

*I have heard a few atheists say that murdering and committing adultery just wasn't in them—that they didn't want to murder or rape. How do we explain God's morality?*

Men can choose to believe or not believe--to murder and commit adultery or not to murder and commit adultery. Man is given a will (Ge 2:17). He can choose: to live or die (Deut 30:19, 20) to obey or disobey (1 Sam 15:1–35, 2 Pe 2:4), to be wise or to be a fool (Pr 8:1–21). He chose his actions; but, he cannot chose the consequences of those actions (Ga 6:7-9).

It is God's will that men repent and turn to Him and follow his ways (Ac 17:30, 2 Pe 3:9). Regrettably, most do not (Mt 7:14). God will not force men to love him. Love must be freely given (Ac 17:27).

Jesus said if one hates his brother, he is a murderer (Mt 5:22-26) and if one looks on a woman with lust, he is an adulterer (5:28-30). Jesus elevated the law. He did not lower it (5:18).

Without the Spirit's regeneration men hate and lust; and, we know that no murderer or adulterer will see heaven (1 Co 6:9-10, Ga 5:19-21, Eph 5:5, 1 Ti 1:9, He 13:14, Re 21:27, 22:15). The apostle Paul said to walk in the Spirit so that we do not fulfil the lust of the flesh (Ga 5:16).

Jesus said, "They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Mk 2:17)." Men claim to be well; but, their lives prove differently (Mt 7:20).

The apostle John wrote, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 Jn 1:8).

Paul said, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Ro 3:23)."

Christians are expected to live and act righteously. John wrote, "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (1 Jn 1:6 ESV)."

God will not look on impurity (Hab 1:13). He will not live eternally with those who refuse to repent (Ac 2:37, 38).

James wrote, "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it (Jas 2:10 ESV)." God's standard is 100% perfection.

Jesus offered sinners his perfect righteousness (2 Co 5:20, 21). Those who believe are called to holiness (1 Thess 4:7).

To approach a holy God, one will need a robe of righteousness. The Lord gave an overview of the kingdom of heaven. He spoke about indignation at a wedding (Mt 22:11–14). One guest had no proper wedding attire (22:11). When the guest was asked why he was not properly dressed, he could not respond (22:12). He had insulted the king by refusing to wear the required robe that all in attendance wore. He was imprisoned (22:13-14).

When one fails to do right because of the deceitfulness of sin, his heart is hardened more (He 3:13).

Men should have faith in his way not their own way (He 11:6). Believing means that one holds to the word (1 Co 15:2). He stands on God's word not against it (Ps 119:161, Phil 1:27). Christians are likeminded (1 Pe 3:8). Salvation is for those who obey (He 5:9 ESV).

How one responds to the word of truth (Ps 119:142, 151, 160) matters. Once he hears he then has the opportunity to demonstrate his faith (Ro 10:17). Men should respond rightly to God's word and live (Jn 6:63).

Men will give an account for their sin—known or not known (Lk 12:47-48). James wrote, "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin (Jas 4:17)." Each will give an account for what he has done in his body (Jn 15:6, 2 Co 5:10).

Imitators of Christ aren't murderers or adulterers (Eph 5:1-33 ESV). They do not live habitually in sin (Eph 2:2, 1 Jn 2:4, 3:9). Christians present themselves to the Father free from murder and adultery (Ro 6:13). They are mini versions of Christ on earth. They look like Jesus not the world (2 Co 3:18).

Loving one's neighbor (Mt 22:39) means that you do not murder him or commit adultery with his wife. Christians love one another (Jn 13:34-35).

After one has passed from death to life (1 Jn 3:14), the Spirit provides assurance that he is a Christian (Ro 8:16). The Spirit makes it real to him (Ro 8:9 ESV).

One who has no desire to do right should ask the Father to draw him near to himself (Jn 6:44).

The Lord is the believer's righteousness. His righteousness becomes our righteousness when we believe (Phil. 3:9). Believers in the past received (He 11:16a, 39-40) earthly and temporary approval of God (11:16a, 39). In the future they will receive a heavenly and eternal approval of God (11:40).

Unregenerate men will not stand at the Great White Throne (Jn 3:18, Re 21:8). An answer of: *I did not believe that you loved me. I had no salvation. I had no hope.* will be unacceptable.