



STUDY GUIDE

IF THERE IS NO GOD, MURDER ISN'T WRONG

KEY TERMS: evil
objective

values
opinion

secular
morality

NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: Complete this section during the video. Include definitions and key terms.

CUE COLUMN: Complete this section after the video.

What is the only condition for murder being wrong?

What is the relationship between the existence of God and morality?

What does the existence of God ensure?

Why are Judeo-Christian values so important to having a good world?

Which societies were the first to abolish slavery?

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Prager states, “...if there is no God, there is no objective morality.” What do you think Mr. Prager means by that? Why do you think that this is the case?
- Mr. Prager goes on to further explain that, “Judeo-Christian values are predicated on the existence of a God of morality. In other words, only if there is a God who says murder is wrong, is murder wrong. Otherwise all morality is opinion.” Do you think that a higher power is the only valid precondition for objective morality? Explain. Do you agree with Mr. Prager’s point? Why or why not?
- Later, Mr. Prager points out that, “Without God we therefore end up with what is known as moral relativism – meaning that morality is not absolute but only relative to the individual or to the society. Without God, the words “good” and “evil” are just another way of saying “I like” and “I don’t like.” If there is no God, the statement “Murder is evil” is the same as the statement “I don’t like murder.” What do you think are some of the significant, inherent flaws of moral relativism? Why do you think some people often conflate judgment with morality?
- Mr. Prager also shares with us that, “Today, the rejection of Judeo-Christian values and moral absolutes has led to a world of moral confusion.” In what realms do you think Judeo-Christian values are being rejected and replaced by secular values? What do you think are some valid examples of ‘moral confusion?’
- At the end of the video Mr. Prager warns, “...if you want a good world, the death of Judeo-Christian values should frighten you.” What do you think Mr. Prager means by ‘good world?’ What do you think could be causing the death of Judeo-Christian values?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Gallup Poll

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Americans Continue to Shift Left on Key Moral Issues,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What was the poll surveying? What percentage of people polled found the use of birth control to be morally acceptable? Which issue has had the largest shift happen? Have the issues of polygamy and cloning humans gone up or down on the scale of moral acceptability?
- Do you think that the poll reflects a society suffering from ‘moral confusion?’ Why or why not?
- What do you think could be done to encourage more people to embrace rather than reject Judeo-Christian values? What do you think will happen if, in the long term, secular values continue to spread and to gain prominence?



QUIZ

IF THERE IS NO GOD, MURDER ISN'T WRONG

1. What set of values is predicated on the existence of a God of morality?
 - a. Judeo-Christian
 - b. Cultural
 - c. Personal
 - d. Atheistic

2. If you don't believe in God, you can't be a good person.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. If there is no God, there is _____.
 - a. objective morality
 - b. factual morality
 - c. no objective morality
 - d. no way to know the future

4. What is moral relativism?
 - a. Morality is absolute.
 - b. Moral absolutes are only needed in certain cases.
 - c. Morality is only relative to certain time periods in history.
 - d. Morality is only relative to the individual or to the society.

5. If there is no God, the statement "Murder is evil" is the same as the statement "_____."
 - a. Murder is bad
 - b. Murder is evil
 - c. I don't like murder
 - d. I like murder



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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Americans Continue to Shift Left on Key Moral Issues

by Frank Newport

Story Highlights

- *Americans now more accepting of a number of moral issues*
- *All changes have been in more liberal direction*
- *Biggest shift on gay/lesbian relations*

PRINCETON, N.J. -- Americans are more likely now than in the early 2000s to find a variety of behaviors morally acceptable, including gay and lesbian relations, having a baby outside of marriage and sex between an unmarried man and woman. Moral acceptability of many of these issues is now at a record-high level.

Moral Acceptability: Changes Over Time

% Morally acceptable

	2001	2015	Change
	%	%	(pct. pts.)
Gay or lesbian relations	40	63	23
Having a baby outside of marriage*	45	61	16
Sex between an unmarried man and woman	53	68	15
Divorce	59	71	12
Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos*	52	64	12
Polygamy (when a married person has more than one spouse at the same time)**	7	16	9
Cloning humans	7	15	8
Doctor-assisted suicide	49	56	7
Suicide	13	19	6
Gambling**	63	67	4
Abortion	42	45	3
Cloning animals	31	34	3
Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur	60	61	1
Married men and women having an affair	7	8	1
The death penalty	63	60	-3
Medical testing on animals	65	56	-9

Note: Sorted by change in the percentage saying each is "morally acceptable"; unless otherwise marked, issues first measured in 2001

* First measured in 2002

** First measured in 2003

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This latest update on Americans' views of the moral acceptability of various issues and behaviors is from Gallup's May 6-10 Values and Beliefs survey. The complete results for each of the 19 issues tested in this year's survey appear at the end of the article. Gallup has tracked these moral issues in this format since the early 2000s.

The upward progression in the percentage of Americans seeing these issues as morally acceptable has varied from year to year, but the overall trend clearly points toward a higher level of acceptance of a number of behaviors. In fact, the moral acceptability ratings for 10 of the issues measured since the early 2000s are at record highs.

Americans have become less likely to say that two issues are morally acceptable: the death penalty and medical testing on animals. But Americans' decreased acceptance of these practices actually moves them in a more liberal direction.

These results reflect the same type of shift evident in the public's self-reported ideology on "social issues." More Americans now rate themselves as socially liberal than at any point in Gallup's 16-year trend, and for the first time, as many say they are liberal on social issues as say they are conservative.

Key trends in Americans' views of the moral acceptability of certain issues and behaviors include the following:

- The substantial increase in Americans' views that gay and lesbian relations are morally acceptable coincide with a record-high level of support for same-sex marriage and views that being gay or lesbian is something a person is born with, rather than due to one's upbringing or environment.
- The public is now more accepting of sexual relations outside of marriage in general than at any point in the history of tracking these measures, including a 16-percentage-point increase in those saying that having a baby outside of marriage is morally acceptable, and a 15-point increase in the acceptability of sex between an unmarried man and woman. Clear majorities of Americans now say both are acceptable.
- Acceptance of divorce and human embryo medical research are also up 12 points each since 2001 and 2002, respectively.
- Polygamy and cloning humans have also seen significant upshifts in moral acceptability -- but even with these increases, the public largely perceives them as morally wrong, with only 16% and 15% of Americans, respectively, considering them morally acceptable.

Gallup will report on a number of these trends in more detail later this week.

Implications

Americans are becoming more liberal on social issues, as evidenced not only by the uptick in the percentage describing themselves as socially liberal, but also by their increasing willingness to say that a number of previously frowned-upon behaviors are morally acceptable. The biggest leftward shift over the past 14 years has been in attitudes toward gay and lesbian relations, from only a minority of Americans finding it morally acceptable to a clear majority finding it acceptable.

The moral acceptability of issues related to sexual relations has also increased, including having a baby outside of wedlock -- something that in previous eras was a social taboo. Americans are more likely to find divorce morally acceptable, and have also loosened up on their views of polygamy, although this latter behavior is still seen as acceptable by only a small minority.

This liberalization of attitudes toward moral issues is part of a complex set of factors affecting the social and cultural fabric of the U.S. Regardless of the factors causing the shifts, the trend toward a more liberal view on moral behaviors will certainly have implications for such fundamental social institutions as

marriage, the environment in which children are raised and the economy. The shifts could also have a significant effect on politics, with candidates whose positioning is based on holding firm views on certain issues having to grapple with a voting population that, as a whole, is significantly less likely to agree with conservative positions than it might have been in the past.

Survey Methods

Results for this Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted May 6-10, 2015, with a random sample of 1,024 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. All reported margins of sampling error include computed design effects for weighting.

Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 50% cellphone respondents and 50% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by time zone within region. Landline and cellular telephone numbers are selected using random-digit-dial methods.

Next, I'm going to read you a list of issues. Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, for each one, please tell me whether you personally believe that in general it is morally acceptable or morally wrong. How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

Sorted by "Morally acceptable"

	Morally acceptable	Morally wrong
	%	%
Birth control	89	8
Divorce	71	20
Sex between an unmarried man and woman	68	29
Gambling	67	27
Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos	64	29
Gay or lesbian relations	63	34
Having a baby outside of marriage	61	35
Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur	61	35
The death penalty	60	33
Medical testing on animals	56	39
Doctor-assisted suicide	56	37
Abortion	45	45
Sex between teenagers	37	56
Cloning animals	34	60
Pornography	34	62
Suicide	19	73
Polygamy (when a married person has more than one spouse at the same time)	16	81
Cloning humans	15	81
Married men and women having an affair	8	89

May 6-10, 2015

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