

1. Navigating the Culture of Moral Ambiguity (Let's start with the definition. Moral ambiguity is defined as-- **A lack of clarity in ethical decision-making, that is, when an issue, situation, or question has moral dimensions or implications, but the decidedly "moral" action to take is unclear, either due to conflicting principles, ethical systems, or situational perspectives.** More simply stated it is) A lack of certainty about whether something is right or wrong. (That this is the prevailing view within our culture is fairly obvious--most cultural identifiers demonstrate it from the political arena to popular entertainment to social media to individual behavior--the line between right and wrong is extremely fluid and often even inverted, in that, what might once have been considered right is now wrong and visa versa. Makes us think about what Isaiah said generations ago in the form of a warning to the morally ambiguous then)
2. Isaiah 5:20 (it is interesting to note--and we will again--that this ambiguous approach to morality is nothing new--so how do we approach it, navigate our way through it, while not being adversely influenced by it as children of God)
3. (First we must be) Morally Unambiguous (that is, we must maintain the standard of kingdom values put forth by Christ--live them and share them--while also not being corrupted by immorality. Let's let Scripture inform us here)
 - a. Romans 12:1-2
 - b. Titus 2:11-12
 - c. James 1:27 (now with just these three references, it is clear that our call as we navigate our immoral culture--is to first live out the kingdom alternative and not be tainted by it--it is not only the only way we can successfully navigate it personally, it is also the only way we can effectively hope to speak truth into it--otherwise we would disqualify ourselves as hypocritical)
4. (But there is another aspect to this we must consider--we certainly do not want to be hypocritical, but we also do not want to be self-righteous. There is a fine line here in our navigation--a balance to find in living and speaking uncompromising truth to our culture while also creating an inviting atmosphere to those in this culture--and the solution to this is not surprising. It is to) "Love your neighbor as yourself" (let's see how this text informs this point) Romans 13:8-10 (***Clearly there are moral imperatives that are not to be compromised--absolute kingdom truths that elevate, bless, protect, us from evil, from the consequences of immorality. These also elevate cultures, but to be able to effectively share them with culture--they must be seen in a framework of love--speaking truth in love is a Bible way of saying it. This is the means to navigate in a such a way as to bring no harm to our neighbor, but hopefully to help and bless them.***)
5. (This is exactly) How Jesus Navigated (his morally ambiguous culture--using two obvious examples--the woman caught in adultery and the Samaritan women at the well) John 4:1-42; 8:1-11 (in both cases he)
 - a. Spoke truth without compromise
 - b. Demonstrated compassion
 - c. Did not judge
 - d. Offered the kingdom alternative (the same such approach ultimately impacted his culture--**please listen to this quote**)
6. (In this way we can truly) "Shine like stars" in our "crooked and depraved generation" -- Philippians 2:15 (another call back text from the prequels--and after all that is one of the main points of the navigation--to help others still out there lost and floundering--but to do so we must as this text say be "blameless and pure ourselves"--so how is that working?)