

Doug Baker | April 16, 2023 Introduction to 1 John

(Some folks say) "that there are no absolutes that define reality. This view leads to "situational ethics," the belief that what is right or wrong is relative to the situation. There is no right or wrong; therefore, whatever feels or seems right at the time and in that situation is right. Of course, situational ethics leads to a subjective, "whatever feels right" mentality and lifestyle, which has a devastating effect on society and individuals.

What happens if it is "right" for me to ignore traffic lights, even when they are red? Or I might think it is right to steal from you, and you might think it is not right. Clearly, our standards of right and wrong are in conflict. If there is no absolute truth, no standard of right and wrong that we are all accountable to, then we can never be sure of anything. People would be free to do whatever they want—murder, rape, steal, lie, cheat, and no one could say those things would be wrong. (When taken to its logical conclusion) there could be no government, no laws, and no justice, because one could not even say that the majority of the people have the right to make and enforce standards upon the minority. A world without absolutes would be the most horrible world imaginable.

(Others hold the view) that there are indeed absolute realities and standards that define what is true and what is not. Therefore, actions can be determined to be either right or wrong by how they measure up to those absolute standards. If there are no absolutes, no reality, then chaos ensues. (What it) two plus two did not always equal four, the effects on civilization would be disastrous. Laws of science and physics would be irrelevant, and commerce would be impossible. What a mess that would be! Thankfully, two plus two does equal four. There is absolute truth, and it can be found and understood.

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In 1 John 1:

We can Absolutely have a real relationship with God We can Absolutely be cleansed of sin

In 1 John 2:

We can Absolutely live like Jesus lived We can Absolutely thrive and grow in our faith We can Absolutely know truth

In 1 John 3:

We can Absolutely be confident about the future We can Absolutely love each other well

In 1 John 4:

We are Absolutely indwelt by the Holy Spirit We are Absolutely adored by God

In 1 John 5:

We are Absolutely born to overcome Gods testimony about Jesus and Life are Absolutely True And God Absolutely hears and protects us from death, the evil one, and the world

1. We can know that we have eternal life...

2. We can know that God hears us and responds to whatever we ask, when we ask according to his will...

3. We can know that everyone born of God does not keep on continually sinning...

4. We know that we are from God while living in a world lying in the power of the Evil one...

5. We know that Jesus came and gives us a new perspective to know the eternal true God...