

Are Most Things Either Good or Bad?

by Wayne Goff

The Pew Research Center sent out another e-mail showing the results from a recent religious poll on the question of whether or not most things can be divided into “good” or “bad.” Not surprising, a slight majority (54%) who consider themselves “Christians” believe that most things can be divided into one or the other category. Again, not too surprising, a larger majority of the “religiously unaffiliated” (62%) think that you can categorize most things into “good” or “bad” groupings. So what does this tell us?

First, we should be wary of generic questions like this. While well-meaning, *theoretical suppositions* can lead to a *theoretical answer* that sounds good at first, but when put to the test with an **actual** situation, the same answer may fall flat on its face!

Second, we should not be surprised that Americans are pretty well divided over “right and wrong.” If you do not use the same **moral standard**, then how can you come to an agreement on the subject? We are left to our *subjective* “think-so’s” and that not only can give us a multitude of differing answers and reasons, but it can lead to tremendous confusion! A good example of this kind of confusion can be found on almost any talk show — political, news, history, sports, etc. Many of these talk show “hosts” **pontificate** with **great certainty** on subjects that really cannot be proven. And when circular reasoning is allowed, then you wind up — *you guessed it* — going in circles with never a conclusion! So what should we think about it all? Let me give you a biblical answer:

“O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” ~ **Jeremiah 10:23**.

Once we recognize that great truth, then we are more ready to accept God as the Answer for all questions concerning “right & wrong.” God is omniscient, omnipresent, and eternal. He has **all** the answers! Nobody else does, and if you leave it up to man, nobody ever will!

“Known to God from eternity are all His works” ~ **Acts 15:18**.

Do you know **anyone** who has lived forever? Do you know **anyone** who knows everything? Do you know **anyone** who is powerful enough to make his own will an absolute certainty? Of course not. Only God can be that Person.

So when it comes to the questions of life: (1) Who am I? (2) What am I doing here? (3) Where am I going? (4) Are various sexual acts good? (5) Is living together without marriage healthy? (6) How should I raise my children? (7) What should I think about drugs and alcohol? (8) Is suicide acceptable or a blight?, etc., etc. — look to God and His eternal Word for the answer, and then put your mind at ease, **Philippians 4:4-8**.

365202