

You're Not Crazy to Believe That The Foundation for Morality – Hebrews 4:12

Good Morning Church Family! I am Pastor Todd Johnson, and I am excited to be able to share God's word with you today!

Mother's Day Prayer

This morning we are in the second week of our new sermon series entitled **YOU'RE NOT CRAZY TO BELIEVE THAT**. We have given this apologetics series this title because often our world/culture can make the claims of the Christianity/Bible seem crazy/out of touch. And what I hope that we demonstrate throughout this series gives you the encouragement and inspiration that Christianity isn't CRAZY at all...in fact it is the least CRAZY thing going on down here on this planet.

Now, this morning we are going to be focusing on the truth that **it is not crazy to believe that Christianity/Bible is the foundation for morality**. In other words, it's not crazy to believe that the morality that has lifted mankind out of darkness is rooted in Christian ideals and principles.

Now, if you were standing here 100 years ago in 1925 and you said openly that **Christianity is the foundation for morality**, most people would have agreed with you, many would have said duh, obviously!

Illustration:

One of the first places we learn right from wrong is from our moms. Can we agree on that? How many of you had a mom who made sure you knew when something was *not okay*?

My mother was central in shaping my understanding of right and wrong—and I needed the help. Because apparently, when I was little around the age of 2 or 3, I had a bit of a problem... with biting. Specifically, biting my older sister Tiffany. And I thought it was hilarious. She'd cry—I'd laugh. No remorse. Just comedy gold to toddler Todd.

My mom tried everything to get me to stop—but nothing worked. Until one day, she got creative. The next time I bit my sister, my mom came over and *gently bit me*. Nothing harmful—just enough to make a point. And suddenly, I understood. *Oh... so that's what it feels like.*

She wasn't just correcting my behavior—she was teaching me empathy, justice, cause and effect. She was helping me understand that there are some things you *just don't do to another person*.

And that's the big question for us today: **Where does that moral sense come from?** Why do we know instinctively that things like hurting others, lying, cheating, or stealing are wrong?

Is it just social pressure? Is it biology? Or is there something deeper—something objective—something true?

And so we are going to spend our time this morning on **3 reasons that You're Not Crazy to Believe that the Bible is Mankind's Foundation for Morality.**

Now, that is a bold statement. But don't worry I am going to back this up, with receipts! Because you see this is what the Bible says of itself, this is what Jesus taught his disciples, and this is the moral foundation that has shaped the world we know today for the better.

Ok so, the first reason that you're not crazy to believe that the Bible is Mankind's Foundation for Morality is because... **The Bible Reveals an Objective Moral Standard.**

Hebrews 4:12 *"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*

This passage is telling us that God's Word is not passive or outdated—it's alive. It's active. And it speaks with divine authority. The word "judges" here (Greek: *kritikos*) means it discerns or evaluates—God's Word doesn't just offer opinions; **it reveals what is true and what is false, what is right and what is wrong.** Friends think about this...true morality must be **objective**—it has to be rooted in something beyond personal opinion or cultural consensus. Otherwise, who decides what's moral?

Because when mankind decides what's moral we end up with the practice of **Sati**. **Sati** is the Hindu practice where widows were expected (and in some cases forced) to throw themselves onto their husband's

funeral pyre and be burned alive. The rationale for this is that it was seen as an act of devotion and a way to ensure a husband's *spiritual peace*.

When mankind decides what's moral we end up with **Human Sacrifice** notably of the **Aztec, Inca, and Canaanite Empires** just to name a few. Often these sacrifices were carried out on children, and the people carrying out these atrocities didn't think they were doing wrong. They believed that the gods demanded the **most valuable offering**, which often meant their own children. Even this was seen as a moral good.

When mankind decides what's moral we end up with Honor Killings – Middle Eastern and South Asian Cultures. **In this practice family members (usually women) are killed by relatives for allegedly bringing “shame” to the family (e.g., through premarital relationships or refusing an arranged marriage). This is seen as a way to restore family honor, this also is seen as a moral good.**

I don't bring up these examples just to dunk on these societies/cultures, but rather to highlight the truth that our sense of right and wrong can vary wildly.

And the truth is the main challenge to an objective moral standard today isn't another world religion competing against Christianity—it's **secular humanism** that has deadened the moral fabric of our society.

Secular humanism says: *“We don't need God to be good. We can define morality ourselves, based on human reason, personal autonomy, and social consensus.”*

But here's the problem: if there is **no God above us**, then there is **no truth beyond us**. And if there's no truth beyond us, then **what's right or wrong simply becomes what the majority says—or what feels right in the moment**.

Secular humanism borrows the moral capital of Christianity—terms like justice, equality, and compassion are used all the time by secular humanists - but they cut those words off from the God who **gave them meaning in the first place**.

Secular humanism wants the fruit without the root. But a cut flower may look alive for a while—but eventually, it withers.

And we're watching that withering now. We live in a time where:

- **Truth is personal**, not universal.
- **Morality is relative**, not revealed.
- And the **Bible is seen as oppressive**, not liberating.

But friends, when the foundation is removed, the house collapses. That's what's happening in the West today—not because people believe too little, but because they believe in the wrong foundation.

Clearly we (mankind) are not reliable arbiters of what is right and what is wrong. But fortunately there is a loving God who is that reliable arbiter.

In *Leviticus 11:44* God says to Israel – “**Be holy, because I am holy.**” So, what's the standard? **Holiness.**

Holiness, from a **biblical perspective**, is much more than moral purity—though that's certainly part of it. Holiness primarily refers to **God's absolute uniqueness, set apartness, and moral perfection**, and secondarily to the **calling of His people to reflect His character** by being set apart from sin and devoted to Him.

You see, **YOU'RE NOT CRAZY TO BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE REVEALS AN OBJECTIVE MORAL STANDARD/GOD'S HOLINESS. IN FACT, IT IS CRAZY TO BELIEVE ANYTHING ELSE.**

Because you see Church, the pursuit of God's objective moral standard/His holiness—has lifted our culture out of brutality and into dignity, out of injustice and into compassion, out of darkness and into light. Wherever the Word of God has been believed and applied, it has reshaped societies, reformed laws, and rekindled hope. God's holiness doesn't just convict individual hearts...it has transformed entire civilizations.

The Christian Pursuit of God's Holiness led to The Abolition of Slavery

- **Back Then:** Slavery was seen as a normal economic system throughout most of history.
- **Now:** Christian leaders like **William Wilberforce** in Britain and **Frederick Douglass** in America grounded their abolitionist efforts in the belief that all people are equal in the sight of God (Galatians 3:28; Philemon). The pursuit of God's moral standard led to the moral outrage that ended legalized slavery in much of the world.

The Christian Pursuit of God's Holiness led to The Rise of Compassion-Based Institutions

- **Back Then:** In ancient times, there were no hospitals, orphanages, or public charities for the poor.
- **Now:** The early church began caring for widows, orphans, and the sick (James 1:27), and this ethic evolved into hospitals, hospices, and schools for the poor. Many of the first hospitals and universities were founded by Christians seeking to reflect God's compassion and holiness.

The Christian Pursuit of God's Holiness led to The Elevation of Women

- **Back Then:** Women were treated as property in many cultures, with limited rights and no voice.
- **Now:** Jesus' treatment of women—with dignity and respect—has inspired social and legal reforms that value women as equal image-bearers of God (Genesis 1:27; Galatians 3:28).

The Christian Pursuit of God's Holiness led to Human Rights & Justice Systems

- **Back Then:** Might made right; justice was partial, and laws favored the powerful.
- **Now:** The biblical vision of justice—defending the poor, punishing evil impartially, and protecting the vulnerable—has shaped modern legal systems. Concepts like “innocent until proven guilty,” equality under the law, and due process are deeply rooted in the Bible's call to just judgment (Deuteronomy 16:19–20; Isaiah 1:17).

You see, believing in an objective moral standard based on God's word made all those benefits to mankind happen. And clearly without the light of the gospel friends we are living in **chaos**, where we can't truly call anything “evil.”

The second reason YOU'RE NOT CRAZY TO BELIEVE THAT CHRISTIANITY/BIBLE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR MORALITY... **The Bible Diagnoses the Human Condition Accurately.**

Illustration:

Imagine this: Your car's making a terrible noise. It's sputtering, shaking, something's clearly wrong. So you take it to the shop. The mechanic looks it over and says, "*Ah, it's the spark plugs. We'll replace them—should be good to go.*"

You pay the bill, get the keys, and drive off. For a mile or two, it seems fine. But then the same noise comes back. Same sputtering. Same shaking. You go back and they say, "*Oh, it must be the fuel line.*" More money. Another repair. Still not fixed. You're frustrated. You've paid the price, but the problem hasn't been solved—because the diagnosis was wrong.

That's what false religions and secular philosophies do with the human condition. They give you surface-level answers. "*Try harder. Meditate more. Be a good person. Do these rituals.*" They might mask the symptoms for a little while, but they never get to the **root of the problem**—which isn't just bad behavior, but a **sinful heart**.

In reality, only the Bible gives the true diagnosis: **Hebrews 4:12 – "...it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."**

One of the things that sets the Bible apart from every other "good book" on morality is that it doesn't just address behavior—it **exposes the heart**. It diagnoses our condition not just by what we do, but by **why** we do it. Most moral systems focus on fixing external actions: *Don't steal. Don't lie. Don't cheat.* But the Bible goes even deeper. It asks, **what's going on inside of you that leads to these actions?** (again from our Hebrews text) It judges the "thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Friends, this is the deepest level of moral truth.

Romans 3:23 reminds us that **"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"**. That's not a surface-level statement. It's a **comprehensive diagnosis** of the human condition. And **Romans 2:14–15** explains why even people without access to the scriptures still have a sense of right and wrong...it says, **"it's written on their hearts."** That internal compass is real, but it's also broken.

And so, a part of the beauty of God's word is that it **doesn't flatter us**—it tells the truth. Like a skilled surgeon, it exposes what's diseased, not to shame us, but to bring healing. **God's Word doesn't just show you the stain—it points you to the stain remover.**

Think of it this way: when you go to the doctor, you don't want them to say, "*You're fine,*" if you have a serious illness. You want them to tell you the truth—even if it hurts—so that you can begin to heal.

That's what the Bible does. **It tells us the truth about ourselves with surgical precision and with eternal purpose.**

Christianity most accurately describes the human condition in a way that no other faith system even comes close to. Where other systems tend to either minimize human brokenness or overestimate human ability, the Bible gives a diagnosis that is both brutally honest **and** profoundly hopeful.

Unlike Buddhism, which sees suffering as an illusion, or secular humanism, which insists people are basically good, **Christianity tells the TRUTH we all instinctively know deep down inside: something is deeply wrong—not just out there in the world, but in here, in us.**

- *Ecclesiastes 7:20* – “Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.”
- *Jeremiah 17:9* – “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”

And yet, Christianity doesn't leave us there—it says that the God who exposes our sin also stepped in to save us, offering grace and transformation through Jesus Christ.

C.S. Lewis put it this way: “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.” And part of its power lies in this: *it names the ache in every human soul and then points to the One who can heal it.*”

Jesus

During His earthly ministry, **Jesus didn't simply observe symptoms of brokenness—He revealed the root problem: the human heart.** While others focused on external behavior, Jesus consistently went deeper, exposing the thoughts, motives, and spiritual disease beneath the surface. No one in history has diagnosed the human condition more accurately—or more lovingly—than Jesus.

He didn't flatter people. He didn't sugarcoat reality. And yet, He didn't shame people either. **He told the truth with clarity and compassion.**

- To the **religious elite**, Jesus said:
"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Matthew 15:8). He exposed the hypocrisy of outward religion that lacked inward transformation.

- To the **rich young ruler**, who claimed to have kept all the commandments:
Jesus gently yet firmly said, *"One thing you lack..."* (Mark 10:21). He revealed that even the most upright person had idols in his heart.

- To the **woman at the well**, weary from a string of failed relationships:
He told her, *"The truth is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband"* (John 4:18). And yet He didn't condemn her. He offered living water—the very thing her soul had been thirsting for.

- To the **crowds** who followed Him for miracles and bread, He said:
"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick... I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31–32). Jesus made it clear: we are all spiritually sick, and only He offers the cure.

- And to **His disciples**, He said:
"Out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander" (Matthew 15:19).
The problem is not just bad behavior—it's a corrupted heart.

It Is Not Crazy to Believe that Jesus Diagnosed the Human Condition with Precision Accuracy, because that's exactly what he did.

And yet, He didn't stop at diagnosis. He came to heal the heart, forgive the sinner, and make all things new.

The third reason YOU'RE NOT CRAZY TO BELIEVE THAT
CHRISTIANITY/BIBLE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR MORALITY... **The
Bible Provides the Ultimate Solution to Moral
Failure.**

Ok. So far, we've seen that the Bible gives us a moral standard that is **objective** and that it **accurately diagnoses the human condition**. But if we stop there, we're still left guilty. **Enter Hebrews 4:13–16.**

Verse 13 tells us:

"Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." This is terrifying news if God is only a Judge. He sees everything. Every secret. Every motive. Every failure. There's **no hiding** from the moral gaze of God.

But then verse 14 turns the corner:

"Since we have a great high priest... Jesus the Son of God... let us hold firmly to the faith we profess."

Jesus is not only the standard-bearer—He is the **sin-bearer**.

Now, for some of us, the phrase "*high priest*" might be unclear or unfamiliar. So here's what it means:

In the Old Testament, the high priest was the most important spiritual figure in Israel. His role was to represent the people before God. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, he would go into the Most Holy Place and offer a sacrifice for the people's sins. He was a bridge—a mediator—between a holy God and sinful people.

But the high priest was just a man. He had to make sacrifices for his own sins, and the offerings he made had to be repeated every year.

Now look at Jesus. Hebrews says He is our Great High Priest—and that changes everything:

- He's sinless—so He doesn't need to make a sacrifice for Himself.
- He didn't bring a lamb—He was the Lamb.
- And His offering wasn't temporary—it was once for all, final, and forever.

Verse 15 reassures us:

"We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses..."

Jesus knows what it's like to be human. He was tempted in every way, but He never sinned. He met the moral standard **perfectly**—and then He **took our place** on the cross.

Verse 16 gives us the invitation:

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence..."

Because of Jesus, we don't run from God in our failure—we run to Him. And what do we find there? Not condemnation—but **mercy and grace to help us in our time of need.**

Other worldviews may offer moral teachings, rituals, or advice. But only **Christianity** offers both a **perfect standard** and a **perfect Savior**. The Bible doesn't just diagnose the problem—it delivers the cure.

That's why **you're not crazy to believe it**. In Christ you are standing on the only moral foundation that doesn't just show you the truth—it shows you **the Way, the Truth, and the Life**.

Illustration:

Let me tell you about this man [on our screens] **Vishal Mangalwadi**, he is a respected Indian philosopher and social reformer. Vishal didn't grow up believing in Christianity. He was raised in a culture shaped by Hinduism and later flirted with Marxist political ideals. He believed in justice and in helping the oppressed, but as he looked at his society—and even his own efforts—he found no lasting hope, no consistent moral foundation. He once said that **his turning point came not through an argument, but through suffering**. He saw the moral bankruptcy of systems that lacked the God of the Bible.

And then Vishal met **Jesus Christ**—not just as a religious figure, but as the **foundation of truth, justice, and compassion**. Over time, the Scriptures

convinced him that **only the Bible accurately diagnosed the human condition** and offered a **moral framework strong enough to heal broken societies**. That conviction changed his life—and his mission.

One powerful story he shares in his book entitled ***The Book That Made Your World*** is about a little girl named **Sheela**. Vishal and his wife Ruth met Sheela in a rural village—an 18-month-old girl who was severely malnourished and dying. To get the full context of this story I am going to share Vishal's own words from the book.

“The child was a girl named Sheela. In the middle of a windowless, dingy room, an eighteen-month-old living skeleton was lying on a bare string cot, pus oozing from sores covering her body and head, with flies swarming over her because she could not raise her hand to chase them away. Her thighs were only as thick as an adult's thumb. Sheela was so weak that she could not even cry. She only sighed.”

Vishal and Ruth urged the family to get her to a hospital. But her parents—Hindu farmers—saw her as a burden. In their worldview, **a girl was not worth investing in**. She would one day marry and leave the family, providing no economic return. And so their plan was to simply let her waste away.

Vishal and Ruth were horrified. They took Sheela in. They fed her, cared for her, nursed her back to health. Eventually, they returned her to her parents—believing that now that she was well, surely they would continue to care for her.

But when they visited some time later, Sheela was once again severely malnourished. Her parents had ignored her yet again. They simply didn't value her life. **Even after being given a new lease on life, her family couldn't be bothered to keep her alive. And in fact Sheela did die a short time later.**

This moment broke Vishal and Ruth's hearts. But it also clarified something: **This wasn't just poverty. It was a failure of moral vision.** It was the fruit of a worldview that doesn't believe all human beings are made in the image of God. A worldview where compassion is optional. Where the weak are expendable.

Vishal uses this tragic story to highlight the fact that...**only the Bible tells the truth about who we are and what we're worth!**

You are not crazy to believe that Christianity is the foundation for morality. In fact, it is the most reasonable, consistent, and hopeful foundation there is.

Why? Because of our 3 points this morning, let's review...

The Bible Reveals an Objective Moral Standard – rooted not in man's opinion, but in God's holiness. When we anchor our sense of right and wrong in the character of God, morality doesn't shift with culture—it stands firm across time.

The Bible Diagnoses the Human Condition Accurately – it doesn't just give us rules. It gets under the hood. It tells us the truth about ourselves—not to shame us, but to save us. It tells us why we struggle and what needs to be healed.

The Bible Provides the Ultimate Solution to Moral Failure – because it doesn't just say "you're broken," it says, "*Come to the One who can make you whole.*" Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest. He didn't just tell us the truth—He *became* our rescue. He died for our sin, rose again, and now offers forgiveness, grace, and new life.

So maybe today you've realized something:
You've tried to live a moral life. You've tried to be good. But deep down you know... **something's not right.** You still feel guilt. You still feel distant.

Friend, that's because morality without **mercy** will always leave you empty. You weren't just made to be good—you were made to be **loved** by a holy God.

So, if you're here this morning and you've never trusted Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior—if you've never said, "Lord, I can't fix myself. I need you to forgive me, change me, and lead me"...then make today the day you surrender your life to Jesus.

Don't wait. Don't polish up your morality and hope it's enough.
Come to the throne of grace. Come to the One who sees your heart and still says, "*I want you.*" It's a Crazy type of Love, but you are not Crazy if you believe in it.

Pray: