

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

