



The upside-down

We operate in a strange, new world. A world that has been changing since the 1960s and is finally coming to a head. We, the enforcers of law and order, find ourselves trying to hold the line against an insidious enemy. Ground that was once steady under our feet, has turned to quicksand. My goal this month is to take an honest look at what I believe is the greatest threat facing law enforcement.

Since the '60s there has been a migration in thought leading us away from the idea that any particular thing can be known for sure, or what Dr. Francis Schaeffer calls "True Truth." Instead, we have moved towards perpetual skepticism. Today, we find ourselves in a culture that finds truth to be nothing more than our own subjective preferences. Simply put, truth means nothing more than "true for me." Put in another way, "truth is relative." What is the relevance of this to law enforcement? Follow me as we unpack how this line of thinking plays out in the world of law and order.

If truth is repackaged and redefined into something that can't be known, then as Francis Beckwith says, "the concept of moral truth becomes incoherent. Ethics become relative, right and wrong matters of individual opinion." This is known as moral relativism. Author Greg Koukl describes moral relativism as "the view that ideas of right and wrong are like ice cream. Saying certain conduct is wrong is like saying vanilla ice cream tastes bad. The statement only tells you what individual people like. It says nothing about the action itself. There can be as many moral 'truths,' then, as there are people who believe them." When we abandon the idea that one set of laws applies to every human being, all that remains is subjective, personal opinion.

Yet, in the world of law enforcement, we are pressed into service to uphold laws that reflect ethics grounded in real truth. We are required to acknowledge things like right and wrong. Good and evil. So we find ourselves in the upside-down world of trying to enforce laws in segments of society that view ethics in the same subjective way as the taste of vanilla ice cream. Ethics, values and morals become nothing more than a matter of personal preference. This line of thinking creates the attitude of, "Who are you to tell me what to do?" And "why should I?" Any justified enforcement action against them is seen as an infringement to their sensibilities. They view hate, aggression and violence as morally justified. After all, when the

deciding factor for your actions is how you *feel* about it, then what should we expect? This destructive view of truth is cultivated in our universities and propagated by liberals.



Moral relativism is the view that ideas of right and wrong are like ice cream. Ethics, values and morals are nothing more than a matter of personal preference.

The natural progression of moral relativism has led to our current culture of political correctness (PC). I know this topic could be an article all on its own, but it's worth acknowledging the progression of thought that flows from relativism. PC has led to safe spaces, micro-aggressions and a loss of inclusiveness. It empowers agitators and disenfranchises law abiders. It validates false narratives and silences facts. It tolerates only those who agree with it and shuns those who don't. This is why the most ardent proponents of political correctness revile law enforcement.

As law enforcement officers, we are guided by facts. We do not have the luxury of pursuing what *feels* right. We seek truth. The irony is those who subscribe to moral relativism are quick to apply an objective standard to the police. I see this routinely in our Police Commission meetings. Excuses are made for criminal behavior, and cries for social justice ring out. The severity of a criminal's violent actions are diminished because of their perceived economic or social plight. Emotional appeals are offered in defense of their bad choices, and all the while, demanding the harshest of punishments be metered out upon the police.

I have said many times before that the war of ideas is just as important as physical ones. We must be able to evaluate, clearly, the ideas and philosophies of the day. Battling only the

symptoms and manifestations of bad ideas is untenable. We must be prepared to battle on a cerebral level. The new enemy of law and order is not flesh and blood, but it certainly has the ability to destroy. The vaccine for this disease is knowledge. Understanding the history of our nation and what our values, principles and morals were founded on. Learning how to accurately evaluate ideas and follow them to their ultimate conclusions. Staying informed on current political and legislative agendas. Exercising critical thinking and, most importantly, infusing this knowledge in our children, family members and friends. This is how liberty and justice win.



If truth is repackaged and redefined into something that can't be known, then the concept of moral truth becomes incoherent.

Be smart. Be safe.

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