

## 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*

Rev. Dr. Deborah Crawley, Teacher  
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## INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS PART 2 "Living by the Word" 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### The Basis Of The Bible Ethical Standards Is The Moral Character Of God

1. **God's Character is Good.** When the Bible talks about God's moral character, it talks about God as being "good." (**Ps. 119:68; Deut. 32:4; Rev. 15:3-4**)

In these and many other passages, the Bible emphasizes that God's moral character is good. He is a God who is good, and loving, just, merciful, faithful, truthful, and holy.

2. **God Approves of Creatures Who Conform to His Moral Character.** Many other passages in scripture show that God desires and approves of moral creatures who conform to his moral character. Just as God is loving, just, merciful, faithful, truthful, holy, and so forth, so he also desires that we act in ways that are loving, just, merciful, faithful, truthful, holy, and so forth. These are the qualities that God approves of in himself, and therefore these are the moral qualities that he approves of in his creatures as well. Just as he delights to contemplate his own moral excellence, he delights to see his moral excellence reflected in the creatures he has made. (1 Pet. 1:15; Luke 6:36; 1 John 4:19; Eph. 5:1; Matt. 5:48; **Col. 3:9-10; 1 John 3:2-3**; 1 Cor. 11:1; Eph. 5:2; 1 John 2:6; 1 Pet. 2:21)

### GOD COULD NOT HAVE MADE OTHER MORAL STANDARDS

Because the moral standards that God gives us are grounded in his moral character, he could not have made other moral standards for us than the ones that he made. He could not have commanded us that it was right to hate people rather

than to love them, to lie rather than to tell the truth, to murder rather than to protect life, to be unjust rather than just, and so forth.

## **GOD'S ABIDING MORAL STANDARDS AS FOUND IN THE BIBLE APPLY TO ALL PEOPLE IN ALL CULTURES IN ALL PERIODS OF HISTORY**

If God's moral standards flow from his unchanging moral character, then it follows that these are the moral standards by which God will hold all people everywhere accountable. Several passages indicate that God will one day be the judge of the entire earth: (Gen. 18:25; Ps. 96:13)

## **GOD'S MORAL CHARACTER AND THE PROBLEM OF HOW WE CAN MOVE FROM "IS" TO "OUGHT"**

In a famous 1958 essay, British philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe argued that without a concept of a divine lawgiver, it is difficult (or perhaps impossible) to give any explanation of why something is morally right or wrong. She wrote:

*To have a law conception of ethics is to hold that what is needed for community with the virtues..... is required by divine law. Naturally it is not possible to have such a conception unless you believe in God as a law giver..... It remains impossible to infer "morally ought" from "is" sentences.... And where one does not think there is a judge or a law, the notion of a verdict may retain its psychological effect, but not its meaning..* (G.E.M. Anscombe, "Modern Moral Philosophy," Philosophy 33, no. 124 (January 1958); 1-16.)

The Bible has a clear answer. It teaches us that when people assume that nothing exists in the world except human beings and the material creation that we perceive with our senses, they have an incorrect assumption about what "is" in the universe. That is because they have excluded from consideration the most important thing that exist in the universe, the most important being that "is", namely, GOD himself. He is "the God who made the world and everything in it", and he is the "Lord of heaven and earth," and "he does not live in temples made by man" (Acts 17:24).

## **GOD'S MORAL STANDARD WILL NEVER CEASE TO BE VALID FOR US**

Since God's moral standards flow from his character, which is unchanging, we can conclude that these standards will also apply 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 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.

### **Scripture Memory Passage**

Eph 5:1-2, ***“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”*** NKJV