

The Four Absolutes #1

Moral standards of absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness, and absolute love, though recognized as impossible to attain, were guidelines to help determine whether a course of action was directed by God. In Oxford terms sin: "anything that kept one from God or one another", "as contagious as any bodily disease". "The soul needs cleaning "... We all know 'nice' sinless sinners who need that surgical spiritual operation as keenly as the most miserable sinner of us all. Buchman's use of the four absolutes came through his teacher Robert E Speer and his book "the Principles of Jesus" and Speers summarization of the Sermon on the Mount being the Oxford Groups Four Absolutes test of right or wrong.

Absolute-Honesty. Truth in an Age of Lies

Absolute-Purity. Moral purity began with the eye & thought. We may need to deal with the tongue and the touch. For many of us our history is this-the look, the thought, the fascination of the thought and then the fall.

Absolute-Love. Hate is equivalent to murder. Is there anyone for whom you still cherish feelings of dislike, resentment, and lack of forgiveness? Sins against love are common with the tongue. Only say to others what you say to them. Jealousy is devastating to peace of mind and spiritual power. So are snobbery and superiority, whether social, intellectual or spiritual. Temper cuts across love. The sin of Fear is sin against love. Perfect love casteth out fear [1 John 4:18]

Absolute-Unselfishness. Your problems are mixed up with the things you love most, and which count most to you. Self-Respect is ninety percent-self, ten percent-respect. "We do God's work, but not His will. We do not God's best, but a good of our own."

Source: Dick B.