

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



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Morality and God

Though we may not always show it, humanity has a highly developed sense of moral responsibility. The struggle to explain the existence of morality leads us inexorably back to . . . God.

“Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God” (Lev. 25:17).

“As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Pet. 1:14-16).

These two passages illustrate a common theme found throughout the Bible, namely, the link between morality and God. A sense of moral obligation is virtually universal among the human race. Where does that concept of morality originate, if not from God?

Atheists are quick to argue that belief in God is not required in order to be a good moral person. That’s true, but that’s not the point. It’s not a question of, “Can an unbeliever be a moral person?” but rather, “Where does the very idea of morality originate, if there is no God?”

This is a thorny question for skeptics to wrestle with. If, as they argue, the universe and everything in it, including the human race, is merely a great cosmic

accident, without any overarching intelligence or designer, then what makes *any* human behavior good or bad? If we witness a lion chase down and devour an antelope, we say, “That’s nature,” and think nothing more of it. But if a man chases down and brutally murders a little old lady, we are horrified and insist on punishing the man. Why? What’s the difference, if in fact *there is no God*?

If, as most everyone will agree, there are at least some behaviors that should be condemned as wrong, we are forced to struggle with the question of where that sense of moral obligation came from. We may argue about the details of what is right and wrong, but that’s not as important as explaining *why* the very concept of right and wrong should exist in the first place.

The atheist has no explanation for this uniquely human trait. Some have tried to argue an evolutionary origin for it, but their argument quickly breaks down when they have to explain both selfishness and altruism—totally opposite characteristics—as survival mechanisms that have evolved over eons of

human development. And why hasn’t the lion (and other predators) developed that same moral compass? Why do only humans have such a highly developed sense of moral compunction?

To the believer, the existence of God explains everything. God created man “in His own image,” imbued with a sense of responsibility and the ability to make moral judgments, especially in matters pertaining to our relations with others. That consciousness of right and wrong is what separates us from the lower animals; it makes us distinctly “human,” empowering us to rise above our base instincts and perform acts of unselfish courage in behalf of others. In the words of Leviticus, we will not oppress others, because we fear God; the two concepts are linked.

Atheists can be (and are) very moral creatures. But their morality is unwittingly drawn from a deep background culture of faith, a culture that recognizes God and man’s dependency on God. Once that culture is destroyed, there is little to prevent humanity from descending into the law of the jungle.

– David King