



Worldly Influences

Moral Standards

Series Topics

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Moral Standards

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Moral Standards

Defining Sin and its Outcome

No Such Things as Sin

- ...“The idea of sin is a manmade concept. Fear of going to Hell was how clergy controlled people’s behavior back in the day. Men invented sin to control the masses.”... “You either have a conscience or you don’t.”...

<https://www.erinpavlina.com/blog/2019/07/there-is-no-such-thing-as-sin/>

- “There is no such thing as sin. People do ‘good’ and ‘bad’ things, but there is no such thing as sin. Sin is a myth. The creation of the concept of original sin was a recruitment method to get you to join a religious group or organization and extort money, time, and obedience from you...”

<https://stevearrowsmith.medium.com/the-disgusting-myth-of-original-sin-78eb506bd73b>

- “Do you really mean to tell me the only reason you try to be good is to gain God's approval and reward, or to avoid his disapproval and punishment? That's not morality, that's just sucking up, apple-polishing, looking over your shoulder at the great surveillance camera in the sky, or the still small wiretap inside your head, monitoring your every move, even your every base thought.”

Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

Doctrine of Original Sin

As we examine the Christian doctrine of original sin, I am sure you will disagree with Paul's statement, since you limit your view of morality to those actions that promote happiness or ease human suffering. Richard Dawkins in *The God Delusion* asks "What kind of ethical philosophy is it that condemns every child, even before it is born, to inherit the sin of a remote ancestor?"

Dawkins claim that Christians only do good because they believe God is watching everything they do, the atheist version of morality implies that we only do good when there is something "in it for us." Goodness for "goodness' sake" seems a rare commodity in the human species.

[<https://www.allaboutworldview.org/doctrine-of-original-sin.htm>]

What Is Original Sin? Meaning and Consequences of Ancestral Sin

The concept of original sin has existed in the church since its very origins. But do we have a proper sin definition that aligns with the Bible?

God determined that we would all be on Adam's team, and once Adam committed the foul, then we get penalized for it...Nobody ever says, "Wait a second. It's not fair that Jesus Christ died in my place. What's up with that?"

When we start talking about fairness, we're talking about what's just and what's right.

[<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/sin/what-is-original-sin-meaning-and-consequences.html>]

A shameful Thought for the Day - Dawkins

Pope Benedict XVI presides over a church that continues to promote the repugnant idea of original sin

More shameful than the death itself is the Christian theory that it was necessary. It was necessary because all humans are born in sin. Every tiny baby, too young to have a deed or a thought, is riddled with sin: original sin

Adam (who never existed) bequeathed his "sin" in his bodily semen (charming notion) to all of humanity. That sin, with which every newborn baby is hideously stained (another charming notion), was so terrible that it could be forgiven only through the blood sacrifice of a scapegoat. But no ordinary scapegoat would do. The sin of humanity was so great that the only adequate sacrificial victim was God himself.

[<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2010/dec/24/pope-benedict-thought-for-the-day>]

Why some religions are declining in Canada faster than ever

Religiosity in Canada is at an all-time low, with recently released data from Statistics Canada showing only 68 per cent of Canadians 15 or older now report having a religious affiliation. It's the first time that number has dipped below 70 per cent since StatCan began tracking the data in 1985.

But membership in the United Church of Canada (UCC) has been decreasing for decades, far before a snowstorm and a global pandemic. 'We lose a church per week'

But it's hard to ignore the demographics of the congregation — the vast majority of whom have grey hair.

Elliot says the Anglican Church must adapt to survive. He says that his role is to try to drill this into the minds of clergy across Canada.

[<https://globalnews.ca/news/8471086/religion-decline-canada/>]

MORAL STANDARDS

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Jas 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.



Moral Standards

Moral Relativism

Moral Relativism

- Moral relativism is the idea that there is no universal or absolute set of moral principles. It's a version of morality that advocates "to each her own," and those who follow it say, "Who am I to judge?"
- Moral relativism can be understood in several ways.
- Descriptive moral relativism, also known as cultural relativism, says that moral standards are culturally defined, which is generally true. Indeed, there may be a few values that seem nearly universal, such as honesty and respect, but many differences appear across cultures when people evaluate moral standards around the world.
- Meta-ethical moral relativism states that there are no objective grounds for preferring the moral values of one culture over another. Societies make their moral choices based on their unique beliefs, customs, and practices. And, in fact, people tend to believe that the "right" moral values are the values that exist in their own culture.
- Normative moral relativism is the idea that all societies should accept each other's differing moral values, given that there are no universal moral principles. Most philosophers disagree however. For example, just because bribery is okay in some cultures doesn't mean that other cultures cannot rightfully condemn it.
- Moral relativism is on the opposite end of the continuum from moral absolutism, which says that there is always one right answer to any ethical question. Indeed, those who adhere to moral relativism would say, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do."

Law

Business

Morality

The Individual

The Christian West

Family

Education

Property

Relationships

Grand Narrative

A fifty-year look at divorces in Canada

The number of divorces recorded in 2020 (42,933) was the lowest since 1973.

The decrease in the divorce rate since 1991 is linked to the aging of the married population.

...younger generations of Canadians are choosing common-law unions

...fewer persons choose to marry, those that do might increasingly come from a distinct subgroup that has some combination of characteristics that favours a long-lasting marriage.

[<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220309/dq220309a-eng.htm>]

Data on Common-Law Relationships

Note that the data also shows one person in every 250 couples is transgender or non-binary.

Regarding children, roughly 41% of couples in cohabitation have at least one child. That is significantly lower than the 52.5% of married couples with children. Based on these statistics, it would be reasonable to expect the Canadian population to drop.

Analysts attribute this drop to societal changes, most like the secularization of Canada away from the religious basis of marriage. Many common-law couples had been married and had no children and are exploring other options.

The decline in the number of couples with children also reflects the decision of Canadians to enter a relationship when they're older. Currently, the average age of first marriage is 30.7, making it less likely that they would have children

[<https://nussbaumlaw.ca/marriage-statistics-in-canada/>]

Canadian youth are some of the world's youngest sexually active people

Canadian youth are among the world's youngest sexually active people yet many do not practice safer sex, according to the results of the 1999 Durex(R) Global Sex Survey

The average age at which young people are losing their virginity is dropping at a dramatic rate. Canada joins the United States in having the youngest sexually active population, with youth losing their virginity at an average age of 15, almost a full year younger than the global average age of 15.9.

Youth around the world are having sex with several partners by the time they reach age 21 and sometimes with multiple partners. Canadian youth (16-21 year-olds) rank third, with an average of 5.5 partners by age 21. They are the most unfaithful nation around the world (53%), the United States not far behind at 43% and Canada with 32%. Also note worthy, 34% of the sexually active respondents said they had experienced a sexual relationship with more than one person at a time.

[<http://www.fact.on.ca/newspaper/cw990921.htm>]

Transgender Ideology Is Riddled With Contradictions

The phrase “sex assigned at birth” is now favored because it makes room for “gender identity” as the real basis of a person’s sex.

This is a remarkable claim, not least because the argument recently was that gender is only a social construct, while sex is a biological reality. Now, activists claim that gender identity is destiny, while biological sex is the social construct.

The Gender Unicorn is the graphic that children are likely to encounter in school. These are the dogmas they are likely to be catechized to profess.

[<https://www.heritage.org/gender/commentary/transgender-ideology-riddled-contradictions-here-are-the-big-ones>]

The rise of the dual-earner family with children

More and more Canadian families with children are finding that two incomes are better than one, as an increasing number of women have opted to join the workforce. The number of Canadian families with two employed parents has almost doubled in the last 40 years

Much of the impetus behind the change was spurred by the increasing participation of women in the workforce. From 1976 to 2015, women's employment rate increased from 47% to 69%.

In 1976, it was the norm in dual-earner families for both spouses to work full time (66%), and this proportion has gone up in the decades since. By 2015, 75% of dual-earner couples with children had two full-time working parents. There was also a shift among dual-earner couples with one spouse working part-time. Families with a full-time working husband and a part-time working wife declined from 32% to 22% as a proportion of all dual-earner couples, from 1976 to 2015.

[<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-630-x/11-630-x2016005-eng.htm>]

MORAL STANDARDS

Act 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

1Th 4:3-5 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; 5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

1Co 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Lev 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.



Moral Standards

Godliness with Contentment

How Much Does the Average Canadian Have in Savings?

Statistics Canada reports that in 2018, Canadian households had an average net savings of about ~\$852.

According to jobillico.com, the average full-time Canadian salary in 2021 was \$65,773.

...we can expect the average Canadian household to save between ~\$1,249 and \$2,367 after paying for loans, bills, or the occasional vacation.

Canadians are spending more and more of their income to pay off debt, leaving less of that income to devote to savings. In addition, the cost of living across Canada has spiked even as wages have stagnated. After a person pays for rent or a mortgage, gas, groceries, essential services like daycare, and debt, he doesn't have much left over to put away for a rainy day.

[<https://moneywizard.ca/blog/how-much-does-the-average-canadian-have-in-savings/>]

The Happiness Dividend

Nearly every company in the world gives lip service to the idea that “our people are our greatest asset.” Yet when the Conference Board Survey came out earlier this year, employees were the unhappiest they have been in their 22 years of tracking job satisfaction rates. Around the same time, CNNMoney reported a survey that indicated 84% of Americans are unhappy with their current job. And earlier this month, Mercer’s “What’s Working” survey found that one in three US employees are serious about leaving their current jobs.

A decade of research proves that happiness raises nearly every business and educational outcome: raising sales by 37%, productivity by 31%, and accuracy on tasks by 19%, as well as a myriad of health and quality of life improvements.

[<https://hbr.org/2011/06/the-happiness-dividend>]

Religion's Relationship to Happiness

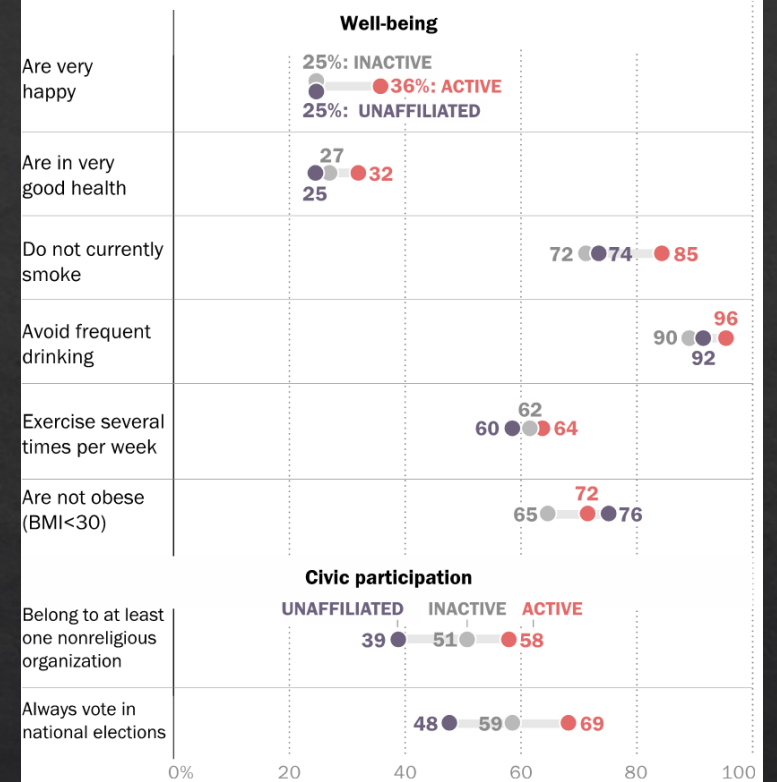
People who are active in religious congregations tend to be happier and more civically engaged than either religiously unaffiliated adults or inactive members of religious groups, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of survey data from the United States and more than two dozen other countries.

...that Americans who regularly attend religious services tend to live longer.

[<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2019/01/31/religions-relationship-to-happiness-civic-engagement-and-health-around-the-world/>]

In the U.S., religion tied to some measures of health, happiness and civic engagement

% of U.S. adults who say they _____ among those who are religiously ...



Note: Frequent drinking is defined as drinking several times per week. The actively religious are those who identify with a religion and attend religious services at least once per month. Inactives are those who identify with a religion and attend less often. Unaffiliated are those who do not identify with a religious group. Sources: Happiness data for United States from Pew Research Center's 2012 Gender and Generations survey. Data on drinking, smoking, obesity and exercise come from the International Social Survey Programme's 2011 Health and Health Care module. Data on civic engagement and health come from 2010-2014 World Values Surveys. "Religion's Relationship to Happiness, Civic Engagement and Health Around the World"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

A Brief History of Consumer Culture

Over the course of the 20th century, capitalism preserved its momentum by molding the ordinary person into a consumer with an unquenchable thirst for more stuff.

while poorer people might have acquired a very few useful household items — a skillet, perhaps, or an iron pot — the sumptuous clothing, furniture, and pottery of the era were still confined to a very small population. In late 19th-century Britain a variety of foods became accessible to the average person, who would previously have lived on bread and potatoes — consumption beyond mere subsistence.

[<https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/a-brief-history-of-consumer-culture/>]

A Brief History of Consumer Culture

“The cardinal features of this culture were acquisition and consumption as the means of achieving happiness; the cult of the new; the democratization of desire; and money value as the predominant measure of all value in society,” Leach writes in his 1993 book “Land of Desire: Merchants, Power, and the Rise of a New American Culture.”

The 1920s: “The New Economic Gospel of Consumption”

U.S. production was more than 12 times greater in 1920 than in 1860, while the population over the same period had increased by only a factor of three, suggesting just how much additional wealth was theoretically available.

[<https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/a-brief-history-of-consumer-culture/>]

A Brief History of Consumer Culture

It would be feasible to reduce hours of work and release workers for the pleasurable activities of free time with families and communities, but business did not support such a trajectory.

Mass production is profitable only if its rhythm can be maintained—that is if it can continue to sell its product in steady or increasing quantity.... Today supply must actively seek to create its corresponding demand ... [and] cannot afford to wait until the public asks for its product; it must maintain constant touch, through advertising and propaganda ... to assure itself the continuous demand which alone will make its costly plant profitable.

[<https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/a-brief-history-of-consumer-culture/>]

How the world embraced consumerism

"Requiring no significant degree of literacy on the part of its audience, radio gave interested corporations ... unprecedented access to the inner sanctums of the public mind," Ewen writes. The advent of television greatly magnified the potential impact of advertisers' messages, exploiting image and symbol far more adeptly than print and radio had been able to do. The stage was set for the democratisation of luxury on a scale hitherto unimagined.

The capitalist system, dependent on a logic of never-ending growth from its earliest inception, confronted the plenty it created in its home states, especially the US, as a threat to its very existence. It would not do if people were content because they felt they had enough. However, over the course of the 20th Century, capitalism preserved its momentum by moulding the ordinary person into a consumer with an unquenchable thirst for its "wonderful stuff".

[<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210120-how-the-world-became-consumerist>]

MORAL STANDARDS

1Ti 6:5-10 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Joh 6:68-69 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

