

Salt and Light for the King

2: Basis for Ethics

Mar 29, 2020

Text “”

- What is Christian ethics?

- “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? [Grudem, *Christian Ethics*, 37...from John Frame]”

- Why should Christians study ethics?

- Disciples follow Christ’s commandments, discerning God’s will

- How will we organize our study of ethics? The 10 Commandments

- How should we study ethics? Prayer, Humility, Bereans, Reason, With others, Joyful praise

Basis of Ethics

- What are some of your Christian ethical standards?

- What is the basis of biblical ethical standards?

- The moral character of God
 - God is good, righteous and holy (Ps 119:68; Deut 32:4; Exod 34:6-7; Rev 15:3-4)
 - God expects humans to conform to his image (Gen 1:27; Mt 5:48; Col 3:9-10; Eph 4:22-24; 1 Pet 1:15; 1 Jn 3:2-3)
 - God is the example (Lk 6:36; 1 Jn 4:19; 1 Cor 11:1; Eph 5:1-2; 1 Jn 2:6; 1 Pet 2:21)

- Are ethical standards applicable in all societies at all times?

- Yes - at all times and for all societies (Gen 18:25; Ps 96:13; Acts 17:24, 31; Rom 1:20-21, 32; 2:15; 1 Pet 4:4-5)

Next time: Where do ethical standards come from? What is the source of Christian morality?

- Ethical systems:

1. **Deontological:** *rules/principles* for right and wrong
 - Different deontological systems rely on different *sources*
 - Divine command
 - Natural law
 - Ethical rationalism (Kant)
2. **Teleological:** seeks the best *outcome* from each moral action
 - 2.1. Utilitarianism: greatest good for the greatest number of people
 - 2.2. Ethical Egoism: greatest good for self
3. **Virtue ethics:** emphasize moral character (virtue in attitude and motive)
4. **Relativism:** no absolute right/wrong, only relative
 - Cultural relativism: cultural consensus decides what is normative morality
 - Moral subjectivism: Morality by personal preference and opinion