

Right & Wrong
1 Kings 3:9
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what the Bible says about “right and wrong” & situation ethics.

- Intro:
1. There are many different ideas about right and wrong.
 2. Some even believe that right and wrong depends on the situation or circumstances.
 3. Does the Bible teach such things?

I. Definition of terms

A. What is wrong?

1. behavior that is not morally good or correct; a harmful, unfair, or illegal act
2. not agreeing with the facts or truth; speaking, acting, or judging in a way that does not agree with the facts or truth;
3. not suitable or appropriate for a particular purpose, situation, or person

B. What is right?

1. morally or socially correct or acceptable
2. agreeing with the facts or truth : accurate or correct

C. Does the Bible speak of discerning right and wrong?

1. **Deuteronomy 1:39**
2. **Psalm 51:6**
3. **Hebrews 5:14**

II. The world view of ethics

A. Situation ethics

1. Right and wrong is based on the situation and the benefit.
2. “The outcome justifies the means?” Committing sin is acceptable if the outcome benefits others.
3. The world practices a variety of ethical systems. Here are a few: (List taken from Ron Cosby, edited by me RE)
 - The **Calvinist** says, whatever you do, you didn’t do it, God did.
 - The **Atheist** says, whatever you do, it doesn’t matter; everything is permitted.
 - The **Social Anarchism** says, whatever you do, don’t get caught.
 - The **Pharisee** says, whatever you do, do it to be seen of men (Matthew 6:1).
 - The **liberal** says, whatever you do, do it as long as your heart is right.
 - The **Change Agent** says, whatever you do, surrender the Truth.
 - **The fence sitting Middle of the Roader** says, whatever you do, hug everybody, don’t disagree.
 - The **Playboy** says, whatever you do, have fun.
 - The **Politician** says, whatever you do, be able to blame another.
 - The **husband** says, whatever you do, wait until halftime.
 - The **wife** says, whatever you do, don’t do it.

- **Joseph Fletcher** (promulgator of Situation Ethics) says, whatever you do, what you do isn't important, as long as you love.
- **Paul** taught, whatever you do, "do all in the name of the Lord" and "do all to the glory of God" (**Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31**).

B. Justifying excuses for situation ethics sometimes seen in the church (**1 Kings 3:9**).

1. To justify using *questionable* men on a lectureship or in a gospel meeting brethren say his reputation as a speaker will draw a crowd and he has promised not to preach on "that" subject here.
2. Suppose the congregation you are visiting is using mechanical instruments. Should we join in that type of worship because there is no time to go anywhere else?
3. Do we need to continue the examples to show the error of what is deemed acceptable among some brethren?

III. The Bible view of Right and Wrong

A. Are there examples of situation ethics in the Bible?

1. We do not find where damnable error is tolerated (after a chance to repent is given).
2. We do not find where just because someone is an apostle their mistakes or error is tolerated (**Galatians 2:11-13**).

B. No matter the situation Bible standards must be upheld.

1. Regardless of who is involved family or friends (**Matthew 10:37**).
2. Divorce, Remarriage, death of the unfaithful and many more examples can be given when people sometimes change their views or "revisit" or "study the matter again" to only arrive at a conclusion that is contrary to the Bible.

- Conc:
1. What we must keep in mind is the fact that heaven and hell hang in the balance.
 2. Are you willing to do what is right according to the standard of the Bible- even when it is unpopular or can offend a loved one?
 3. Full Invitation