



Are there Absolutes? Absolutely!

By Mike Winther

In politics, as in religion, we are seeing the adverse effects of moral relativism. Relativism states that there are no moral, theological, philosophical, or ethical absolutes. Relativism has numerous manifestations including humanism and most new age philosophies. This belief is obviously incompatible with the belief in an eternal and unchanging God. Furthermore it is incompatible with virtually every major theme in Scripture. This is why moral relativism is such a close companion to atheism. Some people choose humanist moral and political beliefs because it is the logical extension of their atheistic or pantheistic religious belief. Others come to the same conclusions from the opposite direction: they reject God to justify and protect their political, economic or moral beliefs.

It is for this reason that an individual's political and economic philosophy is inextricably linked to their theology.

A belief in certain theological and moral absolutes actually makes decision-making much less complicated. While well-intentioned relativists struggle to understand complicated scientific, economic, and political facts, the person who believes in the absolute truth of God's word simply makes a decision based on God's commandments. Here is an example that may help to demonstrate this point: an unbeliever of past centuries may find the seventh commandment ("Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20) an unnecessary restriction. Lacking awareness of

the medical issues and health consequences of which modern science is now aware, this person would likely choose to ignore this commandment. On the other hand, the person who takes this commandment as absolute truth and obeys it will avoid many unpleasant consequences, even though this person is equally ignorant of the health issues.

For those issues where God has given us his guidance, it is certainly easier to accept His word even if we don't understand the reasons.

After years of subtle slippage away from absolutes, the Christian community has just recently begun to recognize what has happened, and now, with God's grace, we appear to be seeing the first signs that God's people might be returning to some absolute foundations.