

Except for Islam and Judaism, the world religions have no fixed, authoritative scriptures that claim to be from God and give an authoritative standard of right and wrong conduct. But deciding whether human behavior is good or evil requires an absolute, objective, authoritative standard of moral conduct.

There is only one authoritative standard of moral conduct that claims to have been revealed by the one true and living God; namely, the will of God addressed to man's obedience, which is the Law of God.

b. The Law of God written on Adam and Eve's hearts at their creation

God's principles of right behavior (values and norms) were written into the moral nature of Adam and Eve at their creation as a part of God's image in mankind. Although their fall into sin and death obscured and distorted that writing to some degree, it did not erase it totally.

In Romans 2:14-15 Paul tells us, "For when the Gentiles who do not have the Law (the Mosaic Law) do by nature the things of the Law (the Mosaic Law), these, not having the Law (the Mosaic Law) are a law (a standard of moral conduct) to themselves, who show the Law's work (the Law of God) written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or defending them."

Here Paul informs us that the Law of God written into mankind's heart at creation continues to express itself in actions, some of which are in external agreement with the republication of the Law of God through Moses.

c. The continuing binding obligation of all human beings to the Law of God

The Law of God in its original form is binding on all human beings everywhere and at all times. No human being is without Law! All mankind is under its obligations. The Law of God in its republished form is binding on those human beings to whom it comes.

It is important to recognize that, since the Law of God continues to be a reflection of God's righteous character and an expression of His righteous will for all mankind, human beings continue under obligation to obey the Law of God.

And the truth of the matter is that human beings must either obey it or disobey it, keep it or break it, fulfill its requirements or transgress them. There is no middle or neutral ground!

d. The distinction between external and internal obedience to the Law of God, and the value of external obedience

What is meant by the terms: "external obedience" and "internal obedience"?