

## DECIDING WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG

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QUESTION: Who decides what is right and what is wrong?

ANSWER: There are standards, in all areas of life, to determine what is right and what is wrong. The question of length is settled when the tape measure is consulted as the means of measurement. If the area of doubt involving weight, the scale is used as a standard. These are correct and reliable standards.

However, if life and religion are under consideration, the final standard for that, which is right or wrong, is God's Word. The Bible is the standard because God has decided the matter.

The word of God produces faith (Romans 10:17), light (Ps. 119:105), and understanding (Psalms 119:104). The Bible defines sin and righteousness (John 3:4; Psalms 119:172). God's word imparts wisdom, warnings, and is God's converting power (Psalms 19:7-11); James 1:18-21). We are to use God's word to discern right from wrong (Hebrews 5:12-14). We know fornication, lying, and murder is wrong because God's word says they are (Colossians 3:5, 9; Rom. 13:9).

However, far too many appeal to human feelings as the standard in religion and life. Human feelings are not the right standard in religion or life. One reason we have so many different religious beliefs is because many people base those beliefs on their feeling and emotions. Emotions fluctuate and make our feelings different and often wrong.

Listen to what the Bible says about such a practice: *"He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered"* (Proverbs 28:26). Others use majority rule to determine the standard for right or wrong. "Everybody is doing it," is not the right standard.

Often the criterion for one's religious affiliation is – "I know I am right because my church is so large!" This is a faulty standard. The Bible teaches against such a standard (Mt. 7:13, 14; Ex. 23:2). God is our creator and sustainer (Acts 17:22-31).

God has given us a perfect standard to use in this life. In fact, it is so perfect that we must not add to nor take away from it (Rev. 22:18, 19). God's word shall be the ultimate standard on the Day of Judgment (John 12:48; Rev. 20:11-12).