**Topic: Moral Theology**

**Worldview Brief: #220**

**Objective**: Develop a Biblical understanding concerning the standard of morality in creation.

**Definition**: The following definitions are important to understanding the topic:

* **Morality**: Truth as it relates to proper decisions. What is right and what is wrong for moral beings, such as mankind, who possess a will.

# Primary Scripture(s):

* **Luke 18:19**: “And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.”
* **John 14:6:** “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
* [**Isaiah 5:20**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+5%3A20&version=ESV): “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”
* **Deuteronomy 32:4**: “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”
* **2 Timothy 2:13**: “if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.”

# Additional References to Consider:

# Matthew 7:12 (The Word of God tells us what is right and wrong to do)

# Romans 2:15 (The moral law of God is written on our hearts)

# 1 John 2:29 (God is righteous and anyone who is righteous is born of God)

# 1 John 1:5 (God is light, or good, and in Him is no darkness, or evil, at all)

# Psalms 7:11 (God is the moral judge of the universe, and therefore represents the law)

# Malachi 3:6 (The nature and character of God are fixed and will not change)

# Hebrews 6:18 (It is impossible for God to lie, showing God by nature can’t sin)

**Summary Statement**: God is the standard for truth and this standard is unchanging and eternal in nature like God. Right and wrong come from God’s nature and character, our responsibility and goal is to be like God, and God has revealed how to be like Him in His Word.

**Primary Points to Keep in Mind:**

1. God is truth, showing morality must be grounded in the nature of God Himself.
2. The Bible shows us God cannot sin because sin by definition contrary to God.
3. God is the source of all things which are good, making God the standard for good.
4. God is the judge of the universe show He represents the moral laws of creation.
5. Right and wrong exist and are grounded in God and will stay the same forever.
6. There is philosophically no other possible standard for absolute truth.

The Five Key Points Regarding: Moral Theology

1. **God is truth, showing morality must be grounded in the nature of God Himself.**

**Brief Explanation**: Jesus makes a fascinating statement in John 14:6, “I am the Truth” the truth is that which is the original standard or reality of all things, and God (Jesus) is that standard. If God is truth, and morality is a question of truth (what are right or wrong moral decisions) it means morality must be grounded in the nature, character, and person of God Himself.

1. **The Bible shows us God cannot sin because sin by definition contrary to God.**

**Brief Explanation:** The above point is made even further when one realizes God cannot sin. Notice it doesn’t say God “doesn’t” sin, it says God can’t sin (Hebrews 6:18, 2 Timothy 2:13). God cannot sin because sin is that which is contrary to what God does. If something is wrong, it is wrong because it is contrary to the nature, character, and purpose of God. Anything that is good is good because it is true to God and His nature, character, and purposes.

1. **God is the source of all things which are good, making God the standard for good.**

**Brief Explanation:** Luke 18:19 tells us only God is good by nature, and that’s because goodness is a description of who God is. 1 John 2:29 tells us the only way to be righteous (good) is to be born of God, because God is the source of goodness and righteousness. 1 John 1:5 shows God is light (good) and in Him is no darkness (evil) at all. God is the standard for right and wrong. God has chosen to reveal Himself and guide us into righteousness by His Word (Matt. 7:12).

1. **God is the judge of the universe show He represents the moral laws of creation.**

**Brief Explanation:** Not only is God the standard, it would naturally follow that God is the judge who will punish, or reward based on the choices of mankind. Psalms 7:11 tells us God is the judge of all things, God represents the moral law because God is the source of the moral law. God’s justice is perfect and good (Isaiah 5:20) because all things God does are perfect and good. If we disagree with God’s decisions, the problem is not God, the problem is our view.

1. **Right and wrong exist and are grounded in God and will stay the same forever.**

**Brief Explanation:** Isaiah 5:20 show us there really is a standard of right and wrong, light and dark, and they shouldn’t be confused. Finally, the standard will never change because God will never change. No matter when or where we live, the moral law of God is the same.

1. **There is philosophically no other possible standard for absolute truth.**

**Brief Explanation:** God is the only possible standard for right and wrong. God has written on our hearts His moral law (Romans 2:15) we know deep down certain things are always wrong, and the only way that’s possible is if there’s a personal, eternal, unchanging, standard in God.