

Can We See The Bible Alike?

- Moses said we could (Deut. 29:29).
- David said we could (Ps. 119:104).
- John said we could (Jn. 20:30,31).
- Jesus prayed that we might (Jn. 17:20).

All of these spokesmen for God have declared that through study of the Scriptures we are enabled to see them alike.

There are some things that HINDER a clear understanding of the Bible:

- Relatives (Matt. 19:29; 10:34-37)
- Pride (Prov 14:12; 16:18; Rev. 3:17-18)
- Majority opinion (Ex. 23:2; Matt. 7:13-14,21)
- False doctrines (Matt. 13:14-15; 2 Thess. 2:9-12)
- Satan (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

If we will accept only the word of God (1 Pet. 4:11), we would not only see the Bible alike, but understand and practice it alike (1 Cor. 1:10).

- by Johnny Polk

Six Questions For Young People

1. What kind of son or daughter will I be? The world says, "You are only young once, so enjoy it in every way you can." This is easy for most to accept because they want freedom from restraints. However, young people should be obedient to God and to their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3; Proverbs 10:1; 13:1).

2. What kind of character shall I develop? It takes no planting, watering, or cultivating to grow weeds, nor does it take effort to grow worthless character. Careful attention and diligent effort are required for noble character (Ecclesiastes 7:1; 1 Timothy 4:12).

3. Who will I choose as my friends? Good friends promote good morals and vice versa (1 Corinthians 15:33). Avoid the crowd that drinks, dances, uses profanity, and ridicules people who serve God.

4. What will be my occupation? In far too many instances, too much emphasis is placed on money (Matthew 16:26). Furthermore, one must be careful to choose an occupation that is honorable and legitimate. Dishonest gains and get-rich schemes must be avoided (Proverbs 16:8).

5. Who will I marry? If there is ever a place for clear minds and true ideas, it is in marriage. God's laws must be understood, respected, and heeded (Matthew 5:32; 19:9). Marriage is for life (Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39). Marry someone who will encourage you in the way of salvation.

6. What will I do with my life? If you have never obeyed the gospel, you should answer, "I will be a Christian" (Luke 9:26). If you are already a Christian, you should answer, "I will be faithful" (Matthew 24:12-13).

- by David Riggs

Moral Relativity Vs. Moral Clarity

Our society is infected with moral relativity, that is, nothing is definitely right or wrong; it all depends on your perspective. Moral relativity has been responsible for a wide acceptance of abortion, adultery, fornication, drunkenness, lying, etc.

The Bible says there is right and wrong, good and evil (Lk. 6:45). The Bible provides us with moral clarity! It states that abortion (murder), adultery, fornication, drunkenness, lying, etc. are evil (Mk. 7:21-23; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8).

As the people of God, we are to have moral clarity, discerning between good and evil (Heb. 5:14). The way we distinguish between right and wrong is by having a reliable standard. Men are not that standard, as their opinions and ideas change from one generation to the next. Men are responsible for blurring the line between right and wrong. The only reliable standard of determining good and evil is the Word of God! "Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:104). We know good and evil only by knowing God's will (cf. Rom. 7:7).

The hosts of sin assail moral clarity by pushing moral relativity. When the lines are blurred, any sin can be justified. Therefore, we need to maintain moral clarity, knowing right from wrong by knowing God's word.

- by **Steven F. Deaton**

Contentment

Have you ever noticed how the world promotes dissatisfaction? We are constantly bombarded with something newer and better that will make our lives complete once we buy it. If we listen to the world, we will always be comparing the lifestyles and possessions of others with our own, and we will always be dissatisfied. Paul had enjoyed the benefits and pleasures of life, yet he could give them all up and still be filled with the joy of the Lord. His contentment did not depend on his environment but on his obedience to Christ (Philippians 4:11). Contentment frees you to enjoy every the good God has given you (James 1:17). Work hard to be grateful for all that God has given you.

- by **Kyle Campbell**

But, What About Him?

When Jesus, after His resurrection, was challenging Peter about his devotion and foretelling the events that would befall him in the future (John 21:15ff), Peter turned to John and said "Lord, and what shall this man do?" Many have speculated that Peter was attempting to deflect the harsh light of scrutiny from himself and get the attention directed toward someone else. Jesus answered: "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me."

If we were to put this into our own words, Jesus basically told Peter that it was none of his business what would happen to John, and that he needed to take care of his own matters. Peter's effort to shift the attention from himself was petty and immature. It was a like a child being scolded for misconduct. The typical reaction of the child is to point a finger at another child and say "but, what about him?" Parents can 'see right through' this tactic – and so can the Lord!

Unfortunately, many Christians display this same immature reaction when they have sinned and others are trying to restore them. They are quick to point at someone else in the church that has sinned in the past, or one who is currently dealing with a spiritual issue. They complain that others have not been dealt with consistently, or that they are being unfairly singled out.

Should we be consistent in dealing with all brethren who need to repent? Yes, of course! Can we do better? Without a doubt! But that is not the immediate concern of the one who is, himself, in need of restoration. Until he has corrected his own problems he needs to understand that other situations are 'none of his business'. Jesus would say, "What is that to thee?" Think!

- by **Greg Gwin**