



Who am I to Judge? – Responding to Relativism

- ***“Don’t be so judgmental!”***
- ***“Why are Christians so intolerant?”***
- ***“Why can’t we just coexist?”***

In an age in which preference has replaced morality, many people find it difficult to speak the truth, afraid of the reactions they will receive if they say something is right or wrong. In ***Who Am I To Judge?***, dynamic speaker Edward Sri helps us understand the classical view of morality and equips us to talk effectively with our secular friends, appealing to both the head and the heart. Learn how Catholic morality is all about love, why making a judgment is not judging a person’s soul, and why, in the words of Pope Francis, “relativism wounds people.”

You are cordially invited to our parish’s

2019 LENTEN PROGRAM:

a 6-week DVD Presentation and Discussion

to learn about Relativism and its impact on us and our society.

Each DVD presentation is 30 minutes, then opportunity for discussion

Sunday, March 3rd	4:00 - 5:15 PM	Don’t Impose Your Morality on Me; and Recovering the Basics: Virtue and Friendship
Thursday, March 7th	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Real Freedom, Real Love
Thursday, March 14th	7:00 - 8:00 PM	The Lost “Art of Living”
Thursday, March 21st	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Engaging Moral Relativism
Thursday, March 28th	7:00 - 8:00 PM	“I Disagree” Doesn’t Mean “I Hate You”
Thursday, April 4th	7:00 - 8:15 PM	Exposing the Mask: What Relativism is Often Covering Up; and What is Truth? Answering Common Questions

Pope John Paul II on Relativism:

(T)he relevance of the behavioral sciences for moral theology must always be measured against the primordial question: What is good or evil? What must be done to have eternal life?

The moral theologian must therefore exercise careful discernment in the context of today's prevalently scientific and technical culture, exposed as it is to **the dangers of relativism**, pragmatism and positivism. From the theological viewpoint, **moral principles are not dependent upon the historical moment in which they are discovered**. Moreover, the fact that some believers act without following the teachings of the Magisterium, or erroneously consider as morally correct a kind of behavior declared by their Pastors as contrary to the law of God, cannot be a valid argument for rejecting the truth of the moral norms taught by the Church. The affirmation of moral principles is not within the competence of formal empirical methods. While not denying the validity of such methods, but at the same time not restricting its viewpoint to them, moral theology, faithful to the supernatural sense of the faith, takes into account first and foremost the spiritual dimension of the human heart and its vocation to divine love.

In fact, while the behavioral sciences, like all experimental sciences, develop an empirical and statistical concept of "normality", faith teaches that this normality itself bears the traces of a fall from man's original situation — in other words, it is affected by sin. Only Christian faith points out to man the way to return to "the beginning" (cf. Mt 19:8), a way which is often quite different from that of empirical normality. **Hence the behavioral sciences, despite the great value of the information which they provide, cannot be considered decisive indications of moral norms**. It is the Gospel which reveals the full truth about man and his moral journey, and thus enlightens and admonishes sinners; it proclaims to them God's mercy, which is constantly at work to preserve them both from despair at their inability fully to know and keep God's law and from the presumption that they can be saved without merit. God also reminds sinners of the joy of forgiveness, which alone grants the strength to **see in the moral law a liberating truth, a grace-filled source of hope, a path of life**. — *from his encyclical Veritas Splendor (1993)*

Pope Benedict XVI on Relativism:

"In recent years I find myself noting," Cardinal Ratzinger said in his *Without Roots*, (2007) **"how the more relativism becomes the generally accepted way of thinking, the more it tends toward intolerance. Political correctness ... seeks to establish the domain of a single way of thinking and speaking. Its relativism creates the illusion that it has reached greater heights than the loftiest philosophical achievements of the past. It presents itself as the only way to think and speak — if, that is, one wishes to stay in fashion. ... I think it is vital that we oppose this imposition of a new pseudo-enlightenment, which threatens freedom of thought as well as freedom of religion."**

We are building a dictatorship of relativism that **does not recognize anything as definitive** and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires. We, however, have a different goal: the Son of God, the true man. He is the measure of true humanism. An "adult" faith is **not a faith that follows the trends of fashion and the latest novelty**; a mature adult faith is deeply rooted in friendship with Christ. Today, having a clear faith based on the Creed of the Church is often labeled today as fundamentalism. Whereas **relativism, that is, letting oneself be "tossed here and there, carried about by every wind of doctrine," seems the only attitude that can cope with modern times**.

Pope Francis on Relativism:

Recalling the love of the poor practiced by his namesake, St Francis of Assisi, the Pope lamented both material poverty and the "spiritual poverty of our time, which afflicts the so-called richer countries particularly seriously. It is what my much-loved predecessor, Benedict XVI, called the **'dictatorship of relativism', which makes everyone his own criterion and endangers the co-existence of peoples.**" "Francis of Assisi tells us we should work to build peace," Pope Francis said. "But there is **no peace without truth!** There cannot be true peace **if everyone is his own criterion**, if everyone can always claim exclusively his own rights, without at the same time caring for the good of others, of everyone, on the basis of **the nature that unites every human being on this earth**."