

# **ETHICS**

<i>Modern Humanism</i>	<i>Biblical Christianity</i>
<b><i>Foundations</i></b>	
<p>Humanistic ethics is derived from, by, and for man. It is determined by both individual and collective human experience, reason and intelligence. Hence, <i>humanistic ethics</i>...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. is based on naturalism, materialism, rationalism, etc.</li> <li>2. is inherently contradictory as there is no single uniform standard in humanism.</li> <li>3. can not and does not acknowledge a source of universal "ought" for ethics.</li> <li>4. with no ultimate basis, there is no foundation for determining right from wrong; hence, sin is not realized, and there is no ultimate basis for law.</li> </ol>	<p>Christian ethics is derived from the character of God. It is apart from, but imposed upon man, both individually and collectively. Hence, <i>Christian ethics</i>...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. is realized through natural and divine revelation.</li> <li>2. is consistently harmonious as there is but a single uniform Divine standard.</li> <li>3. can and does acknowledge a source of universal "ought" for ethics.</li> <li>4. with an ultimate basis, there is a solid foundation for determining right from wrong, hence sin is realized, and there is an ultimate basis for law.</li> </ol>
<b><i>Requirements</i></b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ethics requires tolerance of others' ethical standards.</li> <li>2. Because ethics is human, it has no standard by which it can require love, truth, justice, etc.</li> <li>3. Ethics requires but a partial acceptance of Divine authority, choosing what to accept and what to reject as basis for human conduct.</li> <li>4. Ethics cannot require repentance because it does not believe in personal sin and has no single standard by which all men are required to conform.</li> <li>5. Ethics cannot require forgiveness because each determines his own will.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ethics requires intolerance of all but Divine ethical standards.</li> <li>2. Because ethics is Divine, it has a standard by which it requires love, truth, justice, etc.</li> <li>3. Ethics requires full acceptance of Divine authority as basis for all human conduct, without personal choice.</li> <li>4. Ethics requires repentance because it recognizes all men as sinners and has a single standard by which all men are required to conform.</li> <li>5. Ethics requires forgiveness because God through Christ forgives men.</li> </ol>

<b><i>Characteristics</i></b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ethics is relative, situational, autonomous, subjective, and utilitarian.</li> <li>2. Ethics emphasizes rights.</li> <li>3. Ethics seeks freedom from Divine authority.</li> <li>4. Ethics expects man to decide for himself what is good and what is bad.</li> <li>5. Ethics expects man to act according to his or society' standard of righteousness.</li> <li>6. Ethics constitutes a personal standard by which it absolves tyrants and criminals of all wrong doing.</li> <li>7. Ethics has no essential purpose to human life, since ethics, like evolution, is constantly changing.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ethics is absolute, constant, fixed by God, objective, and authoritarian.</li> <li>2. Ethics emphasizes responsibilities.</li> <li>3. Ethics finds freedom in Divine authority.</li> <li>4. Ethics expects man to learn from God what is good and what is bad.</li> <li>5. Ethics expects man to act according to God's standard of righteousness.</li> <li>6. Ethics constitutes a universal standard of "oughtness" by which all men are judged by fellow men and by God.</li> <li>7. Ethics has an essential purpose to life, since ethics is grounded in the unchanging character of God.</li> </ol>
<b><i>Results:</i></b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ethics produces constant tensions between individuals and their communities.</li> <li>2. Ethics produces disagreements about aim of morality, nature of moral education, and nature of justice.</li> <li>3. Ethics results in social permissiveness.</li> <li>4. Ethics fails as a foundation for building a lasting society.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ethics produces harmony between individuals and their communities.</li> <li>2. Ethics produces agreement regarding the aim of morality, nature of moral education, and nature of justice.</li> <li>3. Ethics results in social conformity.</li> <li>4. Ethics succeeds as a foundation for building an abiding society.</li> </ol>
<b>Moral Confusion - Disorder - Death</b>	<b>Moral Stability - Order - Life</b>

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