

Bible not ultimate authority

Some of us think the Bible is the one true and only place for authoritative moral guidance. Some of us do not.

I personally think the value of the Scriptures lies in their ability to stimulate. We can reflect on those ancient words in the light of our own personal situations, experiences and understandings of the present time.

Thus, a given passage may or may not sound reasonable to me and may not be useful. Yes, that even goes for the much-cherished (and overly ballyhooed) Ten Commandments. Until I accept them as making sense intellectually, they really are only the Ten Suggestions. My adult rational mind and my conscience are my ultimate authorities. No blind obedience. That's for children.

But blind acceptance seems to be the rule for some of us. Maybe because it's easy and makes us feel comfortable. More likely it's because we have an undeveloped level of spirituality — like being permanently stuck in a fifth-grade Sunday school level of understanding. I don't believe our Creator expects us to abandon our highest faculty, our reason, and blindly accept everything in a 2,000-year-old Bible as being equally useful for all people at all times.

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