

The Bankruptcy of Relativism

Moral relativism—the idea there is no objective right and wrong (ergo, “Don’t force your morality on me” and “Who are you to say?”)—is deadly to our culture and deadly to the Gospel. In this talk, Greg exposes the myth of moral neutrality, the fatal flaws of relativism, and suggests practical tactics to unmask the error, then ties it all to the cross of Christ.

Greg Koukl is the founder and President of Stand to Reason, an organisation that trains Christians to think more clearly about their faith and to make an even-handed, incisive, yet gracious defense for classical Christianity and classical Christian values in the public square. He received his Masters in Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at Talbot School of Theology, graduating with high honors, and his Masters in Christian Apologetics from Simon Greenleaf University. He is an adjunct professor in Christian apologetics at Biola University. He is the author of *Tactics—A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions, Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air* with Francis J. Beckwith, and *Precious Unborn Human Persons*. He has hosted his own radio talk show for over 20 years advocating clear-thinking Christianity and defending the Christian worldview.

I. Introduction: Ambassadors for Christ—K. W. C.

II. What is Moral Relativism vs. Moral Objectivism?

III. The Myth of Moral Neutrality

IV. Moral Intuition: "Moral Common Sense"

V. Relativism's Fatal Flaws

- A. Flaw #1: Relativists Can't Accuse Others of Wrong-doing.
- B. Flaw #2: Relativists Can't Complain about the Problem of Evil.
- C. Flaw #3: Relativists Can't Claim Anything is Unfair or Unjust.
- D. Flaw #4: Relativists Can't Promote the Obligation of Tolerance.

VI. Tactics in Refuting Relativism

- A. Key Point: No one Believes in Relativism.
- B. Key Tactic: Show How Relativism Commits Suicide.

VII. Alternative to Relativism

- A. We feel guilty because we are guilty.
- B. The answer to guilt is not denial (relativism), but forgiveness.
- C. This brings us right to the foot of the cross.

Suggested Readings:

Relativism, Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air, Beckwith and Koukl (Baker)
“Relativism, Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air,” STR CD set with notes, Koukl
“Responding to Relativism,” STR DVD, Koukl and Beckwith