Introduction

We know that some things are really _________ and others are really _________ (like hate, murder, stealing, committing adultery, etc.). Deep down we feel that we _________ to do some things and _________ do others. We also feel obligated to listen to and obey our ________________. But why?

Where did these notions of right and wrong (morality) come from?

Some possible answers:

1. Maybe morality is just a part of _________ …
   a) If moral laws were like the laws of _________, then we should be able to detect and study them ________________. But you can’t measure _________ and _________ in a science lab. They are not a part of the physical world, but seemingly above or outside of it (they’re not natural, but ________________).
   b) Furthermore, we don’t say that _________ are acting morally bad when they kill or steal from one another. We don’t read them their _________, send them to _________, let them call their _________, and schedule a _________ for them. But if morality is just another part of nature like gravity is, then shouldn’t it apply to them, too?

2. Maybe morality is something we ________________ (Cough, cough: ________________…
   a) If we just make up our own _________ we should be able to ___________ them. For instance, the rules in the NBA were changed in 1979 when the ________________ was added.
b) But we know we can’t just change what is right and wrong because we want to:

• First of all, we didn’t make up moral rules to begin with (like humans made up the rules of __________, ________, and speed ____________).

• Secondly, changing moral laws sounds rather ________________ when you actually think about it: “Stealing ___________ from _______ and making them _______ was wrong a hundred years ago, but starting tomorrow it’s going to be _______ and praiseworthy!”

• And thirdly, changing moral laws would have to change how we view previous heroes and _______________ throughout human history (which also sounds ridiculous when you think about it): “Now that we have changed what is good and evil ___________ should be seen as a saint and ___________ should be seen as the most evil person to ever live.”

Conclusion

Neither of these answers seems correct. The moral law, therefore, isn’t a part of __________ and isn’t made by _____. Instead, it’s ___________ to us by someone else. This moral law giver is what we call _________.

*Note: This argument isn’t saying an atheist can’t be _______ (some atheists are more moral than some people who believe in _______!), but that an atheist really has no way of explaining __________ the ideas of right and wrong come from or ______ we should obey them.

If God does not exist, then the concept of “good” is meaningless. If there is no God, then we are just ___________ in motion that came into existence as part of a cosmic ________________.

Morality deals with the way things ________________. But if life is an accident, then there is no way anything ________________, and morality is a feeling we can ignore like any other feeling.

This is why it’s rather bizarre to hear atheists talk about how good or evil something is. For instance:

“Religion is one of the world’s great evils, comparable to the smallpox virus but harder to eradicate.”