

The Morality Ranking Exercise

Rank from Most Immoral to Least Immoral

1. **Lying to a police officer** to avoid getting a ticket
2. **Offending a close friend** by honestly saying that you don't like what they were wearing
3. **Cheating on a final exam** that you must pass to graduate
4. **Streaming pirated movies and music online** instead of paying for a subscription service
5. **Claiming as your own** something generated by AI
6. **Breaking a promise** because you received a better invitation

1

The Morality Ranking Exercise

Rank PEOPLE from Most Immoral to Most Moral

- Where do you fit in the ranking?
- **What does God see?**

2

Not as Good as We Should Be

Romans 3:9-20

ref.ly/Ro3;niv



A mature Christian:

*With new life from God
in the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
we love and join God's works*

- 1) *One holy Creator God*
- 2) *All people are sinful*

3

Romans 3:1-2

What advantage is there in being a Jew...?

...the Jews have been entrusted
with the very words of God.

4

Romans 3:9-20

⁹ What shall we conclude then? Do we (Jews) have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.

All people are under the power of sin

- Guilty before God and separated from Him
- Can't stop choosing our path rather than God's

sin = choosing our path rather than God's

5

¹⁰ **As it is written:**

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

¹¹ there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.

¹² All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one."

Proof to the Jews:

God's revelation repeatedly declares
that all people are under the power of sin

6

13 "Their **throats** are open graves; **Communication**
their **tongues** practice deceit."

"The poison of vipers is on their **lips**."

14 "Their **mouths** are full of cursing and bitterness."

15 "Their **feet** are swift to shed blood; **Actions**

16 ruin and misery mark their **ways**,

17 and the **way** of peace they do not know."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Basic attitude

7

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

20 Therefore **no one will be declared righteous** in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

If those who have God's revelation and favor fail to meet His standard, no one else can either

8

Nothing connected with us (head, heart, or hands) is **as good as it should be**

Sin = **Taking our way** rather than God's way

9

The Bible's Claim

Every single person...

- has known something of God and of morality
- has disregarded **and even smothered** that knowledge in order to go our own way

10

The Big Idea

Every human is separated from God by sin

which can only be solved
by Christ's death in our place

11

Instruction

- Designed to help us grow and learn

Assessment

- Designed to find out what we have learned

God's commands and revelation of His character
expose our turning away from God

12

The Big Idea

Every human is separated from God by sin

which can only be solved
by Christ's death in our place

13

What should we do?

Know that we are by nature sinners who sin

- There is no means for "self-salvation"
- We have no claim on God's love or mercy
- When we judge others, we condemn ourselves

14

What should we do?
Accept and rejoice in forgiveness in Jesus!

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
 each of us has turned to our own way;*

Isaiah 53:6

15

What should we do?
Accept and rejoice in new life in Jesus!

- "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
 the new creation has come:
 The old has gone, the new is here!"
 2 Corinthians 5:17

16

What should we do?

Confess our sins to God

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just and **will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness**. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us."

1 John 1:8-10

17

What should we do?

Confess our sins to those we sin against

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled to them**; then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 5:23-24

**Mature Christians confess our sin to God
and (when appropriate) to each other**

18

What should we do?

Take seriously our vulnerability to sin

- The Lord's Prayer (pray daily)
- Put in place good fences and good accountability
- See "Confession and Repentance"

**Mature Christians take sin
and our vulnerability to sin seriously**

19

The Big Idea

Every human is separated from God by sin

which can only be solved
by Christ's death in our place

20

John Newton

"My memory is nearly gone.
But I remember two things:
that I am a great sinner,
and that Christ is a great Saviour."

