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 ....  
- **Futile** thinking  
- **Darkened** in understanding  
- **Separated** from the **life of God** by ...  
- **Ignorance** & hardened hearts  
- Lost all **sensitivity** over to sensuality  
- Indulge every kind of impurity
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!

But the Bible IS! God’s Solution!
By Choosing & Using God's Ways in our lives
We enable Him to:

PROTECT US
e.g. Matthew 6.38-39
"Turn the other cheek"

PROVIDE FOR US
e.g. Proverbs 22.1
"A good name is esteemed"

"...respect God for your own good – and your childrens’ ...” (Jer 32.37-40)
Godliness & Contentment

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 6:6