

# Biblical Foundations for Ministry

## Morality and Law

### 1. Transcendent morality

- a. Biblical ethics is transcendent ethics
  - 1) The standard for morality is beyond man (“transcends”)
  - 2) We do not establish morality, we seek and discover
- b. God’s holiness
  - 1) Establishes what is right and wrong
  - 2) Revealed to us in revelation
  - 3) Demonstrated to us in the life of Jesus (God Incarnate)
- c. God the Creator
  - 1) Establishes his right to devise rules
  - 2) The right of Creator over creation (Neh. 9:6; Isa. 45:9-10)
  - 3) Omnipotence gives him the power to enforce his rules
- d. Moral absolutes
  - 1) Moral truths that are universal and unchanging
  - 2) Grounded in the nature of God
    - a) As unchanging as the immutable nature of God (Mal. 3:6)
    - b) In contrast to the relativism of man
- e. The foundation of ethics and morality
  - 1) In creation (not redemption)
  - 2) Thereby relevant to every created being
    - a) Believers are given higher moral expectations
    - b) No person is free from moral responsibility to our Creator

### 2. Law codes

- a. God reveals his moral requirements
  - 1) Various codes of law in different ages
  - 2) Each with expectations that apply distinctively to that age
  - 3) Each with moral principles that apply to all ages
- b. Creation mandates
  - 1) Moral principles established at creation
  - 2) Revealed to Adam (Gen. 1-3) and reinforced to Noah (Gen. 9)
- c. The Law of Moses
  - 1) An extensive collection of rules and practices
  - 2) Revealed to Moses at Sinai
  - 3) Applicable to Jews under the Mosaic Covenant
- d. The Law of Christ
  - 1) The teachings of Christ for his followers (1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2)
  - 2) Revealed in the words of Christ and his Apostles
  - 3) Applicable to Christians under the New Covenant

