

Lesson 3. The Hardship and Hope of Ethical Living

Resources: Chambers, O. (1947) Biblical Ethics. Hants UK: Marshall, Morgan & Scott.

Kaiser Jr., Walter C. (2009) What Does the Lord Require. USA: Baker Academic

- I. The _____ regarding Ethics
 - a. Mt 5:20 as compared to Php. 3:5-6

“If the “Oughts” of the Old Testament to be difficult to obey, Our Lord’s teaching is unfathomably more difficult. Remember, the commandments were given irrespective of _____ to keep them; then when Jesus Christ came, instead of doing what we all too glibly say He did—put something easier before men, He made it a hundredfold more difficult, because He goes behind the law to the disposition. There is an idea abroad today that because as Christians we are not under law, but under grace, therefore the Ten Commandments have no meaning for us—what did Jesus say? “Think not that I am come to destroy the law ...: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17). The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is overwhelmingly and disastrously penetrating. Jesus Christ does not simply say, “Thou shalt not do certain things”; He demands that we have such _____ that we never even think of doing them, every thought and imagination of heart and mind is to be unblameable in the sight of God. Who is sufficient for these things—an unsullied purity that never lusts, a forgiving disposition that loves its enemies, a generous spirit that “taketh not account of evil” That standard can produce only one thing in an open-eyed man, absolute despair. What is the use of saying, “All we need is to know what Jesus Christ teaches and then live up to it”: where are you going to begin? If we are Christians, we have to live according to the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount; and the marvel of Jesus Christ’s salvation is that He puts us in the place where we can fulfil all the old law and a great deal more”. (Chambers, Biblical Ethics)

- II. The _____ of Ethics
 - a. Jn 17:15-19
 - b. Jesus Christ is our Hope

“Does Jesus Christ make it easier? He makes it a hundredfold more difficult! The purity God demands is impossible unless we can be re-made from within, and that is what Jesus Christ undertakes to do through the Atonement. Jesus Christ did not come to tell men they ought to be holy—there is an “ought” in every man that tells him that, and whenever he sees a holy character he may bluster and excuse himself as he likes, but he knows that is what he ought to be: He came to put us in the place where we can be holy, that is, He came to *make* us what He teaches we should be, that is the difference”. (Chambers, Biblical Ethics)

- III. Our Help Regarding Ethics
 - a. The _____ is our Help
 - b. Since all of our ethical decisions flow out of scripture, we must look extensively at scripture for help with ethical decisions.
 - c. Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path.
 - d. 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
 - e. According to these verses, the Bible serves as (1) a _____, (2) a _____, (3) as a _____, (4) as a _____. (Walter C. Kaiser Jr., What Does the Lord Require)

- IV. An Ethical outline from Ps 15 (Walter C. Kaiser Jr., What Does the Lord Require)
 - a. What does the Lord Require for those that will dwell in his tabernacle?
 - i. What he strives to do.
 - 1. He walks _____ -Nothing in his life someone could point a finger at.

2. He worketh _____ -Always takes the high road and does right
3. He speaketh the _____ in his heart-Always truthful
4. In whose eyes an evil person is contemned-fights against sin
5. Swareth to his own hurt, and changeth not-Keeps his _____
6. He _____ them that fear the Lord
7. Note the following verse Psalm 12:8 The wicked walk on every side, When the vilest men are exalted. Things in David's day are no different than in our day.

ii. What he fights against.

1. Backbiteth not with his tongue-No _____ or slander
2. Nor doeth evil to his neighbor-Treats neighbor with love
3. Nor taketh up a reproach-responding with strong emotions toward someone who did something to someone else as though it were done to you
4. He putteth not his money to usury-Never going to _____ of people
5. Nor taketh reward against the innocent-He will never be bought or bribed.

V. Ethical Dilemma Discussion (Time Permitting)