

## THE GREAT BLINDNESS: TRUTH RELATIVISM

Opening Questions:

- What happens when people cannot agree on what is true or false?
- What happens when people cannot agree on what is right or wrong?
- Are all things relative to the individual or a culture?
- Is torturing (the intentional infliction of unnecessary pain) a baby ever right at any time in any culture?
- If all things are relative, is the statement "all things are relative" absolutely true?

What if a group of people believed false things that impacted their ability to make correct decisions? How would the individuals of that group do at functioning in the world with other people? For example, let's say that a particular group of people believed that the results of mathematical equations would result in random answers (something false). Thus, if one of their children asked, "what is the sum of two plus two daddy," the parent would say, "well, we are not sure, maybe six, maybe three, or possibly four."

How well would their buying, selling or trading work?

How would their architects and engineers design things to build?

If a group of people denied the principles that mathematics operates on, then they would be hard-pressed to live up to their human potential, and would at best be primitive and at worst be in chaos.

As another example, what if a group of people could not agree on what was right behavior and what was wrong behavior? So, for example, one parent believes that it is OK when their son takes vegetables from their neighbor's garden without asking but others don't. Another parent thinks it is OK if their son bullies and forces his will upon others but others don't. An adult male thinks that twelve-year-old girls are "fair game" for his sexual activities, but most others don't, especially dads with daughters. If that group of people could not agree on what is right behavior and what is wrong behavior, how would that group do? Would there be harmony and peace, or would there be discord and conflict?

As far-fetched as the above examples might seem, the point is to demonstrate that there is a widely held belief by the people in the United States (and in other nations as well) that is serving as the foundation for - and enabling - people to in fact enter into the kind of destructive confusion in the examples

above. That core level belief or worldview is called "relativism." Here are some dictionary definitions of relativism:

"The doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute." <sup>38</sup>

"The belief that truth and right and wrong can only be judged in relation to other things and that nothing can be true or right in all situations." <sup>39</sup>

"Ethical relativism, the doctrine that there are no absolute truths in ethics and that what is morally right or wrong varies from person to person or from society to society." <sup>40</sup>

There are two primary factors to the source of blindness and confusion that is occurring in many people in the United States. *First, people denying that any universal standard (or ethic) regarding "proper" human behavior exists* - this could be known as "ethical," "moral" or "truth relativism." So, element one to the great blindness is the belief of "truth" or "ethical" relativism.

The second element is people being unable to use reason well to arrive at sound conclusions in any realm of knowledge, but particularly in the field of human beliefs and behavior. *People are turning away from reason being the primary means to sort out true from false claims in any domain of knowledge.* Relativism is the belief that facilitates this, and it leaves people with mere emotionalism - the idea that "human knowing" is primarily an emotional endeavor instead of an endeavor of reason especially regarding human relationships and behavior.

## The Foundational Belief Driving the Blindness

Again, the relativism philosophy states there are no absolute truths (or standards) that exist to judge anything (of course "anything" would include human beliefs or behavior). This belief says that the individual's perspective on any topic or event is that person's ultimate reality or complete truth by which no other person is bound.

It states that there are no absolute truths that people can hold to, "that all beliefs and behaviors are only real or meaningful or relevant to the person or persons who hold them and no one else (unless other people happen to hold to those same beliefs and behaviors). Stated yet another way, there is nothing outside of the *individual* human mind (which mind, by the way, certain scientists confuse with "brain" as we shall see!) by which human's behavior or beliefs can be governed or judged as right or wrong.

Furthermore, relativism is girded by physicalism which is the belief that there is no reality (metaphysical or otherwise) beyond the physical reality that can be measured by science. What is a physicalist? It is a person who believes that human nature, the world we live in and our human experiences are all best accounted for by mere physical matter. Physicalists should be distinguished

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<sup>38</sup> [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com), April 2018

<sup>39</sup> Cambridge Dictionary, [www.dictionary.cambridge.org](http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org), April 2018

<sup>40</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com), May 2018

from non-theists who assert that no God or gods exist, and from agnostics, who claim you cannot know if God or gods exist.

Not all non-theists (a- not, theist – God) are physicalists, although many are. Since most God claims involve spiritual or metaphysical claims, non-theists undoubtedly lean that way due to their desire to “prove” that God does not exist. However, you don't have to be a physicalist to be a non-theist.

Most agnostics (a-not, gnostic-know) are not physicalists since agnostics tend not to take a stand or a position. They tend to be content with "I don't know" and to move on to other things. Agnostics tend not to use reason well, for it would often defeat the claim of "I don't know." If I claim to know about things that impact human life, then I become accountable and responsible - if I claim "I do not know," I can go on my merry selfish way. Agnostics don't want to use their minds to come to a conclusion and thus be in the position of offending someone, nor be in a position of having to help other people. Simply put many perhaps most agnostics are cowards who believe in nothing and thus fight for nothing except their comfort, entertainment or pleasure.

Some people (physicalists) in the world have come to believe that we human beings are no more than the aggregation of atoms, molecules, acids, proteins, cells, tissues, organs, organ systems and a bit of biochemical energy. The truth is that physicalism is a selfish cop-out. Physicalists can either do a little work to find the truth that best explains human nature, the world we live in, and their human experience. Or they can take the lazy way out and say things like:

- "I don't care about anything but me and my comfort and pleasure";
- "I don't want to waste my time trying to make sense of things";
- "I don't want God to exist, so I don't have to consider being accountable for the way I live my life”.

Physicalism is then adopted by that person to justify their existence. It brings the same "benefits" as non-theism or agnosticism in that one is now not accountable for how we live our lives, and thus we are now justified in our selfishness.

This book will not take a hard look at physicalism or atheism or agnosticism. Instead, this book focuses on those who claim to represent “Jesus” and thus is based upon the principle, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.” Or stated another way, if you were ignorant in the God realm, you would not be guilty, but since you claim to know in that realm, you are guilty. If you cannot guess, this principle applies primarily to Christians and other religious people since they claim they see concerning the God realm—what God is like and what God wants.

Relativism is a true belief for many lesser aspects of the human experience, like wealth accumulation, for example. Who defines what materially wealthy is? Each society or group of people will have different standards. The people in a village in Bangladesh will have a different standard than the people who live in a wealthy section of the city of Tokyo or New York, and thus a person's

material wealth will be relative to others they encounter in their usual sphere of living. However, as global communication continues to grow and be accessible to more and more people, relativism will have fewer standards to scatter to, and people will become more and more accountable for their selfishness / lovelessness.

While relativism is valid for many aspects of the human experience, it fails as the highest governing belief for an individual.

When you apply reason to moral or existential relativism, it is shown to be self-defeating. The statement from the consistent relativist is, "there are no universal or absolute moral or existential truths that can be known or applied to all humans." But when you ask the relativist who uttered that statement, "does your statement convey an absolute truth that applies to all people", they have only two reasonable answers - yes or no. If they answer "yes," then there is at least one universal truth, and thus their statement is false. If they answer "no," then they admit that relativism is false since there are universal or absolute truths that exist. Therefore, other absolute truths might also exist, so perhaps it would be wise to seek out from where absolute truth originates. Please reread this paragraph, slowly and carefully, for it proves (using logic) that moral or existential or truth relativism is a false belief, and thus if you hold it, you ought to abandon that which is false. Believing something wrong that is at a relatively high level – like a world or life view – is to be significantly delusional.

*Existential or truth relativism leads to only one place – confusion, selfishness, conflict, and ruin.* With no standard of right or wrong, people will be utterly bound by the core human nature problems of fear, self-pride, and selfishness. This bondage will lead to conflict as each person, or small group of people decides for themselves what is right or wrong human behavior. The leaving of an existential anchor or ethical standard has happened throughout history and is happening right now in the United States in the domains of human sexuality, marriage, and gender among other things. People are throwing out well established moral norms for a new view of human sexuality and even what it means to be male or female, and relativism is the world-view that enables this. They have left an absolute standard for human ethics and have adopted a "whatever floats your boat" worldview regarding human relationships. If human nature was good, this would not be a problem. But as we look at the world and the evidence, clearly human nature is not "good" if you define "good" as including not using or abusing or neglecting or harming one another.

Ironically, relativism regarding moral and existential beliefs is probably the most widely held belief among the "educated" people of the earth at this time. The opposing belief has traditionally been called "absolutism." This belief states that there are absolute truths that don't change due to a person's perception or human culture or time - and those truths exist not only in the physical realm (gravity, for example) but the spiritual or metaphysical realm as well.

Relativism is most popular amongst the educated elite in materially wealthy nations. Thus, the U.S. educational system and the teachers that staff it teach

from the relativistic perspective. Teaching from a relativistic perspective is very unfortunate and is the leading cause of “blindness” and “madness” (believing and proclaiming things that are contradictory and false) in individuals in the U.S. at this junction in history.

Absolutism has far fewer problems with logic, represents reality better, and thus should be adopted by people who want to understand and sort out their lives and experiences using reason and logic.

“All things are relative.” Is that statement absolutely true?

In the next few chapters, let us take a look at three fundamental relativistic and popular beliefs as they very much play a role in making Christianity a successful failure since many Christians adopt, hold and make these errors.

Chapter Summary:

- Existential relativism is a worldview, top-level perspective or operating system level belief that says, "the only things that are real and true are things that are real and true for me—there are no absolute truths that exist beyond the individual human mind and thus there is no binding reality regarding human ethics or relationship behavior principles”;
- Lower level relativistic views are valid. For example, how wealthy a person is relative to all other people’s wealth on the earth;
- Existential or truth relativism is a false view that is proved by their highest level statement, that "all things are relative; there is nothing that is absolutely true." When asked if that statement is true, if they answer "yes," then the statement is false. If they answer "no," then the statement is false. It is a self-defeating belief;
- Existential relativism leads to chaos, confusion and ultimately the ruin of groups that hold to that view. The current social environment and culture in the U.S. validates that claim as people switch from some form of absolutism and associated ethics to relativism;
- Absolute truth exists, and it is essential that people identify it and use it to guide their lives.