

Why We Believe In Absolute Truth
Stark Rd. Gospel Hall August 29, 2001

Definitions:

Absolute - adj. not conditioned by, or dependent on, anything else. - Webster

Relative - adj. of something (a quantity, quality, truth, idea, etc) considered in reference to something else. - comparative, not absolute. - Webster

Question to be answered:

Does the date on the calendar or the atmosphere of the culture have any effect on what is true/false or right/wrong?

1. In Defense of Absolute Truth

a. Observation

1. Creation - We see design, order, and physical law (Romans 1:18-20)
2. Conscience - (Rom 2:14-15) "The Gentiles, which have not the law ... show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness."
3. Culture - A universally excepted concept of fairness, and what is right. (a common conscience)

b. The Character of God -Immutable (unchanging)

(Psa. 102:26-27) "They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end."

(Mal 3:6) "For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

(James 1:17) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

c. The Word of God

(Psalm 19:7-9)

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The ordinances of the Lord are sure, and altogether righteous."

(John 14:6) "Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"

(Romans 1:18-20 NIV) "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them... For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

2. The Consequence of its Denial

(Isa 5:20) “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

a. On individuals

(Rom 1:22-24) “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies...”

b. On cultures

Nazism, Abortion, “Alternative lifestyles”, Euthanasia, Embryonic stem-cell research, etc.

c. On assemblies

(Rev 3:1-4) “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; ... I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”

Whenever we violate or deny God’s truth, we crash up against spiritual laws that are more permanent and real than the physical laws.

3. The Impact of its Conviction:

a. On the individual

(Psalm 19:7-10) “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.
The ordinances of the Lord are sure, and altogether righteous.”

(Psalm 119:7-9) “I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments... Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

b. On the assembly

(Rev 3:7-8,10-11) “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; .. I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”

(2 Pet 3:3,17) “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? ... Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.”

When faced with any set of absolutes, even many in "conservative" America are quick to interject: "If people want to do it that way, it is their right" or even more popular, "Who are you to decide what is right and wrong for someone else?" This philosophy is like a ship with no anchor--it is blown and tossed wherever the winds of public opinion take it.

Why is it that we all have preconceived ideas about right and wrong? Why do we feel guilty over evil, and what makes us feel good when we do positive things? Why do people believe that Mother Teresa was any better of a person than Adolf Hitler? What makes us think that it is right to protect the innocent? Who told us it is cowardly to run away from battle? Why do we think it is right to tell the truth?