

How Then Should We Live?

An Introduction to Christian Ethics

Midweek Sermon

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1. Moral principles are:

Relative/Cultural 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Absolute/Universal*

2. Without God:

Morals still apply 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Anything goes*

3. I think most people are generally:

Unselfish 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Selfish*

4. I believe people who practice the LGBTQ lifestyle are:

Born that way 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Not born that way*

5. Abortion should be available:

In all circumstances 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Under no circumstances*

6. Euthanasia and assisted suicide should be a matter of choice:

Agree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Disagree*

7. Premarital sex is:

Always wrong 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Never wrong*

8. Marijuana use should be:

Legalized 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Never legalized*

9. There are times when it is appropriate to lie:

Agree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Disagree*

10. Divorce is:

Always right 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 *Never right*

What is Ethics?

Christian ethics is any study that answers the question, “What does the whole Bible teach us about which acts, attitudes, and personal character traits receive God’s approval, and which do not.”
(Wayne Grudem)

2 Timothy 3:14–17 (NLT)

14 But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. 15 You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Romans 1:16 (ESV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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God’s Way

Mark 12:28–31 (ESV)

28 And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” 29 Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The Christian ethic in a nutshell - love God and love people.

Man’s Way

Judges 17:6 (ESV)

6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Isaiah 5:20 (ESV)

20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Paul Confronting Peter

Galatians 2:14 (ESV)

14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel...

1. You and I are faced with ethical decisions every week!
2. The choices we make result in blessings and/or consequences.
3. As believers, a primary goal is to fulfill God's purposes for our lives.
4. Behavioral conformity is not the purpose – heart transformation is!

What can you do?

1. Read your Bible!
2. Dive into biblical, reputable resources that can help you shape your Christian ethics.