

Can Men Be Wrong?

We live in a Post-Modern world. One might first ask, "What do you mean by 'Post-Modern?'" Simply, postmodernism is a mindset in society that says we have progressed to the point that there is no such thing as absolute truth, making everything relative. In other words, what may be true or right for you, may not be true or right for me, and vice-versa. Essentially everybody is right, and nobody is wrong.

Concerning events in history, the postmodernist says that Adolph Hitler was not necessarily wrong for killing six million Jews, because "he must have had his reasons." He says that Joseph Stalin was not wrong for killing millions and millions of people of the former U.S.S.R. And the post-modernist even says that Saddam Hussain was ill-treated by being hung until he was dead, though he had brought about genocide to the Kurdish population of his country.

Applied, postmodernism says it is right to choose abortion if it is right for you. We call it "pro-choice!" This philosophy says it is right to steal if you need it, and hey, it may be right if you do not need it. Also, it is right to lie, if it brings about "a greater good." With such an attack against moral prudence, carried to its extreme the post modern agenda has the potential of leading our society to total anarchy. Some may argue that such is already happening in our culture.

Such an agenda in America has legal and organizational protection as well. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the National Education Association (NEA), the Planned Parenthood organization, and even the United Nations serve as proponents of human freedom to do as one wishes even if it violates law or any standard of moral right.

In the postmodern world the only thing wrong is to say someone or something is wrong. However, any appeal to the rational mind forces society to accept some sense of basic truth. Survival of society dictates the need for objective truth. Therefore, to borrow from the words of Paul concerning God's faithfulness, "Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar," Romans 3:4. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through your truth, your word is truth," John 17:17.

Jesus claimed that His words were truth, John 8:31,32. With truth comes the reality that some things are right, and some things are wrong. The nature of truth dictates it. Things can not be both right and wrong, true and untrue. So, when you speak what the Bible teaches, people will be told they are wrong because of some of their choices, cf. Romans 3:23. Not only are they wrong, but the Bible calls for radical change in behavior as well.

Historically the Bible has told people they were wrong when they disobeyed God: people like Adam and Eve in Genesis 3; and Cain when he killed his brother Abel, Genesis 4. Joseph's brothers were wrong when they sold their brother into captivity, Genesis 50:17ff. Korah, Dathan and Abiram did wrong when they challenged Moses' leadership, Numbers 16. The children of Israel were wrong when they made a golden calf and claimed it to be the deliverer of them from Egypt, Exodus 32. The people on Pentecost were told they were

wrong for killing the Son of God, Act 2. Ananias and Sapphira were wrong when they lied to the Holy Spirit, Acts 5. The Bible is filled with examples of people who were wrong, and they were told they were wrong.

Whether modern, or post-modern, or any other kind of world in which people find themselves, it will always be the case that wrong can be done, for which account must be given.

So, is it still wrong for people to lie? Is it still wrong when people neglect study of God's Word? Is it wrong to not pray? Is it still wrong to be hypocrite? Is it still wrong to add to or take away from the precepts of God written in the Bible? Is it still wrong to forsake the assembly of the saints? Are people still wrong when they are not baptized for the remission of their sins? Are people wrong, even when large quantities of people are involved, when they worship God in ways not prescribed in Scripture? Is it still wrong to commit adultery? Are women wrong when they murder their unborn son or daughter? Are people wrong when they slander one another in gossip?

What is a Christian to do in this post-modern world of situation ethics where the ends justify the means? The answers to all these questions lie in the realization that God is true no matter what the world says. His precepts are true and must be recognized. Dear Christian! Do not fall into the post-modern trap where there is no ultimate right or wrong. Stand up and fear not, "if God be for us who can be against us?" Romans 8:31. Paul said, "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ," Ephesians 4:15. A mature, faithful man has no problem in accepting that things wrong in his life must be identified and corrected.

—Scott