

PHILOSOPHY 1600 HONORS - PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Answers for Exercise 2: Morality and the Bible

Readings: *Exodus*, chapters 20-23; *Leviticus*, chapters 18-20, *Deuteronomy*, chapters 21-22; *Matthew*, chapter 5, verses 27-32; chapter 15, verses 19-20; chapter 19, verses 3-12; *Mark*, chapter 10, verses 2-12; *Ephesians*, chapter 5, verses 21-33; *Romans*, chapter 1, verses 18-32.

Passages and Answers Worthy of Full Credit

Passage: *Exodus* 20:4

This passage says that it is wrong to make likenesses of anything.

Passage: *Exodus* 20:5

This passage says that is morally acceptable for God to punish children for the sins of the fathers.

Passage: *Exodus* 21:1-2.

Also *Exodus* 20:10, *Exodus* 21:21, *Leviticus* 19:20, and *Ephesians* 6:5.

This passage says that it is not morally wrong to own a slave.

Comment on Translations

Both the *King James Version* and the *Revised Standard Version* of the Bible use the words 'manservant' and 'maidservant' at *Exodus* 20:10 . The *Oxford Bible*, the *New English Bible*, and the *Torah* (1962 translation) all use the word 'slave' .)

Passage: *Exodus* 21:7

This passage says that it is not wrong for a man to sell his daughter into slavery.

Passage: *Exodus* 21:15

This passage says that a person who strikes his father or his mother should be put to death.

Passage: *Exodus* 21:21

Comment: *Exodus* 21:20 is not satisfactory.

This passage says that if one strikes one's slave, and the slave survives at least for a day or two before dying, then one should not be punished.

Passage: *Exodus* 22:18

Also give full credit for *Leviticus* 20:27, which refers to "mediums" and "wizards", both male and female.)

This passage says that witches should be put to death.

Passage: *Exodus 22:19. Also Leviticus 20:15-16*

This passage says that people who have sex with animals should be put to death.

Passage: *Exodus 22:20*

This passage says that whoever sacrifices to a deity other than Yahweh should be put to death.

Passage: *Exodus 23:24*

It is not morally wrong to destroy sacred things associated with other religions.

Passage: *Leviticus 19:28*

This passage says that tattoos are forbidden.

Passage: *Leviticus 20:9 Also Exodus 21:17.*

This passage says that a person who curses his father or his mother should be put to death.

Passage: *Leviticus 20:10. Also Deuteronomy 22:22*

This passage says that people who commit adultery should be put to death.

Passage: *Leviticus 20:11*

This passage says that if a mother and her son engage in intercourse, both of them should be put to death.

Passage: *Leviticus 20:13-14*

This passage says that male homosexual activity should be punished by death.

Passage: *Leviticus 20:14*

This passage says that if a man has sexual intercourse with a mother and her daughter, then all three should be burnt to death.

Passage: *Leviticus 20:27*

This passage says that a spiritualistic medium should be put to death.

Passage: *Deuteronomy 21:10-11. Also Deuteronomy 20:10-14*

This passage says that when one has taken captives in a war, one is permitted to marry any of the women.

Passage: *Deuteronomy 21:15*

This passage says that polygamy is not morally wrong.

Passage: *Deuteronomy 21:18-21*

This passage says that sons who are out of control should be stoned to death.

Passage: *Deuteronomy 22:5*

This passage says that women should not wear men's clothing, and men should not wear dresses.

Passage: *Deuteronomy 22:20-21*

This passage says that women who marry and who are not virgins should be stoned to death.

Passage: *Deuteronomy 22:23-27*

Comment: Deuteronomy 22:24 is crucial.

No credit for any passage that does not include Deuteronomy 22:24.

This passage says that a woman who is raped in a city and does not cry out should be put to death.

Passage: *Deuteronomy 22:23-24. Also Deuteronomy 22:25.*

This passage says that a man who rapes a woman should be put to death, *because* he dishonored a woman who belonged to another. (It also says that the woman should also be stoned to death if the rape occurs in a city, and she did not cry out.)

Passage: *Deuteronomy 22:28-29*

This passage says that if one rapes a virgin who is not engaged to another man, one should pay the father the bride-price, and marry the woman.

Passage: *Deuteronomy 25:11-12*

This passage says that if a woman, in attempting to rescue her husband from assault by another man, grabs the assailant in an 'inappropriate' way – by touching the assailant's sexual parts – her hand should be cut off, and no pity should be shown.

Passage: 1 Samuel 15:1-3. Also 1 Samuel 15:18.

Assuming that the Biblical writers hold that God never does anything morally wrong, this passage implies that genocide is morally permissible if God commands it.

Passage: *Matthew 5:28*

This passage says, in effect, that looking at a woman lustfully must be *very* wrong, since the passage says that looking at a woman lustfully is morally on a par with committing adultery.

Passage: *Matthew 5:29-30*

This passage says that if you find that some part of our body is leading you into sin, you should destroy the relevant part of your body.

Passage: *Matthew 5:32*

This passage says that it is morally permissible for a man to divorce a woman only if she has committed adultery.

Passage: *Matthew 5:32*

This passage says that it is not morally permissible for a man to marry a woman who has been divorced, since it says that anyone who marries a divorced woman thereby commits adultery.

Passage: *Matthew 15:19-20*

This passage says that fornication - which includes sexual intercourse before marriage - is something that defiles a person.

Passage: *Matthew 19:9*

This passage says that any man who divorces a woman for any reason other than unchastity on her part, and marries another woman, thereby commits adultery.

Passage: *Mark 10:11-12*

This passage says that it is *always* wrong for a divorced man to remarry. (Notice that this passage contradicts Matthew 19:9, which allows remarriage if the man divorced his wife because she was unchaste.)

Passage: *Ephesians 5:22-4*

This passage says that a woman should be subject to her husband in everything, thereby implying that the relation between a husband and his wife is not one of equality?

36. Is it morally permissible for a person not to believe in God?

Passage: *Romans 1:18-23*

This passage says that it not morally permissible for a person not to believe in God, since God's existence has been "visible, since the world began, to the eye of reason, in the things he has made."

Passage: *Romans 1:26-32*

This passage says not only that that male and female homosexuality are *not* morally acceptable alternative life style, but also that homosexuality is morally *very bad indeed*, since it says that homosexuals "deserve to die."