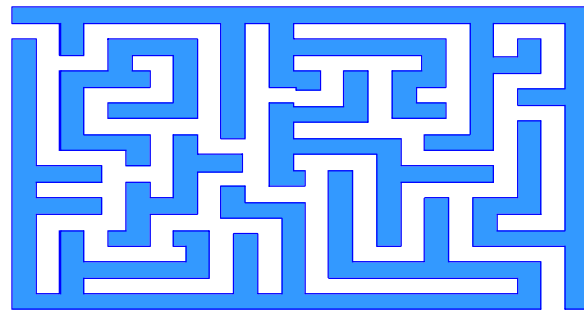
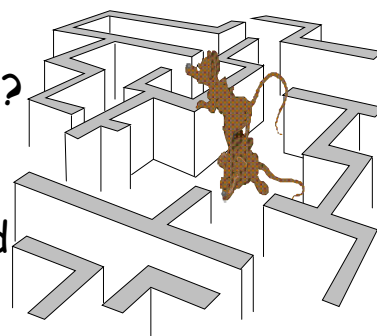


The Moral Maze - God's Solution



The Moral Maze

- A Radio 4 programme
- "Stealing", "Living in sin"?
- **Which way is right ?**
- No ABSOLUTE standard
- "Do your own thing !"



Moral Maze

Who sets the "new" standards ?

- Political leaders
- Royalty
- "Role" models
- Church leaders



"It is widely embarrassing to talk **about God** spirituality or even ethical values in polite society"

Dr George Carey

A Moral Mess ?!!

Recent surveys in the UK

Girls of average age 14 years said :

- 75% - too much pressure to have sex
- 57% - parents never talked to them about it
- 60% of sexual activity was alcohol related

Bliss Magazine 2005

- 29% - had had sex before 16 years

National Lifestyle Survey 2000

AND

- 39% pupils offered drugs; 20% taken them

www.dh.gov 2005



A 'walk in the dark of ignorance'

- 5+% ♂ and 3+% ♀ could be **alcohol-dependant**.
85% increase in **alcohol-related deaths** - 15yrs
- 32% ♂ and 24% ♀ married adults admit to **infidelity/adultery**. Divorce rate ~ 40-50% marriages
- Births out of marriage - 12% in 1980 → **42%** in 2005
- 44% of 16-25 yr olds have peer pressure to **spend more** than they can afford on goods
- 95% firms report employee **dishonesty/fraud**



Young 'Churched' people in US 1990s Survey (under-estimate)

- 66% LIED to parents, 59% LIED to peers
- 36% CHEATED - person or exam
- 23% tried to HURT somebody else
- 12% had got DRUNK
- 8% used ILLEGAL DRUGS
- 23% SMOKED

55% were CONFUSED about Right & Wrong
75% were looking for ANSWERS

WHY ?

70% of all young people, and
57% of young so-called "christians"

Could **NOT** agree that there was an
ABSOLUTE STANDARD of TRUTH -
of RIGHT and WRONG for ALL people,
in ALL ages.

i.e. "Truth and morals are negotiable"
"What's right for you isn't right for me"

AND it's not just true of young people !

Why does an ABSOLUTE Standard Matter ?

Because those who do not accept a
absolute standard are:

- 36% more likely to LIE
- 50% more likely to CHEAT
- 2x more likely to get DRUNK
- 2x more likely to STEAL
- 2x more likely to HURT somebody
- 2x more likely to lack purpose/mistrust

**An ABSOLUTE Standard
WORKS**

The ABSOLUTE STANDARD

For ALL people and ALL ages
= Values & Teaching of God Himself

“ I declare things that are RIGHT”

“Just and RIGHT is He”

“The Law of the Lord is perfect”

(Isaiah 45.19 , Deuteronomy 32.4, Psa 19.7)

Paul's Diagnosis

Ephesians 4.17-19 NIV

- **Insist** that you no longer live like ... 17
- **Futile** thinking 17
- **Darkened** in understanding 18
- **Separated** from the **life of God** by ... 18
- **Ignorance** & hardened hearts 18
- Lost all **sensitivity** ➡ over to sensuality
- Indulge **every** kind of impurity 19



The ABSOLUTE STANDARD

Paul's Prescription Ephesians 3 & 4

- ..Be strong INSIDE !
- .. **Get to Know** the love of Christ
- .. Top up with 'the fullness of God'

HAVE BELIEF that there is :

- ONE God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in all

Rx **A Dose of Godli(ke)ness**



".. But **godliness** is profitable in all things, having promise for the life that now is, and of that which is to come"

1 Timothy 4.8



This is **life eternal**
that they (& we)
might **KNOW** you,
the only true **God**
and **Jesus Christ**
whom you have sent

John 17

God's Solution !



