

all human beings everywhere, whether they call themselves Christians or non-Christians, believers or atheists, supernatural theists or natural secularists?

Challenging the assumption in this way changes the situation. Now we can say that a Christian does not have the right to impose his or her personal moral values and norms on non-Christians in a pluralistic society, but that a Christian has a right to impose God's moral values and norms on non-Christians. In fact the Christian has no option, no choice in the matter. God Himself has placed all human beings under obligations of obedience to His moral law; God has imposed His moral values and norms on all human beings, and all human beings are bound to obey them. The Christian does not really impose God's standards on non-Christians; God has done that already! The Christian can only communicate that fact to non-Christians!

After all, it is God who says that worshipping Him is right, and worshipping other gods is wrong. It is God who says that worshipping Him in spirit and in truth is right, and worshipping Him by means of idols is wrong. It is God who says that reverencing His name is right, and using His name in an irreverent manner is wrong. It is God who says that respect of and submission to authority is right, and lack of it is wrong. It is God who says that regard for the sanctity of life is right, and that malice and murder is wrong. It is God who says that human sexuality used properly in the bonds of lawful marriage is right, and casual sex and adultery and homosexual practices are wrong. It is God who says that honesty and integrity are right, and stealing and dishonesty are wrong. It is God who says that truthfulness and faithfulness are right, and lying and perjury are wrong. It is God who says that contentment and satisfaction with God's provision and leading are right, and discontentment, lust, and greedy ambition are wrong! And these things are right or wrong because God says they are, no matter who else says they are not!

This is one of the things that makes Christianity obnoxious to non-Christians: Christianity holds to absolute moral values and norms, whereas secularism does not. If non-Christians can only get Christians to drop their claim to absolute standards, then secularists can place Christianity on a level with other world religions, and discard all of them!

What then is a Christian's responsibility? Although he does not have a right to impose his personal values and standards on non-Christians in a pluralistic society, yet he does have an obligation (and therefore a God-ordained right) to do what he can to get others to adopt God's moral values, and to obey God's moral standards. But as soon as we say this, we are faced with another important question.

4. If Christians have an obligation and a right to help others obey God's standards in a pluralistic society, is the fulfillment of that obligation and the exercise of that right of any value if morality can't be legislated?

*Non-Christians and some Christians frequently quote the old cliché, "You can't legislate morality." They imply from this that it is worse than useless to try to impose moral values on people by incorporating those values and norms into laws.*