A Weighted Average of Good

Disciple Handout · a Culture class

Name _____ Date _____

The article: AI companies are asking religious leaders how to teach chatbots right from wrong. One CEO said the chatbot should reflect "that weighted average, or whatever, of humanity's moral view." What does Scripture say about where goodness comes from?

1. The right question, asked in Athens

> **Acts 17:22–23** — So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. (ESV)

Paul credited the Athenians for _____, and then he _____ the God they did not know.

> **Proverbs 9:10** — The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (ESV)

2. Can goodness be averaged?

> **Exodus 23:2** — You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice, (ESV)
>
> **Genesis 11:6** — And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. (ESV)

A weighted average cannot answer one question: who sets the _____ ?

> **Romans 2:15** — They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them (ESV)

God wrote the work of His law on the _____. But people also suppress the truth (Romans 1:18), so averaging them gives us something _____.

3. Not a rulebook

> **Mark 10:18** — And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. (ESV)
>
> **Jeremiah 31:33** — For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (ESV)
>
> **2 Corinthians 3:6** — who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (ESV)

Goodness is not first a list. It is a _____. God's answer was not a better rulebook but a new _____.

4. Samaria and Elijah

> **2 Kings 17:33** — So they feared the LORD but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away. (ESV)
>
> **1 Kings 18:21** — And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word. (ESV)
>
> **John 14:6** — Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

"They feared the LORD but also served their own _____." Elijah's people were _____ between two opinions.

5. How good character actually forms

> **Romans 5:3–4** — Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, (ESV)
>
> **Romans 12:2** — Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)
>
> **2 Corinthians 3:18** — And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (ESV)

We are not to be _____ to this age, but _____ by beholding the glory of the Lord.

For this week

1. When you ask a machine a moral question, test the answer: "but test everything; hold fast what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
2. Be a Berean: "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." (Acts 17:11).

Questions to talk over

1. Where does "what most people think" shape your sense of right and wrong more than Scripture does?

2. What "own gods" are people in our church tempted to keep alongside the Lord?

3. What are you beholding most hours of the week, and what shape is it pressing you into?

The full article online

This class is the fifteen-minute version of a longer Culture article, with the Greek of the Septuagint and New Testament beside the ESV and notes where the ancient texts differ:

ps-church.com/discipleship/culture/a-weighted-average-of-good

All Culture articles: **ps-church.com/discipleship/culture**

Closing prayer

Lord God, You alone are good. We thank You that You have not left us to guess at right and wrong by counting votes, but have spoken, and have written Your law on the hearts of Your people. Forgive us when we follow the crowd, when we limp between two opinions, and when we keep other gods beside You. Give wisdom to the men and women who build these new tools, and give them hearts that seek You. Make us Bereans who search the Scriptures daily. Form in us the fruit of Your Spirit, and as we behold the glory of Your Son, change us into His image. In the name of Jesus, Amen.