



GRAYED-OUT RELIGION



We live in a world that insists that whatever you *believe* is truth is true for you. It's called postmodernism. The idea that all truth is relative, and there is no absolute right or wrong. What's right *to* you is right *for* you but not necessarily for me. Instead of black and white truths everything is seen in a grey area based on individual opinion. Unfortunately his idea has also crept into Christianity. I call it "Grayed-out Religion." The idea is that there are no absolutes; no black and white, right and wrong. Whatever seems good in a person's own eyes is good. Grayed-out Religion contradicts itself. The statement that there is no absolute truth is itself an absolute statement. The Bible clearly contradicts grayed-out religion (Proverbs 14:12).

BIBLE DEFINITION OF EVIL/SIN:

1 John 3:4—Breaking God's law

BIBLE DEFINITION OF GOOD/TRUTH:

James 1:17—That which proceeds from God.

John 14:6—Jesus is the truth.

John 17:17—God's Word is truth.

A CASE STUDY:

Genesis 4:1-4—Abel brought what God had asked for, an animal sacrifice while Cain brought what seemed good in his own eyes. Cain was living in the grayed-out zone. He probably thought that what he was doing was right.

Genesis 4:5-7—What was God's response? He didn't except this offering and warned Cain that his worldview would cause sin.

Genesis 4:8-12—Cain did not turn to God; he killed his own brother and was cursed by God.

TWO POST MODERN QUESTIONS:

Q: Is sin still a sin if I don't know it's a sin?

A: If a tree falls in a forest and there is no one to hear it, does it still make a sound?

Luke 12:47, 48—Even though God judges us based upon how much we know, sin is still sin and will be punished.

Q: Is sin still a sin if something good comes out of it?

A: If I feel that it is right for me to kill a person unprovoked is it sin? Is it still a sin if his will donates a large sum of money to an orphanage?

Romans 8:28—**God** is powerful enough to turn an evil situation into something good. It's not the evil that becomes good but God who overrides the evil with His goodness.

There are some things that are not wrong in themselves but, depending on how we use them or the motives behind how we use them, can be either right or wrong. Some examples would be TV and music.

There absolutely are absolutes in life. There is such a thing as wrong or evil and there is such a thing as right. Calling a tail a leg does not make it one.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Proverbs 21:2—People can justify their actions till they believe that they are ok but God gets right to the heart of the issue. We can fool ourselves but we can't fool God. God knows what's at the heart of the matter.

Romans 3:10-12, 23—The heart of the matter is that everyone has sinned.

Romans 6:23—The penalty for sin is eternal death. But Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15—Jesus came to save sinners. If we deny we are sinners then we cannot come to Him for salvation.

1 John 1:8, 9—The Devil wants us to practice grayed-out religion is because if we don't except the fact that there is definite right and wrong then we won't believe in sin. No sin, nothing to confess. No confession, no forgiveness. No forgiveness, no salvation.

Daniel 3—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego had to choose whether to live in the grayed-out zone or stand for truth. They stood for truth and God blessed them.

GOD'S ANTIDOTE: NOT GRAYED BUT DISTINCT:

Ephesians 5:8-13—have no fellowship with evil.

TWO MAIN ISSUES:

Pride: Are you too proud to admit that you have sin? Or are you willing to admit and confess sin and let God forgive it?

Trust in God: Do you trust that when God says something is right or wrong, good or bad it is so. Do you trust Him enough to stand for truth and let God handle the details? (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

Will you embrace the fact there is such a thing as good and evil? Will you stand for truth? How can you stand for truth?

NEXT STEPS:

1. I believe that right and wrong do exist and accept Jesus' death on the cross as the answer to my sin.
2. I accept the Bible as God's revelation of truth. I wish to explore this truth through personal Bible studies.