

Six ethics of life

Before you pray - Believe
Before you speak - Listen
Before you spend - Earn
Before you write - Think
Before you quit - Try &
Before you die - Live !!

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Henry Paulson



“In just about every area of society, there’s nothing more important than ethics.”

The Fall of man & the rise of ethics

Genesis 3:5

“God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, **knowing good and evil.**”

Ethics is only meaningful in the context of the knowledge of good and evil.

Christian Ethics

Acquisition of values

Affirmation of values

Application of values

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

What are “good works?”



Are there foundational issues that will help us make sound ethical decisions?

Do we just follow the rules?

Is love the only absolute?

Do the ends justify the means?

Are principles applied situationally?



Four views of good works and the role of ethics in life.

1	2	3	4
Doing good is the only thing that counts	Doing good is essential to true Faith	Doing good is a necessary indicator of Faith	Doing good should follow true Faith
Judaism	Roman Catholicism	Reformed Protestantism	Radical Grace

What would Paul have said about these views?
For the answer read Romans!

Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.

<p>Tutor (Mirror)</p>  <p>The Law</p>	<p>Surrogate (Substitute)</p>  <p>Jesus</p>	<p>Paraclete (Comforter)</p>  <p>The Spirit</p>
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Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.

<p>Holiness (Guide)</p>  <p>The Law</p>	<p>Power (Enabler)</p>  <p>The Spirit</p>
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At the core of ethical issues are calls to:
Stewardship

Before sin entered the world

Genesis 1:26,28; 2:15

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them **rule** over . . . all the earth. . . and **fill** the earth, and **subdue** it. . . I have given you every plant for food.””

We are **spiritual** beings, (relating to and representing God) as well as **material** beings (a part of creation).

We are **stewards** of creation, culture, & people.

A call to Stewardship

A steward is not the owner but must be trusted to respect **the intended purposes** of the owner - in this case - to include Adam as an extension of God's providence.



A call to Stewardship

A Steward lives a purpose Driven life:

- We are not spectators
- We are ambassadors
- We have a calling
- We are active extensions of God's providence.



A call to Stewardship

A Steward has a Dominion mandate:

Comprehend - modern science

Cultivate - enhance *Gen.2:15*

Conserve - protect

Control - manage

Consume - use



A call to Stewardship

Ethical values involve stewardship of:

Environment
Government
Social welfare
Family

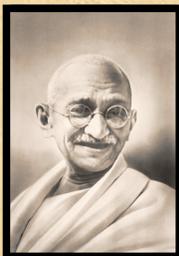


Ethical Implications

*The essence of ethics is
stewardship.*

1. *The sphere of ethics is broad.*
2. *Dominion does not mean demolition.*
3. *Ethics call for active, creative, participation with God.*

Mohandas K. Gandhi



“The Roots of Violence:
Wealth without work,
Pleasure without conscience,
Knowledge without character,
Commerce without morality,
Science without humanity,
Worship without sacrifice,
Politics without principles.”

**At the core of ethical
issues are:**

Stewardship

Worship

Romans 1

“²¹ For even though they knew God, they **did not honor Him as God, or give thanks**; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. . . . ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

A call to Worship

A call to Stewardship

Humans are
designed to
worship!



A call to Worship

Humans are creatures of faith
in something.

- God
- Nature
- Science
- People
- Etc.



A call to Worship

Too many Americans
worship at work,
work and play,
and play at
worship.



A call to Worship

Ethical Implications

**All ethics are a form of
worship.**

- 1. Faith presuppositions drive and determine ethics.**
- 2. We are accountable for suppressed knowledge.**
- 3. Our ethics reveal the true object of our worship.**

**At the core of ethical
issues are calls to:**

Stewardship
Worship

Constraint



Exodus 20 "you shall not"

A call for Constraint

A call to Worship

A call to Stewardship

How do we relate to authority?

Spiritual

Responding to authority



Social

Responsibility with authority

A call for Constraint

The East entrance to The Supreme Court Building depicts Moses as the supreme law giver.



On the doors (both inner and outer) of the Supreme Court and above the Bench of the Chief Justice, are displays of the Ten Commandments!



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Thou shalt not have other gods before me | 6. Thou shalt not kill |
| 2. Thou shalt make no graven images | 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery |
| 3. Thou shalt not take God's name in vain | 8. Thou shalt not steal |
| 4. Keep the Sabbath day holy | 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness |
| 5. Honor thy father and mother | 10. Thou shalt not covet |

A call for Constraint

How do we relate to and use authority?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Exclusivity | 6. Physical life |
| 2. Idolatry | 7. Sexuality |
| 3. Reverence | 8. Property |
| 4. Memorial | 9. Truth |
| 5. Family | 10. Contentment |

A call for Constraint

“We have been led to believe that personal fulfillment is only possible if we submit to no one but self *not realizing that our deepest fulfillment is in submitting to something outside of and greater than self.*”



A call for Constraint

Ethical Implications

Ethics demand constraint.

- 1. Ethics challenge our natural impulses.**
- 2. Ethics are based on absolutes in a graded hierarchy.**
- 3. Ethics reveal the truth about our moral condition.**

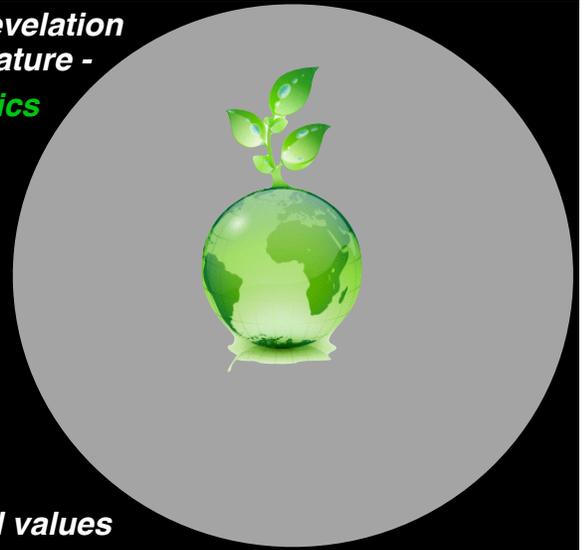
At the core of ethical issues are calls to:

Stewardship
Worship
Constraint

and more.

General revelation through nature -

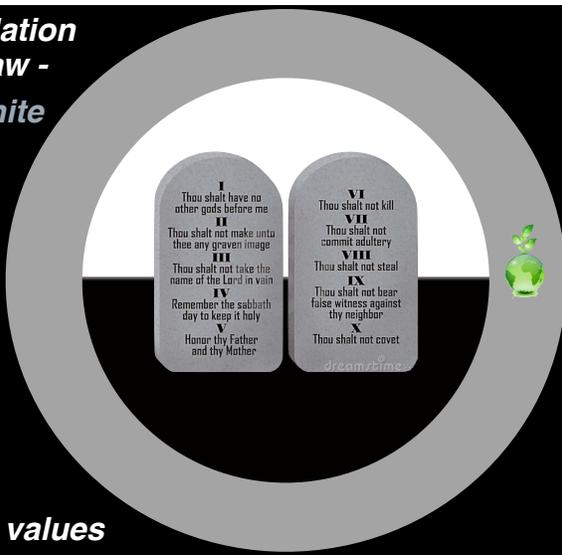
Vague ethics



Spheres of ethical values

Clear revelation through Law -

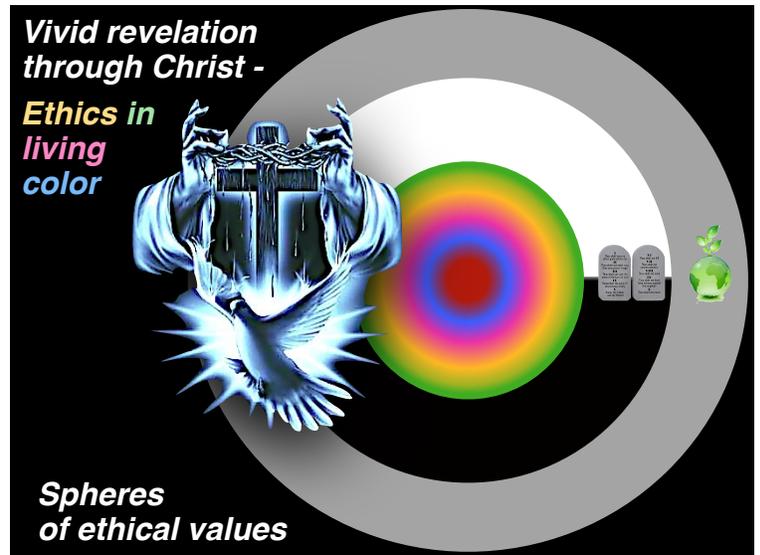
Black & white ethics



Spheres of ethical values

Vivid revelation through Christ -

Ethics in living color



Spheres of ethical values