

# Lifelines

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Topic: Objective vs. Subjective

## Objective or Subjective?

There is a philosophy, which has been becoming more pervasive in American and global culture for many years. It goes by many names: post-modernism, woke, or militant subjectivism. Abstract words, but what does it mean? We'll get to that in a moment.

In the centuries before and after modernism western cultures were predominately characterized by objectivism, from which the scientific method developed and flourished. Even our modern computers are a product of, and evidence of, modern objectivism, for they cannot operate without consistent, proven mathematics. Through objectivism we discovered that there are things which are consistent, timeless truths. For example objects when dropped fall downward and are acted upon by invisible gravity. Objectively, a mile is always the same number of feet, a kilometer is always one thousand meters. There is order, because there are absolutes which form the framework within which we can live and function in the real world. Objectivism was developed out of consistency, and understanding absolutes that do not change.

To determine if something is always true, we also need absolutes. Just because you or I say something, does not make it true. How do we test it? We have to measure it against something that is established as absolutely true or accurate. If I were to ask three people to draw a line 19.5 inches long, then compare them to each other, the three lines will rarely be exactly the same length. The three people are subjectively trying to decide how long 19.5 inches is. But when I hold a yard stick along the lines, and mark a truly 19.5 inch line, it is always surprising to see how far off the lines really were.

So objectivism relies on fixed points, fixed measurement, consistent realities which can become the arbitrator of what is true. Subjectivism declares that whatever I decide is true, is true. There are no absolutes, no official measuring standards, so you must accept my view as true regardless of what you think.

An apropos illustration of this principle showing up in our culture is the current debate over genetics. A person's genetic makeup identifies them as males or females. That's proven science. But now objective science can be ignored, allowing people to declare biological girls are boys, biological boys are girls, just because they say so. Objective evidence identifies gender realities, but a person driven by subjectivism shouts: "He/she/it is whatever I say I am, and you have to agree with me! Furthermore, you can't speak anything that proves me wrong!"

Whenever a person decides to operate outside the realm of objective truth, and function purely upon what they "feel" to be true, and then demand that everyone else must capitulate to their personal emotion-driven subjective conclusions, chaos ensues. Such unbridled chaos produces: lawlessness (there are no rules), robberies (your car is mine, everything is mine for the taking), gender confusion (pushing people to question who they are), inequality (I am less/more than you because of the color of my/your skin) and cancel

culture (since you don't agree with me, you don't count) and many other negative results.

Chaos does not build strong and lasting societies. Societies abandoning time-proven realities for momentary thrills, always self-destruct. Unrestrained people destroy everything they touch.

So, what can we do to build healthy, productive, edifying, positive and lasting lives? Jesus told us how to build our lives in Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT): "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

Jesus' words are objective, eternal truth. They have lasted for two millennia, and will continue to last because God's word is truth. Do you want your life to be healthy, productive, and to last? Listen to Jesus, and follow His words. Put them into practice. Come to Jesus, build your whole life upon Him, with His help. Then when the storms come, you might take a beating, but your house and life will stand firm. However, building a life on shifting sand and shifting truth results in an unstable life.

Your life is only as lasting as the truth upon which you build it. Are you building on what has been proven to be true through the ages? Or upon what has never been proven to be true at all?

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