

MORALITY AND GOD

Where do we arrive at a conception of what is right and what is wrong? Our morality must be either based on something greater than us (i.e. a creator or a supreme being), or it is something of our own derivation. Let us look at the implications of the two possible answers from which all other views lie in between.

On the one hand, if morality is of our own derivation, it must be, by way of proportional causes, just as chaotic as man. Man is bound by logic, in that he can not create anything inconsistent with his nature. Man's nature is an inconsistent nature in that it is a chaotic thing. Man can not create something that is not related to his nature. We can not create a pure thing using only impure tools. Take, by way of example, a metallurgist trying to arrive at 100% pure silver. Even after drawing the dross 1000 times he will only arrive at a 99.9% pure metal, even if he is very skilled. It is the same way with man trying to concoct a system of morals. We can only arrive at a mildly correct solution that is not an absolute. If morality is up to man to create then we are its moral base and therefore, the ultimate director of destiny .

On the other hand maybe there is a right and wrong in each situation. What does this say about a moral base? If man has a moral absolute then morality must also have a basis upon which to stand. If morality is absolute then it follows that its basis must be absolute also. Where can one arrive at an absolute base? Man can not create it. We can, however, find it in an absolute being. One that is unchanging, because morality is unchanging. One that is pure, because morality is pure. Along with immutability there must also be drug along the eternity of the thing. For if a thing is to be unchangeable it must never have arrived into existence. It must have always been there, for if it came into being then it changed at one time from non-being to being, which is a change. Therefore, for our morality to be an absolute it must have absolute beginnings in a being that is eternal, unchanging and pure. This being must be called 'God' for the reasons of what the word 'God' is supposed to mean.

Given these two scenarios, what is our response to be? If there is no 'God' then we have no duty to anyone or anything, because I am just as worthy as the next man to concoct a system of morality. However, if there is a 'God' then our response must be one of complete obedience to it and its ways (those being morality). We have no option but to see our morality as a clue to the existence of a God because it follows from the previous statement that either there is no God or we have no morality. We have a basis for morality, therefore, there must be a 'God' or supreme being. Either one of these beings would require our worship and devotion for the whole of our existence by its very existence.

"It is the vocation of the Christian intellectual to be both tough-minded and tender-minded and be both at once." -Elton Trueblood-

CHANGE

There's alot of it needs doing
Everywhere...all the time
People talk alot about it
People point...people whine
Everybody wants it now
No one wants to do it
Change other people, change the world
But don't change your little place
Inside your little mind

There's alot of it going on
Everywhere...all the time
Take a look around at it

It's bad...it's good...it's mine

And there's worlds of change needs doing.

"The bottom line is that at a certain point there is not only the right, but the duty, to disobey the state" -Francis Schaeffer-

UNCLE TED'S VOCABULARY CORNER

HI, boys and girls! This brand new column is designed for all of you communication-conscious readers out there who want to develop you word power. Today I want to concentrate on a phrase that seems to be causing some confusion here on campus--'individual honor.' Everyone get out your notepads and scribble busily, there will be a quiz on this next Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

First let's take a look at our phrase in context. Here's an example of its use from a recent well-known publication.

"Regular attendance is understood as a mature response to our community goals. The attendance policy is not a voluntary one; it is dependent upon individual honor and allows three or fewer absences per term."

Uncle Ted polled students on Taylor's campus, and to his suprise, he found a bewildering array of contrasting definitions for this phrase. Let's examine a few, shall we?

Definition 1: The amount of sleep procured the night before; i.e., personal fatigue or tiredness.

Definition 2: The amount of homework or studying left until 10am on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays.

Definition 3: How well an individual likes a particular speaker, topic, or style of worship.

Despite hours of searching through Greek manuscripts and works of ancient lexicographers, I was unable to find any justification for these meanings. In fact, I found only one meaning that correctly fits the context. (Write this down, everyone--it doesn't appear in your textbook!)

UNCLE TED'S Definition: A reputation for high standards of conduct; an outward sign of maturity deserving of respect.

Doesn't that make sense? Here's some clarification: individual honor is the quality that gives us the self-discipline to be responsible, dependable, trustworthy, consistent, and mindful of our obligations. Its pattern is set in our college days, and if it is well developed, it will serve us well in our future commitments--to a job, a spouse, or to God.

This definition is perfectly clear, and yet it provoked laughter and/or hostility in many of the people that I presented it to. 'Honor?' chortled one upperclassman, 'Who needs it? Honor doesn't bring me grades, greenbacks, or girls.' Another burly intramural player quipped, 'If you don't get that **#!#@ microphone out of my face, I'll pulverize you, Uncle Ted.' This confuses me. Why do people feel this way? Maybe I should have been a chemistry teacher.

Until next time--think about it.

"Moreover, any man more right than his neighbors constitutes a majority of one already." -Henry David Thoreau-

THE RULES (BREAK THEM OR NEVER LIVE)

1. Don't ever blow off homework to sit and talk with people who need someone there.
2. Never take a risk with someone you don't fully understand.
3. Don't ever go out if it's not a hot date or first-sight love.
4. Never step outside of you close-cut, ingrown collection of friends.
5. Don't stop looking for that perfect guy or girl to drop from above.

"We are like butterflies who flutter for a day and think it is forever." -Carl Sagan Cosmos-

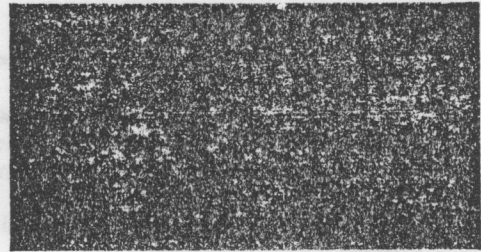
SUPERFICIALITY

Mold
Clean cut
Pastels
Jeans
Pray in chapel
Polite on paths
Super friendly
Dressy-Bessy on Sunday
To prove what
Why would God care
About details?
Dependent people
To DC alone
Oh my
Reputation
Christian phrases
Where's the depth?
Must have a date-
Oh God
Is there any other purpose?
No abortion
Well of course
We all agree
All Christians must,
Don't they?
Mission trips
No drinking
Dance
We do it
Don't talk about it
Christian dorms
Christian homes
Christian music
'Christian'
Become 4-letter word
To those
Who don't
Accept Jesus
I sincerely believe
If Jesus-
Guest speaker today-
Anger would come out
Anger out of love
Humiliation to us at TU
You are manufactured
Suppy happy
Well dressed
Conservative
Stagnant?
Ignorant?
Christians
Seemingly better
Than all.
You need
Depth.

"The majority is never right." -Lazarus Long-

A LIMERICK FOR CLEAN PEOPLE

There once was a man with the power
To actually use the dorm shower.
They flushed; he was fried
No one believed he had died
Good thing we bought the Bell Tower.



Artist's depiction of Taylor Blackout

PERSON OF THE WEEK

The BRAZILIAN MANIFESTO has decided to begin a "Person of the Week" column. This decision was particularly timely, since we desperately need filler material for this week's edition. It is with this sort of enthusiasm and heartfelt sincerity that we bestow this honor upon the most-deserving MIKE PRELL.

Michael Thaddeus Prell was born in Southern France on August 3, 1965. He lived there for 13 years, until a great earthquake caused Southern France to become Northeastern Alabama. Mike was separated from his parents when he ran away to a bakery after suffering a bloody nose and thinking he was a jelly donut. To this day, he is still afraid of large cups of coffee.

Mike decided to come to Taylor after seeing the advertisement in Campus Life. The ad was for The Un-Game. Think about it.

Perhaps the best way to get the truest impression of a man is to ask those who know him what they think of him. Since we could not do this without revealing who we are, we decided to make-up the following direct quotes about Mike Prell:

- "Well, he isn't as good as me." --Wally Campbell
- "TSO without Mike would be like a piece of chocolate cake without mustard." --Jim Wierenga
- "He taught me to strive for excellence." --Randy Dodge
- "He's as refreshing as a good hymn." --Pastor Bob
- "I like his clothes." --Tom Cain
- "Who is he?" --Eddie VanHalen or Richard Nixon
- "He tends to bring out the animal in us." --All off-campus women
- "Il n'est pas ici." --Professor Webb
- "The ECHO's journalistic credibility would suffer if you quote me, so don't." --Dave Bachman
- "Okay, so he really doesn't bring out the animal in us, but who does?" --All off-campus women again
- "I can't think of anything...just make something up." --Karen Musselman
- "The 'Oliver Cool' number was really my tribute to Mike." --Joe Maniglia
- "Wubba, wubba, wubba." --Anon.

"-Marcel Marceau-

Once again we would like to invite you to contribute to the *Brazilian Manifesto*. If you have a humorous anecdote or quote, quip or story or even something serious, feel free to send it to us at the following address.

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P.S. This isn't a joke.
