

TH604: Christian Ethics: OA

Spring 2023

Choosing the Good, Chapter 3

February 8, 2023

Sylvia D. Harris

Questions

1. Based on the reading, how would you define Christian ethics?
2. What are the three components of the Christian Worldview?
3. Who or what is the foundation of Christian ethics?
4. True or False? The essence of sin is humanity seeking autonomy.
5. What is the relation between God's power and Christian ethics?

Answers

1. It is defined as a Christian worldview rooted in Christian doctrine.
2. They are the narrative, rational, and ritual components.
3. The Triune God is the ground or foundation of Christian ethics.
4. This is partially true. Adam and Eve were also grasping for spiritual autonomy.
5. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to respond to the Triune God's loving rescue and pattern their lives after them.

Terms

- **Eschaton**- Return of Christ which brings absolute justice and the formation of the New Creation
- **Protoevangelium** - Genesis 3:15 or first reference to Jesus Christ.
- **Worldview**- The way we put our world together.

Summary

God's Glory is tied up in his mercy and grace, his love for the created ones and essentially the rescue mission that he's been on since the opening chapters of Genesis. The Triune God is at the center of Christian ethics, and norms, works, actions, and patterning is in response and flow from the nature and actions of God. The incarnation of Jesus Christ is the most visible expression of God in human history, and He therefore plays a vital role in Christian ethics. Self-deception and failure of the human will present constant threats to the moral life, and beliefs are empowered by the Holy Spirit to follow the Triune God. Ultimately Christian ethics is not to be imposed on the world but are instead for God's people who are called to steward the earth and demonstrate the supremacy of Christ in the lives of individuals but also to subdue and revamp systems, laws, and social patterns.