

# A RIGHT WAY?

Things that matter!

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What is the right way to live? Is there a right way?  
Who says? How can we know?

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Who says?

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The world is not short of answers.



Below is an answer from the Bible, spoken about 600 BC by a prophet called Micah.

Can an answer as old as that mean anything valuable today?

Let us consider it.

**The LORD has told us what is good.**

**What he requires of us is this:**

**to do what is just,**

**to show constant love, and**

**to live in humble fellowship with our God.**

*(Micah, chapter 6 verse 8)*

### Good

We all want what is good. By good, we mean enjoyable,



pleasant, satisfying. We want a life that we feel happy about, a family that works well together, a job where we feel valued, pay that is reasonable in return for a reasonable day's effort, a government which rules for the benefit of everybody, and a world where people are happy together.

So how do we get it?

Micah says that God wants three things that are good: do what is just, show constant love, live in humble fellowship with our God.

Do these things make sense?

Do these things constitute a way of life that is good?

### Do what is just

When we were children, we had to learn to share. We had to understand that other people were important, not just ourselves.

That was and is a difficult lesson; we are still learning.

Doing what is just means that we shouldn't claim special privilege for ourselves.

It means that we should be honest with other people. We shouldn't steal from them, thinking that we have more right to something than they do.

This has a very modern application in all areas of life.

Do we treat people fairly?

Are the goods we buy fairly traded, or are they unreasonably cheap because people abroad are being paid poor wages?

Do we have one set of rules for other people, and a different (less demanding) set for ourselves?

If it is wrong for other people to bully those who are weak, it is wrong for us.



If it is wrong for other people to cheat, it is wrong for us.

If it is wrong for other people to fiddle expenses, it is wrong for us.

That is what "do what is just" is about.



It has an uncomfortable, challenging relevance to us all.

### Show constant love

To show love means to have real concern for other people, to be kind, helpful and caring. It doesn't (in this context) mean to feel physically attracted towards another person.

Showing love needs to be a consistent attitude. I am not a kind person if I switch kindness on and off. I am not a loving person if sometimes I care for animals and sometimes I am cruel. I am not a caring person if sometimes I treat other people well, and at other times I hurt them.

I do not show love if I cause damage around me, whether to people, animals, or the environment.



There is a comment in the Bible which says:

**Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.**

*(First letter of John, chapter 3, verse 18)*

Elsewhere love is described in this way:



**Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is eternal.**

*(Paul's first letter to believers in Corinth, chapter 13, verses 4-8 – written about 55 AD)*

This kind of love, this type of kindness, needs to be a constant feature. Which is why Micah says "show constant love".

Is that not exceedingly relevant to life today?

And is that not exceedingly difficult to practise?

We certainly find it hard. But if we are to find the right way to lead a good life, we need to take these teachings seriously.

## Live in humble fellowship with our God

“Live” means spend our lives in this way.

“Humble” is the opposite of proud. We may regard constant love as an ideal, but if we are honest with ourselves, we recognise our failure to carry it out adequately. That recognition should make us humble, and in humility we should try to do better.

“Fellowship” according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary is “friendliness and companionship based on shared interests”. Fellowship with God means sharing with God the ideals of



goodness, justice, and love. The Bible teaches that God is well-disposed towards us and wishes us to regard him as a friend and companion (to speak in human terms). Part of living a good life, therefore, is to talk to God in

prayer, and consciously think how we can live in a way that is pleasing to him.

## What if we don't believe in God?

It is not surprising if many people do not believe in God today. Too often people have made dogmatic claims about God. Too frequently dreadful things have been done and are done in the name of God by those who claim to understand him. You may well agree that Micah's teaching is relevant: act justly, show constant love, and be humble. But you find it hard to believe in God.

That's where humility is applicable to each of us. We all, whether believers or unbelievers, need to recognise how small our knowledge is and how limited is the understanding we have.



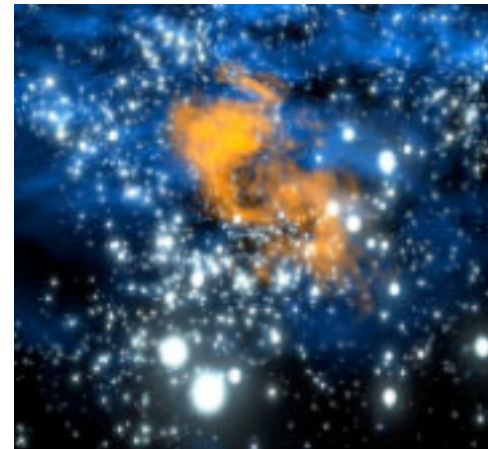
If this page were to represent the sum total of what can be known about the universe, how large a dot would represent the size of our own individual knowledge?

This size ., or this ● ?

A moment's thought makes us realise that a dot representing our knowledge and understanding would be too small to see!

That's why we need humility in approaching our understanding of other people, and our understanding of God.

Our universe is an incredibly huge, mysterious place. The Bible represents God as behind it all, and much greater than ourselves:



**To whom can the holy God be compared? Is there anyone else like him? Look up at the sky! Who created the stars you see? The one who leads them out like an army, he knows how many there are and calls each one by name! His power is so great – not one of them is ever missing! Israel, why then**

**do you complain that the Lord doesn't know your troubles or care if you suffer injustice? Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God; he created all the world. He never grows tired or weary. No one understands his thoughts.**

**He strengthens those who are weak and tired. Even those who are young grow weak; young people can fall exhausted. But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.**

*(The prophet Isaiah, chapter 40, verses 25-31)*

Because of scientific understanding, we now know a lot more about the awesome complexity of the world and the universe than people did when Isaiah wrote this many centuries before the birth of Jesus.



But knowledge of *how* the universe works is not the same as knowing *why* it exists. We can analyse the ingredients of a cake, explain all the technicalities in cake production and the physics behind the flour, the sugar, the salt. But unless we ask the person who made it, we don't know why the cake was made. Is it intended for a birthday cake, a wedding cake, a Christmas cake? We cannot find the answer by analysing the ingredients. Only the maker can reveal the answer.

We suggest it is the same with this world we live in. We can explain the mechanisms of life, the structure of the atom, the physics behind the Big Bang. But only an explanation outside of these can reveal why ultimately everything exists.

We believe, in humility, that God has been revealed to us in the Bible and supremely in the life, example and teaching of Jesus.



To describe God as “the everlasting God” who “created all the world” might make God seem remote, were it not for that phrase in Micah: “live in humble fellowship with our God”.

The Bible reveals that God is both outside our universe, and close to us, and wants us to pursue what is good, for our benefit, and for that of everybody.

We believe that an understanding of God as given in the Bible provides a viable and valuable explanation of the meaning and purpose of life.

We invite you to contact us if you would like to explore the Bible further.

### **Our invitation**

We meet for worship together on Sunday mornings at 11.15, and on Wednesdays for discussion in the evening at 7.45. We seek to be positive, helpful, and understanding. We invite you to come along to our meetings, or arrange for us to discuss with you if you wish. Although we are keen to advocate and recommend the Christian faith, we are non-aggressive and do not seek to push ourselves on people who do not wish to continue contact with us. So, if you would like help in exploring the meaning of life as taught in the Bible, we will be happy to help for as long (or as short) as you wish.

To get in touch with us, you can call at 4 Gayfield Place, or drop a note through the door with your name and contact details on it, or email us at [enquiries@Bible4now.info](mailto:enquiries@Bible4now.info).

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*Bible quotations in this leaflet are from “The Good News Bible”.*