

DEEPER LIFE CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP, CANADA

INTERACTIVE COUNSELLING/SEMINAR

TOPIC: SHOULD THERE BE A STANDARD FOR MORALITY AND TRUTH?

Psalm 19:7-14

Introduction

The question presented in our topic has become a major issue in our societies today. There seems to be no clear demarcation between right and wrong. It is becoming increasingly difficult to teach children how to discern between what is right and wrong. What is considered right for one person is may not be acceptable to another and visa-versa. Everybody appear to be obeying their own rules. This is like the situation described in the Bible when there was no law. "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6). King Solomon - The wisest king that ever lived cautioned us not to allow our personal opinions or what is right in our own eyes be our guide in matters of morality, ethics and truth (Proverbs 14:12; 21:2). Is truth about morality and ethics truly relative? Does it mean there is no absolute truth about how we are to live in this world? Jesus told us there is something called TRUTH (John 8:32,36)! And knowing this might be the answer to all our doubts.

Food -for-Thought

When learning a new language, someone must use the correct tones on all the words in order to be understood. Pronouncing words correctly but using an incorrect tone is analogous to singing the correct words to a song but using the wrong melody. You hear the words, they sound familiar, but you can't recognize the song because the melody is incorrect.

Every language has a standard. However, when you get to a place be it a country such as China where every province or city or even village has its own version of Mandarin, and it's very easy to forget the standard pronunciation. This has happened because Mandarin has no alphabet and no "hints" on which tones you use with a certain character; hence two different groups cannot understand each other even though they are supposedly speaking the same language. This is the main reason why China is now a country made of people who speak thousands of "sublanguages" since most people ignore or have even forgotten the standard way to speak Mandarin.

Notably, if everyone is allowed to make up their own way to speak a language, then that language will never become widely used and may eventually become obsolete. This explains why Mandarin, while being the most spoken language in the world based solely upon the fact that there are more Chinese than any other nationality, has never caught on as a "world" language.

Currently, 33% of world population adhere to Christianity. This is the highest demography among world religions. However, our impact on the world will be minimal if we do not agree on fundamental issues such as morality, ethics and truth.

Reasoning Together

1. Using the illustration of Mandarin Chinese, discuss the possible outcomes if there was no “standard” of morality or truth for people to follow in our world today.

2. As Christians, where should we get our moral standards from? Culture or Scripture? Explain or give reasons for your views.

3. According to Psalm 25:4,5 and John 14:6, is there ONE standard of morality and truth that all of mankind should follow?

4. There are many Biblical passages that state what God expects from men regarding truth and morals. Look up the following passages and paraphrase what you understand about God’s standard.

a. Exodus 20:1-17

b. Galatians 5:19-23

5. In the light of Romans 1:18-25, do you think God's truth and moral standards are common to all people and cultures regardless of whether they've read the Bible are not?

6. In today's world, people are reluctant to say that what someone does is right or wrong and no one wants to commit to a standard. How does Proverbs 14:34 clarifies this?

7. Is it possible to establish ethics if a society does not have a moral standard?

8. Reflect on the answers given above regarding where our moral standard comes from. Is there anything wrong with moral standards solely based on culture or history, education, science, individual feelings or opinions of the majority?

9. On what should we as Christians base our ethics? Read Psalm 119:9 and discuss.

10. It is common to hear people say the Bible is outdated and that it cannot be relied upon to set modern ethical standards is senseless. Looking at 2Timothy 3:16, discuss how you would respond to this?
