

# The Two Models Of Truth

**Model One** – Truth is defined by the Creator God for everyone, it is objective and absolute.

**Model Two** – Truth is defined by individuals, it is subjective and situational.

The first model acknowledges that the Creator God, **not** humans, is central, and that He is the Source of all things and that He rules over all.

God is the repository of truth, the author and judge of what is right and wrong.

The second model, on the other hand, places the individual in control of moral matters, because the standard is particular to that specific person [subjective] and circumstance [situational].

In other words, each person considers themselves the judge of what is right or wrong in any circumstance.

**Genesis 3:1-6** [New King James] *“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”*

**This was the first and fateful decision that humanity made to move from the first model to the second model of truth.**

The Creator God had well informed both human beings, Adam and Eve, as to how they should conduct their lives, and was continuing their education into the truth within a close relationship, that is indicated in the earlier account of the truth that the Creator God was giving them, [end of chapter one and chapter two of Genesis].

**This same “seismic” shift in what was accepted by human beings as the truth can be seen to continue in the recorded history of Israel in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.**

During the days of Samuel, the last of the Old Testament judges, appointed by God to rule Israel, leading citizens asked Samuel to appoint a king to lead them, like all the other nations.

**The Creator God, through Samuel, warned the people as to what would happen with such a decision.**

**1 Samuel 8:11-18** [New King James] *“And he said, ‘This will be the behaviour of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day.”*

**The people rejected this warning and decided to look to a human being for leadership and judgement.**

The Creator God wanted humans to look to Him for guidance, judgement, protection, He knew that a shift away from dependence upon Him, the Source of all good things, would deny people of innumerable blessings and substitute poor counterfeits.

**This same shift has taken place in every new generation, with major shifts taking place in the Renaissance, enlightenment, industrial revolution, all providing human “*advancement*” that encourages people to look to themselves for hope and guidance.**

**The theories of Charles Darwin then ushered in the greatest intellectual revolution, presenting the atheist with an explanation of origins that no longer needed the existence of a Creator God.**

This final shift in thinking succeeded in convincing humans that they were the arbiters of truth and morality, **not** a Creator God.

**Human reason had replaced God as an object of human worship with human accomplishments and generated arrogance and confidence in their own abilities to create good and judge evil.**

Consequently this relativistic model of truth is what most young people of this generation use today.

It is shaping and moulding their world view and is the lens through which they view life’s choices and basis on which they make life’s decisions.

**Colossians 1:16-17 [NIV]** *“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

**The Word of God, the Christian Bible, tells us that Jesus Christ is the Being that holds all things together in harmony.**

**Jesus Christ is also the truth itself [John 14:6], the truth is found in His words [John 17:17].**

**The truth will set us free from deception [John 8:32].**

**If there is no absolute moral standard, we cannot decide in the final sense if anything is right or wrong.**

If there is **no** absolute beyond human ideas, then there can be **no** final appeal to judge between individuals and groups whose moral judgements conflict.

**We are left with merely conflicting opinions that solve no problems.**

This loss of traditional values has occurred dramatically during the last century.

This was mainly with the advent of mass media that has shrunk the world and fostered the swift dissemination of news and human ideas.

**Films and television present a totally unrealistic model of actions and consequences.**

**Another factor in the disintegration of traditional views of truth and morality has been the effect of major population shift and rural environs to urban settings.**

**This population shift has separated children from the supportive network of extended family, which is an important source of moral instruction and guidance.**

**Children have been denied the benefits of apprenticeship, working alongside their parents and grandparents. These shared tasks not only taught important skills to children, they also presented ample opportunities for parents to share family history and communicate important values.**

**The rise of materialism has shaped each generation in the way they look at the world. What was a luxury has become a necessary item.**

The message that is being given is that material benefits are above other priorities, such as having close relationships with the extended family and with our Creator God.

Each new generation is giving priority to economic status, **not** moral values.

**The final major factor is the disappearance of the teaching of traditional moral values in state schools, and the parents not giving a balancing view to the children, considering it the job of schools to educate their children.**

We as parents and grandparents can transfer the traditional moral values that we learnt from our parents and grandparents.

**Just as in a relay race, we have a limited zone in which we can make this transfer of values.**

It will mean sacrifice on our part of time, spending it with our children rather than on our own pursuits.

**We also need to have a very clear understanding of the truth as defined by our Creator God in His Word, the Christian Bible, for that is the only place we can find truth that is absolute and eternal.**