

The Biblical book of Job makes it pretty clear that God is not subject to the same moral rules concerning people as we are. This means not only that if God is good it is because he conforms to a different set of standards than humans, but also that humans can't look to God for an example of goodness.

And that brings us right back where we started. If God is good, it's either because we define good in terms of God or because God conforms to some set of standards that we can't explicitly describe.

God might be good, but if he is, that doesn't tell us much.

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IS GOD GOOD?

A Question of Moral Atheism

from blog.iamanatheist.com



By this definition, God is an embodiment of goodness, and whatever he does or desires is good. This means that God is indeed good, but it also means that there is an equivalence to "God = good".

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THE "GOOD" PROPERTY OF GOD

If "good" means obeying God's commands, then — by definition — God is good (unless he disobeys himself, which wouldn't make a lot of sense). But by saying that God is good by this definition doesn't tell us much — surely even Satan obeys his own commands. So when we say that God is good, we must mean something else.

OBEYING GOD'S COMMANDS

As it relates to God, "good" can mean three things. It can be a little vague about what they mean by this.

Most people with a Judeo-Christian mindset will tell you that God is good and that you should be good, just like God is. Unfortunately, they can be a little vague about what they mean by this.

person? If being good means conforming to a certain set of moral standards and God conforms to those standards, then God is good. The problem then becomes one of defining those standards.

If good is something outside God, we might presume that it means the same thing for us as it does for God. But God sometimes does things that we would not consider it good for a human to do, such as killing children. One might argue that God has the right to kill people because he created them, but if that is the case then do humans have the same right? Can humans decide to blow up a dam they built? Can an artist destroy a painting after he's sold it? If a scientist created the DNA for a human from scratch and brought it to life, would the scientist have the right to kill the created

STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR

CONFORMING TO A CERTAIN

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CONFORMING TO A CERTAIN STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR

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QUESTIONS OF MORAL ATHEISM: INSTRUCTIONS

We appreciate your interest in helping us spread information about moral atheism! To make copies of this pamphlet for your own use or to share with friends, follow these simple steps:

1. Print pages one and two of this document, one on each side of the same piece of paper (if you don't have access to a duplex printer, print page one, put the page back in the paper tray upside down, and print page two — depending on the type of printer, you may have to experiment a bit).
2. Cut the printout in two, using the thin rules across the middle of the page as a guide.
3. Fold the two pieces of paper in half, making a pair of small pamphlets.
4. Keep one of the pamphlets to read, and give the other away to an interested friend or stranger.

That's it! If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, we invite you to share them by leaving a comment on blog.iamanatheist.org. Thanks!
