

# **TH604: Christian Ethics: OA**

**Spring 2023**

## **Choosing the Good, Chapter 7**

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### **Questions**

1. What is Jack Sanders' view on the use of the Bible in ethical decisions?
2. How does the Bible function as authority?
3. What can be said about moral choices of the Old Testament?
4. When can we use Old Testament principles?
5. What's one way we can separate moral virtue from vice found in Scripture?

### **Answers**

1. He sees no value in the Bible, since he asserts there is no pure Christian morality.
2. In addition to being the inspired Word of God, believers must take a contextual approach to apply it to ethical decision making.
3. Many were not condoned by God, i.e., slavery, rape, murder, polygamy. Recorded is not the same as approved.
4. When those principles are affirmed in the New Testament.
5. By reflecting upon and analyzing the biblical story in light of other laws, principles, and narratives.

### **Terms**

- **Paradigms** - Basic understandings of life and theology which contain directives for ethics.
- **Lex talionis** - an eye for an eye, tooth for tooth or law of retaliation.
- **Principles** - Biblical imperatives or indicatives which possess wide application.

### **Summary**

Given that Holy Scripture is the whole counsel of God, moral choices and ethics must be based upon the bible. This week we look at the ways in which to read the Bible to understand context, connection between Old Testament and New Testament diving into historical and contextual differences in order to correctly divide the word of God. For example, we look at both Casuistic and Apodictic laws, principles, paradigms, and narratives to do so.