

Can I Really Trust the Bible?

The Bible, Culture, & Absolute Truth

What is Truth?

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. John 18:37-38

"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – Jesus, from John 14:6

What is Moral Truth? 3 Questions

1. Is Morality timeless, independent of culture, society, opinion?
2. Is Morality subjective, dependent on culture, society, opinion?
3. Does Moral Truth even exist?

6 Principles for Handling Difficult Bible Passages

What to do when you find the Bible offensive:

1. Read the Bible yourself. See what it actually says.
2. Read the Bible in the context of the literary style.
3. Discern the imperative context: is it describing or prescribing?
4. Discern the prescriptive context: is the command cultural, civil, ceremonial, or moral in nature?
5. Remove your cultural blinders before you interpret meaning.
6. Remove your temporal blinders before you interpret meaning.

Claim: "The Bible is Wrong. I am Right." Reply: "Who says?"

Who gets to choose what is Right and Wrong?

Morality supersedes and is independent of Majority opinion.
Is it OK for a Majority to all agree and exploit a Minority? No.

Morality supersedes and is independent of the will of the Strong.
Is it OK for the Strong to exploit the Weak? No.

Morality supersedes and is independent of Individual opinion.
Is it OK for Individuals to exploit other Individuals? No.

Morality supersedes and is independent of Society.
Is it OK for a Society to exploit its members, other societies? No.

Morality supersedes and is independent of Natural Selection.
If evolution were "re-run", and randomly arrived at a different Morality which helped humans survive (natural selection), would it then be OK for the Majorities, the Strong, Individuals, Societies to exploit others? Still No.

The Moral Argument

If God doesn't exist, objective independent Morality cannot exist. Objective independent Morality does exist. Therefore God exists.

Who gets to choose what is Right and Wrong? Jesus says: "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life ... Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Which side are you on? Are you sure?

Further Reading: "Does God Exist?", William Lane Craig; "How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind", Antony Flew; "The Reason for God", Tim Keller; "Mere Christianity", CS Lewis.