

D-LIFE BOOT CAMP

Training for a lifestyle
of discipleship.



Keeping it Real

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Dale L. Crawley Sr.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

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INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS

“Living by the Word”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

What is Christian Ethics? Christian ethics is the study of moral values and principles based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the broader biblical tradition. It seeks to discern what is morally right and good according to Christian beliefs and how individuals should act in accordance with those beliefs. Derived from the Greek word “**ethos**”, which means “way of living”, ethics is a branch of philosophy that is concerned with human conduct, more specifically the behavior of individuals in society.

Christian Ethics Defined. Christian ethics are a set of standards for right and wrong that are based on the Christian Bible, Jesus Christ's teachings, and the teachings of other religious figures. Christian ethics are different from general ethics because they are based on the teachings of the Christian faith, particularly the Bible and Jesus Christ's life.

Principles of Christian Ethics:

Christian ethics is a branch of ethics that derives its principles from Christian teachings, particularly those found in the Bible. While interpretations and emphasis may vary among different Christian denominations, some common principles of Christian ethics include:

1. **Love:** The overarching principle in Christian ethics is love, specifically the command to love God and love one's neighbor as oneself. This is often referred to as the "Great Commandment" (Matthew 22:36-40).
2. **Justice:** Christians are called to pursue justice and righteousness, both in personal conduct and in society. This involves treating others fairly, advocating for the oppressed, and working towards a more just and equitable world.

3. **Compassion and Mercy:** Christians are encouraged to show compassion and mercy towards others, following the example of Jesus Christ who showed compassion to the sick, the poor, and the marginalized.
4. **Integrity and Honesty:** Christians are called to live with integrity and honesty, speaking truthfully and acting with sincerity in all aspects of life.
5. **Humility:** Humility is valued in Christian ethics, as Christians are called to be humble before God and others, recognizing their own limitations and weaknesses.
6. **Forgiveness:** Forgiveness is central to Christian ethics, as Christians we are called to forgive others as God has forgiven us. This includes forgiving those who have wronged us and seeking reconciliation whenever possible.
7. **Stewardship:** Christians believe that God has entrusted them with the earth and its resources, and therefore they are called to be good stewards of creation, caring for the environment and using resources responsibly.
8. **Respect for Life:** Christians believe in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, and therefore they are called to respect and protect the dignity and value of every human being.
9. **Pursuit of Holiness:** Christians are called to pursue holiness, striving to live a life that is pleasing to God and conforms to His will as revealed in Scripture.
10. **Faithfulness:** Christians are called to be faithful in their relationships, commitments, and responsibilities, honoring their promises and remaining steadfast in their faith even in difficult circumstances.

These principles provide a foundation for ethical decision-making and behavior for Christians, guiding them in their interactions with God, others, and the world around them.

Sources of Christian Ethics:

1. **The Bible:** The primary source of Christian ethics is the Bible, especially the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament and the moral principles found throughout both the Old and New Testaments. If the Bible alone is the word of God written for our benefit and given to us, then we must count it a higher authority than all. Specifically, the Bible is a higher authority than these other five sources of authority that are sometimes claimed:
2. **Tradition:** The Bible is a higher authority than human tradition, or any ideas that have been held by the majority of teachers throughout the history of the church.

The study of church history can help us understand how Christians in other centuries thought about ethical topics, but the views of those earlier Christians are not a higher authority than the Bible itself.

3. **Reason and Experience:** The Bible is also a higher authority than human reason. The authority of the Bible is also higher than the authority of our experiences in life. Reflection on our experiences can help us understand situations better, but our conclusion from those experiences are simply human conclusions, and cannot match the authority of God's own words.
4. **Expected Results.** The Bible is also a higher authority than any results that we expect from events in life. The supposedly "good" results that come from lying at an interview in order to get a job, or from cheating on a test in order to pass a course, do not mean that those actions are right.
5. **Subjective Impressions:** God's Word is also a higher authority than any subjective impressions we might have of God's will for us. A young Christian man should not put a subjective impression that it is God's will for him to marry his non-Christian girlfriend above the biblical moral standards that Christians are to "marry "only in the Lord" (1 Cor. 7:39) and that we are not to be "unequally yoked with unbelievers" (2 Cor. 6:14).

Application of Christian Ethics:

1. **Personal Life:** Christian ethics guides individual behavior in areas such as honesty, integrity, relationships, and personal conduct.
2. **Social Justice:** Christian ethics calls for engagement in issues of social justice, including poverty, racism, environmental stewardship, and human rights.
3. **Professional Ethics:** Christians are called to integrate their faith with their professional lives, applying ethical principles in their work, business practices, and interactions with colleagues and clients.

Conclusion: Since God's moral standards flow from his character, which is unchanging, we can conclude that these standards will also apply to us in the age to come. God will never, throughout all eternity, tell us that it is right to serve other gods, to dishonor our fathers and mothers, to murder, to commit adultery, to steal, or to bear false witness. The abiding moral standards that God has given in his word will be valid for all eternity, and obeying them will give joy to our hearts and glory to God forever.