



The TRUTH About – Morality

5th September 2021
Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Read [Genesis 1:26-28](#)
2. Read [Genesis 5:2](#)

“We are made in the image of God.

God is the creator - which means He is also the designer. He drew up the blueprint for the universe, the solar system, the earth and mankind. It was designed perfectly; everything has its place and purpose.”

Pastor Brian Greenaway

Engage:

3. Read [Romans 8:18-22](#)
4. There are two things that we need in order to truly function effectively as the person God has created us to be:
 - Our relationship with God
 - Our relationship with others
5. We only begin to function correctly when we get our relationship with God right; when we are ‘in Christ’ as the Bible calls it. But how do we live in this fallen situation?
6. What is the most important resource we have?
7. Read [2 Timothy 3:16](#)
8. The Old Testament is just as relevant to us today as the New Testament is and it is based on 2 principal areas:
 - The pattern laid down in Genesis which is the framework of the earth’s origins, purpose and destiny. God created covenants in Genesis that are still in place now and promises that still drive our history.
 - The second, is a framework on how we live before God and with others.

Framework:

9. The historical and prophetic books tell us about Israel’s history and how they struggled and suffered because of their unfaithfulness. God’s promises could not be cancelled so they are still being fulfilled. But how do you approach the 613 commandments laid

down in the law, the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible? Firstly, by understanding the nature of the law - Jesus said that He did not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it.

10. We can look at the law as 3 basic areas:

- **The Civil Law** - **The Ceremonial Law** - **The Moral Law**

- a. **The Civil Law:** deals mainly with relationships between individuals, the settling of disputes, and the description of proper behaviour.
 - As believers we owe our primary allegiance to the Kingdom of God, whilst recognising that we are subject to the laws of the land we live in. We are quite happy with laws that prohibit stealing, murder, etc. These are in place because we as a nation have a strong Judeo-Christian heritage.
 - However, we are increasingly seeing a culture which is anti-God, anti-Bible, anti-Gospel. And so, as believers living faithful to God's word, do you often find yourself in conflict because of this?
 - People have made mistakes in the past by applying their interpretation of Old Testament Law to largely secular people. So, people end up hating God and the Bible, because so often it does not involve any grace or mercy.
 - Which parts are applicable today?
- b. **The Ceremonial Law:** is a sacrificial system, a priesthood through which the people of the Old Testament were cleansed of their sins.
 - These laws point people to God, they are instructions on right standing with God when we have done something wrong but also the differentiation between sin and cleanliness and how we must approach God. There are also specific regulations meant to distinguish Israelites from their pagan neighbours (i.e., dietary and clothing restrictions).
 - What can we learn from the ceremonial law?
- c. **The Moral Law:** is based on the character of God. It runs right through the Old Testament and New Testament as God's character does not change. If it is wrong to lie in the Old Testament, it's wrong to lie in the NT.
 - Based on God's holy nature, living by these moral laws promotes the welfare of those who obey.
 - Moral law includes justice, respect, and sexual conduct, and it also includes the Ten Commandments. It has penalties. It does not point people to Jesus; it shows the fallen state of all mankind. Think of the moral law as a schoolmaster.
 - Israel failed in keeping this law, but it achieved its purpose, they were supposed to fail because it showed the need of a saviour. So, the law succeeded in its purpose of demonstrating people's sin.

11. Read [Leviticus 19:27-28](#)

12. What is applicable now and what is not?

13. How do we apply this?

14. If you think that at least one is relevant for today, which ones aren't and why?

15. There are two things that we need in order to truly function effectively as the person God has created us to be:

- Our relationship with God - This relates to our identity ([click here](#) to watch Pastor Marks sermon 'The Truth About Identity')
- Our relationship with others – This relates to how we relate to each other.

16. Read [Genesis 1:26-28](#)

17. Read [Matthew 19:4](#) - Nothing else God creates reflects Him more closely, and is able to relate to Him better.

Prayer:

Dear Father, I know that the Bible gives me a moral framework which goes right back to our origins in Genesis and is built into your entire Word. So please help me to truly recognise and accept that the Bible is my only true guide through all circumstances. In Jesus Name Amen