

The Blight of Moral Relativism

The Belief that there is No Such Thing as Right and Wrong

A Great Scientist

In 1905 the 26 -year-old Albert Einstein was working in the Swiss patents office in Berne, Germany. He published a paper on, 'The Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies' which became known as, The Special Theory of Relativity. Up until this time it was believed that movement and time in Space could be determined by comparing it to a fixed substance, motionless ether, which it was said filled the universe. Einstein proved that there was no such fixed substance in Space. Hence movements in space were very difficult to measure because there was nothing fixed to measure them against. Time speed and distance in space could only be measured relatively. It took several years for Einstein's theory to become widely known, but by the end of 1918 Einstein was hailed as a global-hero. No one can deny that Einstein's achievements were very great and that he has made a massive contribution to science and our understanding of the universe.

A Mistaken Inference

However in the early 1920s the belief began to circulate, at first at a popular level that there were no longer any absolutes, not only in the realm of time and space, but also in the areas of good and evil, right and wrong. Mistakenly but perhaps inevitably, relativity became confused with moral relativism. (The belief that there is no such thing as right and wrong).

Einstein, who acknowledged the existence of God, was distressed that his theory should be misused in such a way. He believed passionately in absolute standards of right and wrong. It was all too appealing however to sinful mankind to believe that science had now proved that moral absolutes were a thing of the past. It came to be believed as a popular song put it, that, 'Anything Goes!' Gradually the remainder of the 20th century saw the abandoning of the moral standards of the Bible, which had underpinned our society and had been the bastions of our individual and civil liberties for over 1000 years. The final moral barriers were broken down in the 1960s and the so-called Permissive Society came in like a flood. Today the sad results of moral collapse are all around us.

A Certain Remedy

The truth however remains that there are such things as moral absolutes, and we neglect these absolutes at our peril. The breakdown of order and respect in society at large, in the schools, and in the home, cries out to us that something is sadly wrong. It is time for us to consider our ways and to repent of our sin and folly. The false philosophies of the 20th century have not brought us happiness, but rather great unhappiness and indeed if we continue in such philosophies, they will bring us ruin and disaster. It is time to acknowledge 'that we have sinned and come short.' It is time to seek again the Saviour we have shunned, that is Jesus Christ the Son of God, he who by his sacrifice and blood can alone cleanse us from all sin.