

Yahweh or an idol?

# Non-Biblical Answers to: "Who are you to tell me how to live?"

1. Subjectivism (moral relativism): "Ethical judgments merely express an individual's emotions or attitudes toward an action."

#### **Arguments for:**

- Circumstances & generations differ from person to person
- Intolerant to impose one's values on others
- Two persons' conflicting judgments can both be true because they both accurately reflect the individual attitudes

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1. Subjectivism (moral relativism): "Ethical judgments merely express an individual's emotions or attitudes toward an action."

#### **Problems with:**

- Says nothing about actions themselves, only autobiographical expressions lacking basis for moral outrage over evil actions
- Self-refuting, since every person inevitably judges others' actions (especially toward himself or herself)
- Resulting anarchy leads to totalitarian imposition of the judgments of the stronger against the weaker to avoid social chaos

#### **KEY EVENTS & DOCTRINAL IMAGES**

- Creation
- Fall
- Flood
- Covenant
- Call of Abraham
- Exodus
- Mt. Sinai
- Conquest & Settlement
- Rise and Reign of David
- Golden Era of Solomon
- Division & Decline of Kgdm
- Fall of Kgdm & Exile
- Restoration.....

- God, man, nature
- Evil, suffering
- Judgment / Salvation
- · God, man, nature
- Election, Justification, Faith
- Judgment / Salvation
- Revelation, Inspiration,
   Canon
- Sanctification
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- Sanctification
- Sanctification, Religion
- Canon, prayer. . . .

## Chiastic Structure (X)

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5:6-10 God alone is worthy of worship and service
  5:11 Accuracy in language about God
      5:12-15 Management of labor and property
             5:16 Society depends upon functional
  marriage & family
                   5:17 Life is to be respected &
  preserved
             5:18 Marriage is to be protected
      5:19 Property is to be protected
  5:20 Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings
       Self is not worthy of worship and service
5:21
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### God's Design of Society

LIFE (protected)

LIFE (jeopardized)

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY** 

(strong & functioning)

LABOR & PROPERTY

(respected & productive)

INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION

(consistently states truth)

**HEART ALLEGIANCE** (to God)

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY** 

(weak & dysfunctional)

LABOR & PROPERTY

(demeaned & wasted)

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(deceitfully professes truth for agendas)

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# A contemporary and common view of law in society:

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"From the standpoint of governance, what is at stake is our ability to use the rule of law as an instrument of human redemption."

Al Gore, NY Times Op-Ed, March 2010

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