

## W.E.C. #4 – Morality and the Three Metaphysical Realities

### God is the Source of All Morality

What is the source of morality and where does it come from?

- From the very character of God Himself
- **Genesis 1:26-27** – being made in the image of God
  - We are to reflect His moral character at all times
- Ethics originate from the Infinite Personal Creator to His creation
- Ethics – what “ought” to be

**Psalm 145:17** – *the LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works*

**Now – Let’s take a look at morality according to an impersonal worldview (pantheistic / atheistic worldviews):**

- Morals and ethics are relative and subjective
  - Each person or group of people make their own
    - Morality is not absolute for all people in all places
  - They may believe this to be true
    - But they do not live this way
    - They are inconsistent here
  - To them – morality is relative because there is no infinite personal God
    - Therefore – we create our own morality
  - An atheist may believe this to be true for themselves
    - But they cannot live consistently like this
    - In fact – it is impossible to live with no moral absolutes
  - In order for morals to be absolute
    - An absolute moral Creator must exist
    - And He does exist
    - Which is why we all live as though there are moral absolutes
      - Because we have been made in the image of God
      - We cannot escape this reality

Carry this through to its logical conclusion

- If morality is relative and not absolute – a person’s good works and bad works are no different
  - They simply are
  - They simply are what we do
  - They cannot be assigned any value of good or bad because everything is god
- We have unity in the impersonal worldview
  - Everything is one
- But diversity cannot be accounted for
  - Why things are different

- Why something is good versus what something is bad
- How can morality be derived from an impersonal unknowable god?
- Morality cannot be anything more than what a person decides to for themselves

The problem:

- This can be professed as one's belief
  - ***But nobody can live consistently within these parameters***
- Contradiction indicates an inconsistent belief (A cannot equal -A)
  - It refutes itself, therefore it cannot be true
  - Something cannot be both true and false at the same time
  - Example:
    - Hinduism teaches reincarnation
    - Christianity teaches bodily resurrection
      - Both cannot be true at the same time
  - Example:
    - Jesus is fully God and fully man (orthodox)
    - Jesus is the first creation of God the Father (Arius / JW)
      - Both cannot be true at the same time
      - Either: one is correct or they are both wrong
  - Starting from the impersonal = morals cease to be morals
  - Absolute standards cannot exist or even come into one's mind since there wouldn't be any concept of antithesis
  - But – we do have a concept of absolute right and wrong
    - We live that way without realizing it at times
    - Absolute standards exist
      - Therefore – God has to exist
    - The atheist can deny this all they want
    - But they cannot live consistently as if absolutes are not real

Since we are created by a perfect moral God:

- Good exists
- Perfection has existed within the Godhead for all eternity
- Anything contrary to this is considered evil
- Evil – is parasitic / it perverts that which is good
- We humans introduced evil into the world by rebelling against God's perfect moral standard

The conclusion of starting from an impersonal beginning

- Personality does not exist
- We simply are who we are – we simply exist without any distinctions
- We are simply doing what the chemicals in our brains tell us to do
- Human dignity and moral responsibility are taken away

## Common answer from the atheists regarding the existence of morality:

- Evolutionary Ethics –
  - Human beings are highly evolved animals
  - In order to understand our personality and morality:
    - We attempt to figure out when our ancestors developed our personal characteristics and morality
    - Understanding the mind as an adaptation as we view it in the background of the prehistoric environment in which it evolved
    - This is how we understand why we do what we do today
- Questions:
  - Why does the concept of morality even exist when all that exists is matter?
  - How does human personality evolve from material that has no personality?
  - If what exists today is a result of randomness
    - Then what is simply is
    - No value can be placed upon anything

## The Law of Human Nature

- The standard of behavior where a person expects the other person to unconsciously or naturally follow
  - Play by the rules, respect, descent behavior
  - This is naturally ingrained in all people in all places
  - Question – How can there be wrong play, disrespect, or indecent behavior if there are no moral standards / laws to follow?
- This is universal and that transcends all cultures as a whole in human history
  - No culture promoted stealing each other's belongings
  - No culture promoted treason
  - No culture promoted running away in battle
  - No culture promoted lying to one another
  - Selfishness, ego, racism, slavery, have never been admired
- Human beings all over the world have this understanding that they *ought* to behave in a certain way
- Every culture has a system of justice
- When people try to deviate from this standard, they cannot live life consistently
  - They always revert back to the law of human nature at some point
  - It is impossible to live otherwise
- The law of human nature is not merely a person living according to their instincts
  - A person has *two choices*:
    - One is to do the right thing
    - The other is to do the wrong thing
      - Example: late for work – speeding
        - You know it is wrong

- You do it anyways
  - What is the first thing you do when you see a cop?
  - Example: An elderly woman drops her groceries:
    - You can either help her
    - Or you can do nothing
      - One is right
      - The other is wrong
        - We inherently know that doing nothing is wrong
        - We don't even have to think about what is the right thing to do in this scenario
- **Romans 2:14-15** – <sup>14</sup> For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup> They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

### **The Moral Argument for God's Existence**

The argument is a very simple one, and can be structured something like this:

1. For an objective moral standard to exist, God must exist
  1. An objective moral standard does exist
    1. Therefore, God exists

Some Christians have found it helpful to structure the argument in the negative form:

1. If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist
  1. Objective moral values and duties do exist
    1. Therefore – God exists

Morality cannot be accounted for or explained within an atheistic / pantheistic worldview

Personality cannot be accounted for or explained within atheistic / pantheistic worldview

- This does not mean they cannot be moral
- This does not mean they cannot be personal
  - They just cannot explain WHY morality and personality exist

### **Talking with Someone Coming Out of Postmodernism**

**Question** – how can there be “injustice” in the world if there are not absolutes and there is no God?

Refute this line of reasoning:

- There are no absolutes, just personal preference
- Absolutes are imposed on us by those who desire power

- Injustice is the biggest problem we face today and must be purged from society

**Question** – how can the same people who believe

- That nobody should force their morality upon them
- That view anyone in authority telling them what to do as “oppressive”
- Then turn around and accuse people of being unjust / hateful / bigoted / narrowminded?

**Point out the inconsistency and necessity of the biblical worldview**

- People can believe no objective moral law exists
- But they cannot consistently live that way
- Everyone believes in objective morality because we have been created that way
  - This reality cannot be escaped
- Injustice can only be real if there are moral absolutes
- Injustice can only exist if an infinite, personal, moral God exists who sets the rules
- Therefore:
  - Injustice can only exist if a logical, moral and consistent standard exists
  - And this cannot exist unless God Himself exists