

WHAT YOUR UNIVERSITY  
WON'T TEACH YOU,

BUT YOU ARE APT TO CATCH  
ANYWAY: SHALLOW AND  
DANGEROUS MORALITY

By: Dallas Willard

# THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MORAL KNOWLEDGE

THE INSTITUTIONS OF KNOWLEDGE IN  
OUR SOCIETY NO LONGER PROVIDE  
MORAL KNOWLEDGE—AS SUCH.

THE CASE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO, IN A RECENT STATEMENT.

THE STUDY BY JULIE REUBEN,  
*THE MAKING OF THE MODERN  
UNIVERSITY.*

# THE MORAL LIFE OF COURSE GOES ON

MORAL SENTIMENTS, BELIEFS, AND  
TRADITIONS CARRY ON.

BITTER MORAL OPPROBRIUM FLOWS, A  
CULTURE OF MORAL CONTEMPT.

THE PECULIAR KIND OF DISTANCING,  
REJECTION AND SCORN THAT GOES WITH  
MORAL OPPROBRIUM.

BUT WHEN CHALLENGED, IT IS TREATED AS  
POLITICAL.

PEOPLE STILL MAKE CHOICES!

# A FAILURE OF INTELLECT?

THE CASE PRESENTED BY ROBERT COLES—PEOPLE WHO MAKE “A”s IN ETHICS COURSES BUT TREAT THEIR CLASS-MATES DISPICABLY.

COLES’ DIAGNOSIS IN TERMS OF A DISCONNECT BETWEEN THE INTELLECT AND ACTION.

ANOTHER DIAGNOSIS: WHAT IS AND IS NOT IN THE INTELLECT. NO TEACHING

# WHY CAN'T WE TEACH WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG?

THERE IS NO KNOWLEDGE OF RIGHT AND  
WRONG? AT BEST AN UNPROVEN  
ASSUMPTION.

THE TEACHER WOULD SUBVERT THE  
STUDENT'S INTELLECT? COMMUNICATE  
THEIR OWN BIAS? NO MORE THAN IN ANY  
SUBJECT.

WE MUST BE PLURALISTIC? WHY? IS THAT A  
MORAL DEMAND? DOES PLURALISM MEAN  
THAT EVERYONE IS EQUALLY RIGHT, OR  
THAT NO ONE IS WRONG IN MORAL  
OPINION AND PRACTICE?

# ACTUALLY WE DO TEACH RIGHT AND WRONG

BY BODY LANGUAGE, LOOKS, WORD  
EMPHASIS, WHAT WE CHOOSE TO  
TALK ABOUT AND NOT.

THE WELL-KNOWN “HIDDEN  
CURRICULUM”

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ADULTS IN  
AUTHORITY NOT TO COMMUNICATE  
THEIR MORAL VALUES.

# DOING SO RESPONSIBLY

WOULD BE TO CRITICALLY AND THOROUGHLY SHOW THE WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE FOR THE RIGHTNESS AND WRONGNESS OF KINDS OF ACTIONS, AND FOR THE GOODNESS AND BADNESS OF CHARACTER TRAITS AND PERSONS.

FOR EXAMPLE, PROPOSITIONING A CLASS-MATE FOR SEX. (COLES' CASE)

# THE ETHICS OF JESUS

TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR BEING  
AND YOUR NEIGH-BOR AS YOURSELF.

LOVE ACTS FOR THE WELL-BEING OF  
THOSE AFFECTED. INCLUDING  
ONESELF.

THE MORAL BASIS OF JUSTICE IS LOVE.  
STATEMENT BY HABERMAS.

# HOW TO ACTUALLY LIVE LOVE

NO PLAUSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE ETHIC OF JESUS HAS EVER BEEN GIVEN.

WHAT IS REMARKABLE IS NOT JUST THE CONTENT OF HIS TEACHING, BUT THAT HE ENABLES US TO ACTUALLY DO THE THINGS THAT ARE RIGHT AND TO DO THEM FROM THE HEART: AS NATURAL EXPRESSIONS OF WHO WE ARE.

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

WRITTEN ON MORE UNIVERSITY WALLS  
THAN ANY OTHER SAYING.

THE MEANING OF THE FULL  
STATEMENT. MORAL TRUTH.

DELIVERANCE FROM THE PRACTICE OF  
EVIL.

THROUGH DWELLING IN THE KINGDOM  
OF GOD.

# RESPONSIBLE INTELLECT

PEOPLE OF INTELLECT AND ERUDITION  
TODAY BLINDLY REJECT THE PERSON  
AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS.

THEY DO NOT GIVE SERIOUS  
CONSIDERATION TO HIM, BUT LIVE IN  
PREJUDICE.

RESPONSIBLE INTELLECT WILL TEST  
THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM AND THE  
TRUTH OF HIS TEACHINGS.

# MORAL SHALLOWNESS AND DANGER

THE MORAL TEACHINGS BLINDLY  
CONVEYED BY THE PRACTICE OF  
THE CONTEMPORARY UNIVERSITY

1. EMPERILS THE LIVES OF  
INDIVIDUALS, AND
2. UNDERMINES THE MORAL  
FOUNDATIONS OF INSTITUTIONS.