



| GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE |

— MORALITY PART TWO —

How do you feel about the idea that as long as you aren't hurting anyone, you can assume your behaviors are morally right?

Personal Morality:

Moral Law #1: _____

What good is it to hold up laws about personal morality, if I am not the kind of person _____ who can actually do them?

Moral Law #2: _____

I have to ask myself, whose car is it?

“I'd love the freedom to wake up every morning and know that my life was completely mine to live however I wanted to. But that is not my experience, and not liking it doesn't change the reality of the fact that I am very aware that “not me” is pressing on me calling me to a certain way of living.”

Moral Law #3: _____

So Personal Morality should involve a _____ of all 3 of these Moral Laws because they are _____.

Pause here for a second and think about these 3 moral laws. How does your life align/not align with these?

“Not Me” and Personal Morality:

_____ is not me?

_____ is not me like?

What does not me _____ with me?

I have a choice, I can either _____ myself with this Power and take up the cause of goodness. Or I can work _____ to this Power and pursue my own selfish desires.

“Christianity simply does not make sense until you have faced the sort of facts I have been describing. Christianity tells people to repent and promises them forgiveness. It therefore has nothing (as far as I know) to say to people who do not know they have done anything to repent of and who do not feel that they need any forgiveness. It is after you have realized that there is a real Moral Law, and a Power behind the law, and that you have broken that law and put yourself wrong with that Power—it is after all this, and not a moment sooner, that Christianity begins to talk. When you know you are sick, you will listen to the doctor.”

— C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

Some concluding thoughts:

1) There is no pressure at this point to ascribe to any religious system just an open invitation to explore the idea that the Power behind the moral law is a good being that we call God.

2) If God is good, and fair and just then it makes sense that I should be interested in knowing him better.

3) If I realize that I have always had freedom to choose the degree to which I submit to this power, then I don't need to be afraid of proximity. For if he has NEVER forced me to behave in a particular way, why would he start now?

4) If I discover that the closer I get to him the more I come to understand his goodness, then maybe it is worth trusting him with my choices?

“People often think of Christian morality as a kind of bargain in which God says, ‘If you keep a lot of rules I’ll reward you, and if you don’t I’ll do the other thing.’ I do not think that is the best way of looking at it. I would much rather say that every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow-creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other.”

— C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

Morality is simply this: What _____ each small choice that I make? Is it _____ or do I submit to some _____ behind the law.

There is _____ in knowing what I should do, even if it’s not always _____.

TAKEAWAYS:

PRAYER:

Be encouraged to reflect on times you haven't submitted your life to the Power behind the moral law. May this be a time of repentance where you can ask God to use those experiences to give us humility as we exist in a broken world. Also pray for those who may have not submitted to the Power behind the law. We know the temptation to do it ourselves is strong and our ability to empathize with others comes not from our perfection, but rather from our failures. If God's kindness leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4), then our kindness to others is essential.



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