

Right ... Wrong - Cont.

mental music, solos, and choirs are perfectly fine, unless you are doing it as an act of worship (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Eating bread and water is fine, unless it is the Lord's supper (Luke 22:18-19). Having a bake sale or auction is fine, unless it is used to raise money for the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Hierarchical organization is fine, unless you are talking about the local church (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2).

In fact, there are many things that are morally right, but religiously wrong. Things like candles, incense, robes, ball teams, gyms, entertainment, etc. We don't live simply by what is morally right alone, but by what is religiously authorized in the New Testament.

Friends, something may be "legal" (by man's law), but not lawful (by God's law). Something may be morally right, but religiously wrong. It may be innocent in many situations, but unauthorized by God in a particular situation. For something to be religiously right, it must first be authorized by God in the New Testament (Colossian 3:17). Misunderstanding this basic principle leads to many unscriptural religious practices condemned by God today.

- Chris Reeves -

- Scripture of the Week -

"Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded."

- 2 Chronicles 15:7 -

It takes spiritual strength to live in a wicked world around me. I will be strong this week and I believe the Lord will reward me one day in heaven for doing so.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Things Morally Right, But Religiously Wrong

“Thus says Jehovah: Execute justice and righteousness, and deliver him that is robbed out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence, to the sojourner, the fatherless, nor the widow; neither shed innocent blood in this place.”
- Jeremiah 22:3 -

“Beloved, imitate not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that does good is of God: he that does evil hath not seen God.”
- 3 John 11 -

There are many things in life that are either right or wrong based upon what the word of God says. God’s standard of right and wrong, good and evil, is found in his word, the Bible. The standard of right and wrong is not found in ourselves, in our friends, or in our society. It is found in the Bible. We need to be reading our Bible to know what is right and wrong.

In life, there are some things that are always morally wrong (lying, murder, theft, adultery, etc.) and there are some things that are always morally right (telling the truth, saving a life, respecting an other’s property, sexual purity, etc.)

But, and it may surprise you, there

are some things in life that are morally right, but at the same time religiously wrong. What I mean is this: there are some things that in themselves are perfectly fine to do, but they could also be wrong to do depending upon the circumstances and what God has said about it.



Old Testament Examples

Let us consider some Old Testament examples of something that is morally right, but religiously wrong. Take for example, eating fruit. In many cases, eating fruit is a perfectly right thing to do. But, when God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, it was a sin for them to do so (Genesis 3:1-21).

Other examples would be things like burning fire (Leviticus 10:1-2), gathering sticks (Numbers 15:32-36), and burning incense (2 Chronicles 26:16-18). These things are fine to do in many situations, but it was wrong for Nadab and Abihu to burn strange fire as a part of sacrifice. It was wrong for the man to gather sticks on the Sabbath day. It was wrong for Uzziah (a king) to burn incense.

New Testament

Consider also some New Testament examples. Calling a man “father”, is fine unless it is in a religious setting (Matthew 23:9-10). Circumcision for male babies is fine, unless it is done as a condition of salvation (Acts 15:1-5; Galatians 2:3-5; 5:2-4). Observing certain days and food is fine, unless it is done for religious purposes (Colossians 2:16-23). Eating a common meal is fine, unless you are doing it along side the Lord’s supper (1 Corinthians 11:22,34).

Examples Today

We have examples today of the same principle. Sprinkling water is fine, unless you are doing it as an act of baptism (Acts 8:38; Romans 6:4). Instru-