

Defending ... God the Father & our Lord Jesus Christ Pt1

As worshippers of God... in the Church built by Jesus Christ ... one of our obligations & responsibilities is:

1Peter 3:15b-16 ... **be ready always to give an answer** to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness & fear: having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

Ernie's recent request of me was to ... ***Include this passage*** (below) in a Sermon!
 ... Sermon Part 1 = Last 3 chapters of the Book of Judges

A Levite and His Concubine

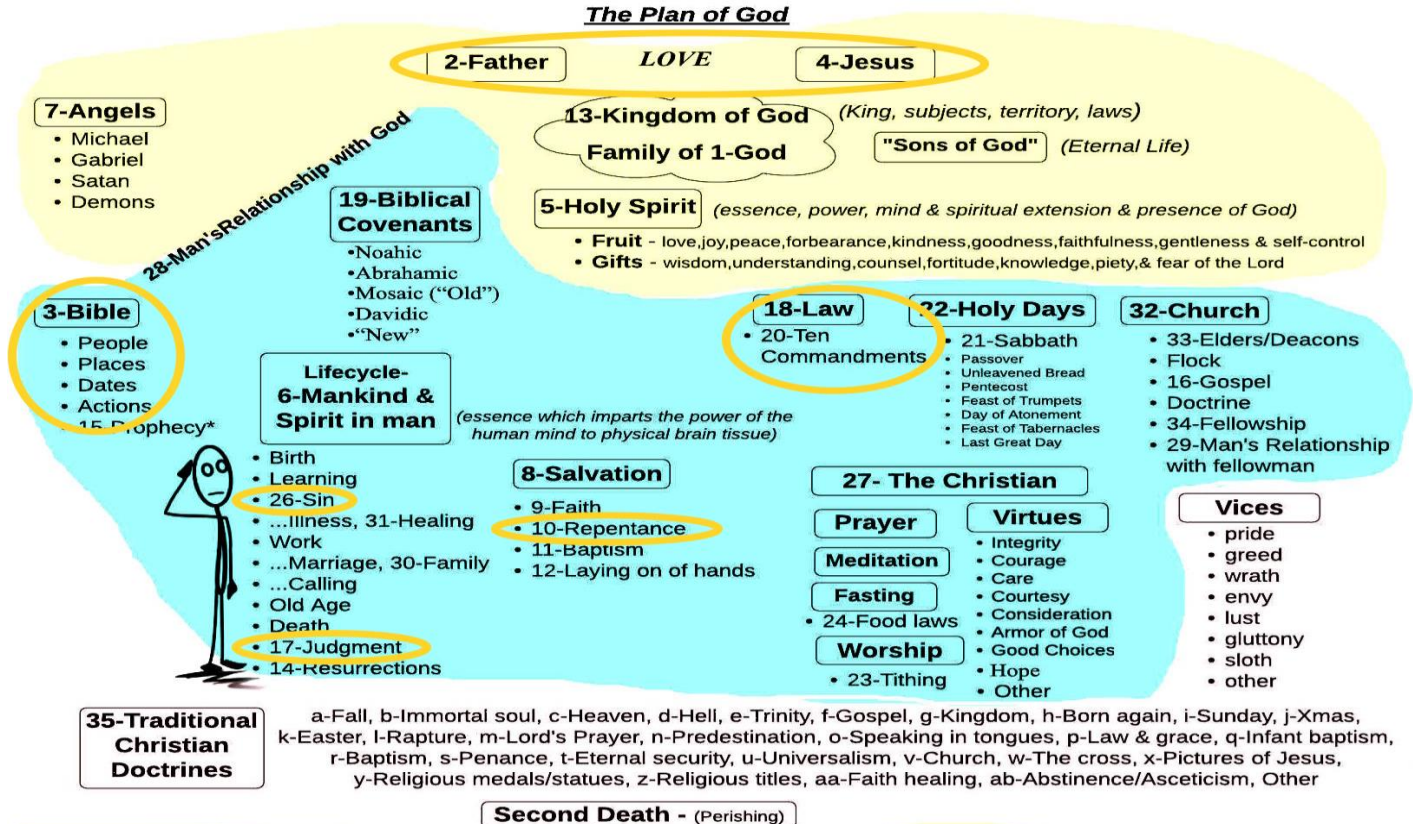
Judges 19:1-30 And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.

Jdg 19:2 But his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there four whole months.

Jdg 19:3 Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back, having his servant and a couple of donkeys with him. So she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him.

Jdg 19:4 Now his father-in-law, the young woman's father, detained him; and he stayed with him three days. So they ate and drank there.

The Plan of God



Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present - (World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)

responsibility; only do not spend the night in the open square."

Jdg 19:21 So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

Gibeah's Crime

(A) Jdg 19:22 As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!"

Jdg 19:23 But the man, the master of the house, went out to them & said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has come into my house, do not commit this outrage

(B) Jdg 19:24 Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, & do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!"

*This reminds Bible readers of Sodom... **Gen 19:8** See now, I (Lot) have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men*

***2Peter 2:8** ... (Lot) vexed his righteous soul*

(C) Jdg 19:25 But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go.

Jdg 19:26 Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.

(D) Jdg 19:27 When her master arose in the morning, & opened the doors of the house & went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold

Jdg 19:28 & he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.

(E) Jdg 19:29 **When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, & divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, & sent her throughout all the territory of Israel**

Jdg 19:30 And so it was that all who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. **Consider it, confer, and speak up!**"

Israel's War with the Tribe of Benjamin ... *Sin has consequences!*

Jdg 20:1 So all the children of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together as one man before the LORD at Mizpah.

Jdg 20:2 And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand foot soldiers who drew the sword.



Jdg 20:3 (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) Then the children of Israel said, "Tell us, how did this wicked deed happen?"

Jdg 20:4 So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "My concubine and I went into Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, to spend the night.

(F) Jdg 20:5 And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and surrounded the house at night because of me. **They intended to kill me**, but instead they ravished my concubine so that she died.

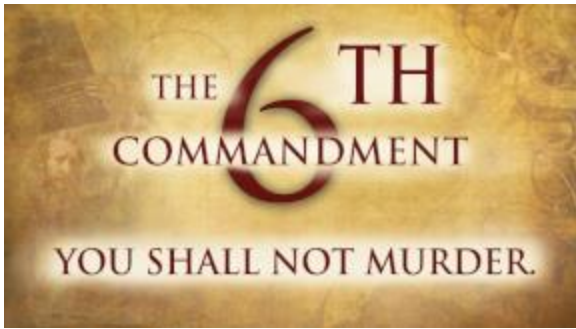
Jdg 20:6 So I took hold of my concubine, cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of the inheritance of Israel, **because** they committed lewdness and outrage in Israel.

Jdg 20:7 Look! All of you are children of Israel; give your advice and counsel here and now!"

Jdg 20:8 So all the people arose as one man, saying, "None of us will go to his tent, nor will any turn back to his house;

Jdg 20:9 but now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah: We will go up against it by lot.

Jdg 20:10 We will take ten men out of every hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, a



hundred out of every thousand, and a thousand out of every ten thousand, to make provisions for the people, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness that they have done in Israel."

Jdg 20:11 So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united together as one man.

Jdg 20:12 Then the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What is this wickedness

that has occurred among you?

(G) Jdg 20:13 Now therefore, deliver up the men, the perverted men who are in Gibeah, that **we may put them to death and remove the evil from Israel!**" But the children of Benjamin **would not listen** to the voice of their brethren, the children of Israel.

Jdg 20:14 Instead, the children of Benjamin gathered together from their cities to Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel.

Jdg 20:15 And the children of Benjamin were numbered at that time out of the cities twenty and six thousand (26,000) men that drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Gibeah, which were numbered seven hundred (700) chosen men.

Jdg 20:16 Among all this people there were seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one could sling stones at an hair breadth, and not miss.

Jdg 20:17 And the men of Israel, beside Benjamin, were numbered four hundred thousand (400,000) men that drew sword: all these were men of war.

(H) Jdg 20:18 And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and **asked counsel of God**, and said, Which of us shall go up first to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And **the LORD said**, Judah shall go up first.

Jdg 20:19 And the children of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah.

Jdg 20:20 And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin; and the men of Israel put themselves in array to fight against them at Gibeah.

(I) Jdg 20:21 And the children of Benjamin came forth out of Gibeah, and destroyed down to the ground of the Israelites that day twenty and two thousand (22,000) men.

Jdg 20:22 And the people the men of Israel encouraged themselves, and set their battle again in array in the place where they put themselves in array the first day.

Jdg 20:23 (And the children of Israel went up and **wept before the LORD** until even, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother? And **the LORD said, Go up** against him.)

Jdg 20:24 & the children of Israel came near against the children of Benjamin the second day.

Jdg 20:25 & Benjamin went forth against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed down to the ground of the children of Israel again eighteen thousand (18,000) men; all these drew the sword.

Jdg 20:26 **Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.**

Jdg 20:27 So the children of Israel inquired of the LORD (the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days,

Jdg 20:28 and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?" And the LORD said, "**Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.**"

Jdg 20:29 Then Israel set men in ambush all around Gibeah.

Jdg 20:30 And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in battle array against Gibeah as at the other times.

Jdg 20:31 So the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city. They began to strike down & kill some of the people, as at the other times, in the highways (one of which goes up to Bethel & the other to Gibeah) & in the field, about thirty men of Israel

Jdg 20:32 And the children of Benjamin said, "They are defeated before us, as at first." But the children of Israel said, "Let us flee and draw them away from the city to the highways."

Jdg 20:33 So all the men of Israel rose from their place and put themselves in battle array at Baal Tamar. Then Israel's men in ambush burst forth from their position in the plain of Geba.

Jdg 20:34 And ten thousand select men from all Israel came against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce. But the Benjamites did not know that disaster was upon them.

Jdg 20:35 The LORD defeated Benjamin before Israel. And the children of Israel destroyed that day twenty-five thousand one hundred (25,100) Benjamites; all these drew the sword.

Jdg 20:36 So the children of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. The men of Israel had given ground to the Benjamites, because they relied on the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah.



Jdg 20:37 And the men in ambush quickly rushed upon Gibeah; the men in ambush spread out and struck the whole city with the edge of the sword. Jdg 20:38 Now the appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise up from the city,

Jdg 20:39 whereupon the men of Israel would turn in battle. Now Benjamin had begun to strike and kill about thirty of the men of Israel. For they said, "Surely they are defeated before us,

as in the first battle."

Jdg 20:40 But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and there was the whole city going up in smoke to heaven.

Jdg 20:41 And when the men of Israel turned back, the men of Benjamin panicked, for they saw that disaster had come upon them.

Jdg 20:42 Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel in the direction of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them & whoever came out of the cities they destroyed in their midst

Jdg 20:43 They surrounded the Benjamites, chased them, and easily trampled them down as far as the front of Gibeah toward the east.

Jdg 20:44 And eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell; all these were men of valor.

Jdg 20:45 Then they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon; and they cut down five thousand of them on the highways. Then they pursued them relentlessly up to Gidom, and killed two thousand of them.

Jdg 20:46 So all who fell of Benjamin that day were twenty-five thousand (25,000) men who drew the sword; all these were men of valor.

Jdg 20:47 But six hundred (600) men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of

Rimmon, and they stayed at the rock of Rimmon for four months.

Jdg 20:48 And the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the edge of the sword—from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. They also set fire to all the cities they came to.

Wives Provided for the Tribe of Benjamin

Jdg 21:1 Now the men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah, saying, "None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife."

Jdg 21:2 Then the people came to the house of God, and remained there before God till evening. They lifted up their voices and wept bitterly,

Jdg 21:3 & said, "O LORD God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?"

Jdg 21:4 So it was, on the next morning, that the people rose early and built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

Jdg 21:5 The children of Israel said, "Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the assembly to the LORD?" For they had made a great oath concerning anyone who had not come up to the LORD at Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

Jdg 21:6 And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, "One tribe is cut off from Israel today.

Jdg 21:7 What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them our daughters as wives?"

Jdg 21:8 And they said, "What one is there from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to the LORD? &, in fact, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh Gilead to the assembly

Jdg 21:9 For when the people were counted, indeed, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead was there



Jdg 21:10 So the congregation sent out there twelve thousand (12,000) of their most valiant men, and commanded them, saying, "Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, including the women and children.

(J) Jdg 21:11 And this is the thing that you shall do: You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has known a man intimately."

Jdg 21:12 So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young virgins who had not known a man intimately; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

Jdg 21:13 Then the whole congregation sent word to the children of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon, and announced peace to them.

Jdg 21:14 So Benjamin came back at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead; and yet they had not found enough for them.

Jdg 21:15 And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the LORD had made a void in the tribes of Israel.

Jdg 21:16 Then the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?

Jdg 21:17 And they said, "There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel.

Jdg 21:18 However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath, saying, 'Cursed be the one who gives a wife to Benjamin.' "

Jdg 21:19 Then they said, "In fact, there is a yearly feast of the LORD in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem & south of Lebonah

Jdg 21:20 Therefore they instructed the children of Benjamin, saying, Go, lie in wait in the vineyards

Jdg 21:21 and watch; and just when the daughters of Shiloh come out to perform their dances, then come out from the vineyards, and every man catch a wife for himself from the daughters of Shiloh; then go to the land of Benjamin.

Jdg 21:22 Then it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, 'Be kind to them for our sakes, because we did not take a wife for any of them in the war; for it is not as though you have given the women to them at this time, making yourselves guilty of your oath.' "

Jdg 21:23 And the children of Benjamin did so; they took enough wives for their number from those who danced, whom they caught. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and they rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them.

Jdg 21:24 So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance.

Jdg 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.



Approaches to Answering the “11 Points Raised” in the Bible Account of the Levite & the Concubine



What people “*critical to scripture*” might say ...

(A) *Scripture is wrong (bad) to call homosexuals ...perverted & wicked!*

0 - God’s Character, 1- God is Sovereign, 2- Sin is sin

- Lev 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination

(B) *Scripture is wrong (bad) to have father’s & husbands offer their wives or daughters to a violent mob*

0 - God’s Character, 3 - Freewill, 4 - Social Norms

(C) *How could God allow a woman to be raped all night by a violent mob?*

0 - God’s Character, 2- Sin is sin , 3 - Freewill, 4 - Social Norms

The conduct by the mob & the husband was abhorrent to God (where Christ sets the example of laying down His life for his bride - the Church)

(D) *How could a man of “God’s people” ... not have compassion on his wife?*

0 - God’s Character, 3 - Freewill, 4 - Social Norms

- Mal 2:14b-15 ... the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth

(E) *How could a man of “God’s people” ... dismember his wife?*

0 - God’s Character, 2- Sin is sin, 4 - Social Norms

Today a photo would be a powerful image ... at THAT time ... the body part was to emphasize the horrible murder & the call for justice

(F) *How could the Levite “lie” & say they were seeking to kill him?*

0 - God’s Character, 2 - Fake Outrage

It is not unreasonable to believe a raping mob of homosexuals - threatening violence - would not complete their sin with murder (eg to avoid reprisals) ... When Saul asked for a dowry of 100 Philistine foreskins (1Sam 18:25) for David to marry his daughter Michal... he knew he was asking for David to kill them -- because they were NOT going to give them up voluntarily!

(G) *How could God expect the tribe of Benjamin to betray their kinfolk by handing them over to be put to death?*

0 - God’s Character, 2 - Fake Outrage

- *Genesis 9:6: "Whoever sheds man’s blood (murder), by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man."*
- *Deuteronomy 22:25-27- (Death penalty for rape)*
- *Deuteronomy 17:12 - Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the Lord your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel.*



(H) *How could God be involved with taking sides in this matter?*

0 - God’s Character, 2 - Fake Outrage

- **Leviticus 19:15-** You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In **righteousness** you shall judge your neighbor
- **Deuteronomy 1:16-17** - Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, ‘Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him. You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man’s presence, for **the judgment is God’s**

(I) *How could God counsel Israel (the first 2 days) to attack ... and then allow thousands of the men of Israel to die in battle?*

00-Tragedy Booklet - Flesh is cheap-Character is dear & Death is not the end

0 - God’s Character, 2 - Fake Outrage

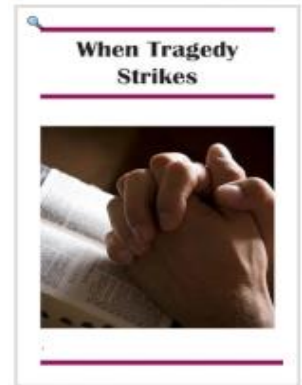
- **Jdg 20:26** Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and **wept**, and sat there before the LORD, and **fasted** that day until even, and offered burnt **offerings** and peace offerings before the LORD.

(J) *How could God condone their 2 plans to provide wives for the remaining of Benjamin*

0 - God’s Character, 2 - Fake Outrage, 3 - Freewill, 4 - Social Norms

- *Israel apparently did not “seek God” in this ... they did not repent and apologize for their hasty vow... but they did arrive at solutions that were successful*

Important Points about God & Jesus (& their followers) that can help explain difficult questions



00. Cgi Booklet - When Tragedy Strikes - lists 7 Truths to consider... that we forget in tragedy

- i. **Death is certain** (We all know that ... & we put off death as long as we can)
- ii. **Life is short** (No one has a guarantee of life so we *make the most* of our time)
- iii. **Accidents happen** (God doesn't cause them & doesn't micromanage life)
- iv. **God put man at risk** (We pray ... & do the best we can for ourselves)
- v. **Flesh is cheap - Character is dear** (God knows suffering can strengthen us)
- vi. **Death is not the end** (God's plan involves resurrections)
- vii. **It is the response that counts** (We show character with our response to tragedy)

0. God is... **just & fair & loving... Merciful & compassionate**

- **Exodus 34:6-7:** "And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, **merciful** and **gracious**, **longsuffering**, and abounding in **goodness** and **truth**, keeping mercy for thousands, **forgiving** iniquity and transgression and sin ...
- **Psalms 103:8-13:** "The Lord is **merciful** and **gracious**, slow to anger, and abounding in **mercy**. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord **pities** those who fear Him."
- **Jer 9:24** But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising **lovingkindness**, **judgment**, and **righteousness** in the earth. For in these I **delight**," says the LORD.

1. God (through Jesus) is Creator & Designer & Sovereign over His Creation. With His wisdom & Law of Love **He makes the rules** leading to life, true joy & fulfilment

- **John 1:1-5:** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through Him**, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."
- **Rom 9:20-23** But indeed, O man, **who are you** to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory?

- **Isa 55:8-9** For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.



2. You can't *win* trying to bamboozle with fake outrage & foolish "logic" & argument RE: sin

- Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, **God is not mocked**; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
- Mic_2:1 Woe to those who devise iniquity, & work out evil on their beds!

3. God made Mankind with freewill - faulty & able to make mistakes, make bad choices, & sin - even to be thoughtless & wicked! Some feel the Bible or God is "faulty" to not have all of the characters of scripture be flawless & perfect ... Others feel the Bible is more *trustworthy & REAL* because it shows the flaws (even of our Bible heroes!) Some things mankind "gets right" ... and other times we sin, or deal with the consequences of poor choices.

- **Jdg 21:25** In those days there was no king in Israel; **everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**
- **Jer_10:23** O LORD, I know the **way of man is not in himself**; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.
- Jer 17:9-10 The **heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked**; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.
- **Rom 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

4. **Social relativism** holds that each person is morally subject to (and only to) the *morality practised in his or her society*. It might be considered foolish & wrong to egocentrically judge another time & culture by the standards of "today". **Sin is sin, & in matters of sin, God does not change** ... but ... in matters of culture & behaviour, we might need to read scripture with more understanding of the societal norms of the time. For example ... Women's swimwear today would be considered scandalous in early societies ... or interracial marriage is accepted today when there were times (in the past) when it was not. Critics often will "blame God" for poor choices made by a society.

- **Mal 3:6** "For **I am the LORD, I do not change**; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob
- **Proverbs 14:12** - There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death
- **Isaiah 5:20** - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
- **John 17:17** Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth**
- **2 Timothy 4:3-4** - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; & they will turn their ears away from the truth, & be turned aside to fables