

A photograph of a church interior. On the left, a window with colorful stained glass in a diamond pattern is visible. The rest of the image is dominated by a dark, reflective surface, possibly a floor or a large mirror, which shows a blurred, colorful reflection of the stained glass. The colors are vibrant and out of focus, creating a bokeh effect. In the bottom right corner, there is a black rectangular box with a white border containing the text "RELIGION & MORALITY" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

RELIGION & MORALITY

“IT’S OFFICIAL”

- Be wary of grabby headlines and the incomplete (or false) notions they perpetuate. Honesty requires more research than sweeping generalizations provide.
- Over 1,200 people were texted five times a day over three days and asked about any moral or immoral activities they witnessed. Those tested came from a broad range of backgrounds and belief systems.
- The researchers admit that it is a test full of potential inaccuracies — vague definitions, self-reporting, few parameters or guidelines.



SO, DOES RELIGION MAKE US MORE MORAL?

MORALITY

- Allowing any/every definition of morality into the equation essentially nullifies any results. We're all going to see moral/immoral actions, every day, because we all have a set of moral guidelines we live by. The same action, however, might be viewed quite differently depending on the guidelines we choose.
- What is moral? Buying a friend a beer after a bad day? Embracing homosexual marriage? Helping someone get revenge on an ex? Aborting a fetus with Down's Syndrome?

CONSISTENT DEFINITIONS

- This study is preposterous because it attempts to give a statistical analysis without a consistent definition. This, after all, is one of the great debates: where does morality come from?
- If not from God, then where? Evolution? Pragmatism? Tradition? These are all incredibly unsatisfactory explanations. The problem is that people who are essentially “not good” are trying to define what only a truly good God can (Romans 3:10ff, Matthew 19:16ff).
- Psalm 82



QUESTIONS THAT CAN'T BE ANSWERED

Did religion make a difference in somebody's life? It sure seems like Christianity made a difference for some (Ephesians 4:17ff, Colossians 2:8-15, 3:5-11).

A photograph of a church interior, focusing on a series of colorful stained glass windows. The windows feature geometric patterns in shades of red, yellow, blue, and green. Light from the windows creates a series of colorful, blurred patterns on the dark interior surfaces, creating a bokeh effect. The overall atmosphere is serene and spiritual.

IS MORALITY EVEN THE MAIN POINT OF
CHRISTIANITY?

MORALITY OR SALVATION?

- God's main concern is not necessarily making us "more moral" through religious adherence, but defining morality in order to establish a basis for our inadequacy. Notice Romans 7:7-10.
- Really, "morality" doesn't help us much because self-derived goodness, adherence to "the Law", and meritorious deeds are incapable of making us any better in God's eyes (Romans 8:1-4).
- Moral action is necessary and required (Rev. 21:8, Rom. 8:5ff), but it serves no function in saving us.



THE QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE “ARE
RELIGIOUS PEOPLE MORE MORAL?”
BUT
“WILL MY MORALITY SAVE ME?”