



# The Good News

August 30th, 2020

Volume 20, Issue 28

## Shades of Gray

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When children are little they tend to get into dad's desk and take his stuff, attempt to bake by throwing flour and sugar all over the kitchen, and be generally disruptive to the normal operations of everyday life. That's just what children do, and I am in no way using specific examples or speaking from direct personal experience whatsoever... As children age, they learn to understand simple concepts of right and wrong as their parents instruct and discipline them. They quickly observe when one wayward action may receive little or no discipline, and when a different wayward action brings fire and brimstone to their little behind. What they learn is that different actions have different degrees of consequence.

What they may then infer is that there appears to be degrees of right and wrong. After all, a speeding ticket results in a fine whereas a murder may receive life in prison (or worse). So, it can be inferred that speeding, while technically isn't right to do, is by no means as bad as murder, which is flat-out wrong. The people in this world tend to see right and wrong not as absolutes, but rather in a grayscale color spectrum. Murder may place on the black end of the color scale, whereas speeding is somewhere in the gray area, and helping others is on the white end. Now, people in the world tend to have very subjective morality anyway, as it is not based on a set standard and is an amalgam of what they were taught by their parents, grandparents, friends, school, and what they decided for themselves. However, for those of us who are taught by God's Word, we know that a set standard of right and wrong DOES exist.

Anyone who reads the Bible can see that God deals in absolutes. The command to not touch the Ark of the Covenant, for example, resulted in death, even when Uzzah was trying to keep it from falling over. The command on how to offer proper sacrifices was absolute and the consequence was not changed for Nadab and Abihu when they simply added something to how they offered the sacrifices. So, it is strange that our religious community tends to look at right and wrong as the world does and not as God does. For instance, someone who tells a "little white lie" would never be compared to someone who murders. These sins are so different as to be night and day on the Right-and-Wrong Scale. After all, murder has a victim, whereas a "little white lie" is victimless. Murder is persecuted under the law of man, whereas a "little white lie" is not considered unlawful unless

you are sitting on the stand in a courtroom. However, how would God view these actions?

At no point in the Bible, Old or New Testaments, does God ever distinguish between a "good" lie and a "bad" lie, a "little white lie" or a "big black lie" (Is that a thing?). In fact, He condemns all who practice lies to hellfire and torment in **Rev. 22:15**. Will murderers receive a "hotter hell"? No, all those who are still in their sins will be thrown into the "lake of fire". How is it, then, that our religious community seeks to picket and boycott against homosexuality, but the sinfulness of adultery is completely ignored? Why is it that the depiction of nudity is extremely offensive, but the taking of God's name in vain is perfectly fine? It's because the religious community has gone the way of people in the world. They may be on the more "moral" side of the Right-and-Wrong Scale, but ultimately, they have chosen to pick and choose what is to be accepted and rejected within God's standard of right and wrong.

The motivations behind this action are varied: maybe to be more accepted and praised by society, or to justify themselves in their own desires, or perhaps to establish the basis of a defense at the Judgment Day that "sister and brother did it too!" as if God will not punish "sister and brother" also. While we often hear children use this defense, there are examples of adults using it as well. Many football stadiums have banned fans from rushing the field after a big win not only to protect the players and coaches, but to protect the fans themselves. However, when a group of fans start to storm the field anyway, what do many of the fans conclude? "Well, they can't arrest us all!" It's a "safety in numbers" mentality. Remember what Jesus said in **Matt. 7:21**? *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven."* There will be many religious people who will cry out in Judgment "Lord, Lord!", but their cries will not save them. Their deeds will not save them. Their tears will not save them. Only those who stayed in the stands will be spared from being arrested. Only the child who had the courage to abstain from going along with "brother and sister" will be spared discipline. Only the soul who lives and judges "according to righteous judgment" will enter into Heaven. People in the world see **right** and **wrong** in **shades of gray**; for God and His true children, the gray doesn't even exist.