

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

May 9, 2017

Issue No. 296 Mark Aites, Editor

Relativism

"In argument about moral problems, relativism is the first refuge of the scoundrel." – Roger Scruton

"In contrast to ethical relativism, Christianity sets forth a system of absolute moral values and affirms that God has placed within the very structure of this universe certain moral principles that are fixed and immutable." – Martin Luther

"A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true." – Socrates

"Relativism is the enemy of evangelization, because if all ways of living are equal then there is no need to lead a better life." – Matthew Kelly

"In an age of relativism, orthodoxy is the only possible rebellion left." – Peter Kreeft

Relativism has been defined, "The doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute." Stated more plainly, there is a segment of our society today who denies that there are moral absolutes. And for that matter, truth itself is relative.

It was L. Ron Hubbard, author and founder of the Church of Scientology, who stated, "Truth is what is true for you." So if one follows that line of reasoning, they might hear the statement that two plus two equals four. But that may not be "truth" to them. They might say instead that three plus three equals four. Since in relativism there is no standard of right or wrong, one would be free to embrace any "truth" that he desires.

Even when it comes to morality, since it fits within the culture, people say we should accept homosexuality. We should accept mercy killing. We should accept one's desire to have an abortion. We should accept adultery. We should accept fornication, allowing people to live together without being married. After all, there is no standard of right or wrong in their eyes.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). "O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23).

If we adopt the philosophy that there are no moral absolutes, then we invite chaos. We invite a society that has "no holds barred." We invite a society that has no standard of right and wrong.

Its popularity should be obvious. People are free to believe what they want, do what they want, with absolutely no effect upon their consciences. Man fights the knowledge of sin and the consequences of embracing it.