

Beyond Belief 05

God Revealed in Ethics

2 Cor 10:4-5

⁴The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵*We are* destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted *and* proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought *and* purpose captive to the obedience of Christ,

I. Can Humans Be Good Without God?

1. Yes! However...

2. The deductive Syllogism:

1. If God does not exist, then objective moral values do not exist.
2. Objective moral values do exist.
3. Therefore God does exist.

3. Understand the terms (good and evil)

4. The Christian View (Matt 5:43-48, John 15:3-5)

II. Alternative Moral Paradigms and Problems.

1. Assume there is no God...

2. Atheistic Moral Realism – Ethics are real, but God is not the source

3. Evolved Morality – Ethics is a biological relic

4. Social Contract Morality – Government defines morality

5. Moral Relativism – All morality is completely subjective

III. God Revealed through Ethics

1. God gives you an ethical foundation

2. God gives us ethical direction and discernment

3. God gives us ethical judgement (Heb 9:27, 2 Cor 5:9-10, Rev 20:11-15)

God Revealed in Ethics – Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever met someone who doesn't believe right and wrong are real things? Why might that be a position some people take? Why do most people not subscribe to that view?

2. The question is not whether humans could *do good* or *recognize good*, but whether humans can "*be good*"... why should God be necessary in order for "good" to even categorically exist? (discuss the terms objective and subjective morality here)

3. Ben suggested we imagine there is no God then try to define what would be wrong with "*eating babies*". Do this as a thought experiment right now with your group... try to formulate your best arguments as atheists, then poke logical holes in those arguments (remember what the atheist claims humans actually are...)

4. If morality is a byproduct of evolution, what is off limits to us as human beings? Why should we consider morality more than just a relic of our evolutionary history and ignore the ethical impulses we don't like?

5. Why is the government not an objective source of morality... give examples or illustrations.

6. If we abandon objective morality, moral relativism is the only item left on the menu... in what way is that a distasteful option?

7. If there is a God, we have ethical foundations, discernment, direction, and ultimately judgement... Why does that sound appealing to a Christian and threatening to a non-Christian?