

# Spiritual Discernment

Lesson 8: The Spirit of the Age  
Springs Reformed Church  
High School Class  
April 26, 2015

Briefly review the main points from the last lesson.

- Rejecting God means rejecting his law—and vice versa.
- No man has an excuse for rejecting God—he is revealed in the creation. (see Ps 19:1-6)
- Many unbelievers claim to reject God on intellectual grounds—but in reality rejecting God is a moral problem.
- When men suppress the truth, God responds by giving them over to sin. The result is a darkened heart and a futile mind.
- Relativism reflects man’s desire for autonomy but it destroys logic and knowledge.

Relativism can be regarded as the “spirit of the age”—the dominant philosophy that results from unbelief. But there is nothing “new” about it.

Read Romans 1:18-32. What parallels can you see between the Romans 1 and modern society?

What do you think is the trajectory of a society which has been divorced from God’s law?

How is the church partly responsible for the decline of society’s moral standards?

Man’s “law” is not really *law* at all—it is a house without a foundation. Right and wrong are a matter of individual choice and/or social consensus. Without a fixed point of reference, law is *arbitrary*.

Nothing of a moral nature can ever be “settled” when social attitudes are constantly changing.

If there is no unchanging foundation of moral principle, how do think society will attempt to reconcile its conflicting beliefs? What are the options?

If voting is used as the way to determine moral consensus, what kinds of problems might arise?

Multiculturalism is the idea that all cultural expressions are equally valid. Can you think of some arguments against multiculturalism?

How would you try to defend multiculturalism without relying on some absolute moral principle?

If multiculturalism is grounded in an absolute principle, what happens to its underlying premise?

“Tolerance” means accepting something that isn’t acceptable. The idea of tolerance implies that society embraces a moral standard that must be *rejected*. What then is the moral standard that requires us to be “tolerant”?

How is tolerance *intolerant*?

What are some steps you might have to take in order to change society's attitudes toward immorality in general and homosexuality in particular? (consider how we define things like gender, gender roles, attraction, love, marriage, divorce, and family)

Marriage has always been "discriminatory"—meaning that not just anyone can get married. What are some obvious examples?

What would happen if we removed every restriction from marriage?

Some people try to argue that "you can't legislate morality." What do you think they mean by that?

Explain why the "law" inevitably discriminates—regardless of what it says. (Think about what the law does—it always sets limits on "acceptable" behavior.)

Look at Romans 1:32. Paul is equating the *practice* of immorality with the mere *approval* of immorality. Can you think of some ways this is reflected in society today?