



## #2 Who can say what's right or wrong?

Why do I still feel guilty, even though I know there's no God.

### Option #1 **No one** can say what's right or wrong, because there is no objective right and wrong.

1. If there is no God then...all moral statements are arbitrary, subjective and internal, with no external standard by which morals can be judged.
2. Evolution does not produce the ability to discern true from false beliefs, rather it simply produces the ability to survive and procreate.
3. Problem with the Evolutionary Psychology (Sociobiology) theory:
  - A. Zero evidence.
  - B. Evolutionary theory of genetic mutation and natural selection is said to work on an individual, not an entire group.
  - C. Altruism defies the theory.
  - D. Nature is not a good example because it works on survival of the fittest.

### Option #2 **Anyone** can say what's right or wrong, because it is relative. Relative means that the standard centers on us, or our environment, or society.

1. The relativist has an arbitrary or subjective basis for morality.
  - A. They assume the dignity and worth of human beings, but have no grounds for viewing humans as any different than animals.
  - B. Moral relativists believe that moral values are relative to individuals and cultures. They explain away conscience as cultural or familial conditioning.
2. Moral relativists do not and cannot live consistently with their position.
  - A. Moral relativism claims that there is no basis for objectively judging one culture's morality to be better than another's, yet they truly believe that some practices of some cultures are morally inferior to others.
  - B. Majority rule is not a very good suggestion because there is nothing to appeal to when the majority legislate away the rights of the minority.
  - C. Most atheists live like human life is valuable. They think ethnic cleansing is WRONG. They think bullying is WRONG. They think racism is WRONG.
  - D. The only areas where atheists function like truth is relative is in morals, philosophy, and religion. In every other area of life, the atheist thinks and acts like he believes in absolute truth.

### Option #3 **Only One** can say what's right or wrong, because He made us and is the Moral Authority of the universe. Objective means outside us, a standard above and beyond us.

1. People know there is a God, but they are repressing what they know. (Romans 1:18-21)
  - A. Evolutionary psychology (sociobiology) proposes *The Evolutionary Theory of Moral Obligation*.
  - B. Bottom line: The Biblical account explains our moral sense better than the atheist worldview does.
2. Why do I still feel guilty, even though I know there's no God and it's just environmental, psychological conditioning?
  - A. You feel guilty because you are guilty. So turn to your Creator for His solution to your guilt: forgiveness!
  - B. Guilt is objective because it corresponds to an objective standard or reality. Guilt is that which a person incurs when he violates a law.
  - C. Everyone is guilty before God. (Romans 3:23)
  - D. God's solution: forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)
    - God says the reason you feel guilty is because you are guilty. You have violated His law, which is based on His character. You have offended His holiness and righteousness.
    - That everyone is doing it (breaking God's law) does not annul God's law or change His character.
  - E. The only thing that can cure real guilt is real forgiveness,
    - Based on real repentance and real faith in Jesus. (1 John 1:9)
    - Denying guilt and rationalizing guilt is self-deception (1 John 1:8).
  - F. The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin, in order to bring us to repentance, reconciliation with God, forgiveness, healing and cleansing.
    - The Holy Spirit's purpose in convicting us of sin is redemptive.
    - Satan accuses us of sin to destroy us.
    - The moral guilt that you feel can drive you to your knees and to the cross, where you can find Jesus, Who offers forgiveness and cleansing because He paid the price for all our sin.

#### Message

The only explanation that makes sense, is that men have morals because God does.

#### Action points:

- Option 1: Refuse to think about the implications of atheism, of living a meaningless life. Live like everything matters even though you know it doesn't.
- Option 2: Recognize that you do know there is a God. Confess you sin and your guilt. Trust Jesus for your forgiveness and cleansing. Then live as if life has meaning and as if humans have inherent dignity ...because they do. God made us this way.