dahmer took atheistic evolution to its natural final conclusion, no God – no moral laws. You see then, that God and morality are unalterably connected to each other. A good, holy, and pure God gives us the foundation for our faith and for our morals. God created us and owns us all, whether we realize it or not. **Romans 14:12** says, *“So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”*

In fact, Christians do not own themselves. They have no right to participate in immoral

behavior. In the first century the Corinthians were well known for being sexually immoral people. In **1 Cor. 6:9-10** He said, “*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.*” As you see, sin has a high price to pay. If you want to live with God, you must leave sin.

He explains further in **1 Cor. 6:18-20**, “*Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body.*” When Christ died on the cross, He bought us to

redeem us from sin at the cost of His own blood. Now *it's vital to our souls that we realize that we are not our own.* We belong to Jesus Christ!

When people, like Dahmer, imagine that they can do as they please and aren't accountable to God, there is no limit to the evil that they will do.

God not only sees our behavior; He knows and tests our hearts. God said through Jeremiah in **Jer. 17:9-10**, “*The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.*” God sees things as they truly are! **You can't lie to God**; he will see right through its. The Hebrew writer says it well in **Hebr. 4:12-13**, “*For the word of God is living*

and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” Because God knows us, we should make it our aim to please Him in every way.

Our relationship with God ought to direct our thinking, our words, and our behavior.

In **1 Peter 1:13-16** we read, “*Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”* A

holy person keeps himself free from the ways of sin.

The Hebrew writer said in **Hebr. 3:12-13**, *“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still call ‘today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”* God loves you and will do everything He can to keep you from falling away in sin which leads to unbelief.

But we need to take the warning of **Hebr. 10:26-31** to heart, *“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of*

God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay.' And again, 'The LORD will judge his people.' It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Don't let sin overwhelm you with grief and despair. God's love and grace provide the way to salvation. *The wicked won't inherit the kingdom of God, but they can repent and change.* The Lord Jesus will help you become a different person with a clear conscience. After listing several sins in **1 Cor. 6**, Paul then in **verse 11** says, "*Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*" You don't have to remain enslaved by what you were. God can wash you; he can make you holy and justified you! You can

become a child of God and live a new life filled with love and hope and eternal life. When our conscience stings from our sins, and we realize how our sins are painful and can cost our souls, we start looking for forgiveness and a clean conscience. Guilt and shame will cause a person to despise himself or herself. You may not like what you see when you look in a mirror.

Does your conscience sting? What are you going to do about it? Some will ignore their consciences and become callous to sin. They don't care what they do or who they hurt. I worry more about a person with a seared conscience than I do for the one who feels guilt. **Why you ask?** It is because the pain, a godly grief, may cause him to repent.

2 Cor. 7:10 says, *“For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance*

without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.” Your God given conscience isn’t a curse. It is God trying to open your eyes to what is wrong, so that we may pursue what is right and be saved.

Guilt grieves us, but God offers us a clean conscience! In Christ we have forgiveness and hope. We can be born again and walk in newness of life. The old man of sin dies, so that we can be free from sin and raised with Christ!

What must we do to obtain this blessing of the Lord? We need to trust in the Lord and confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God. We need to let our grief over sin lead us to repent and turn from evil and then to turn to the Lord. When you do this, you are ready to be baptized! In baptism God washes away sin (**Acts 22:16**), He cause us to be

born again (**Jn. 3:5**), and He makes us His child (**Gal. 3:27**). He also gives us newness of life free from sin (**Rom. 6:3-7**). **Why not turn your life around and come to the Lord?** *Won't you come as we stand and sing the invitation song?*