

## Biblical Ethics

### ethics, basis of

The ultimate foundation of ethics is the character and will of God, which is made known through Jesus Christ and in Scripture.

The foundation of ethics is the revealed righteousness of God  
Ro 1:18-20; Ps 97:6; Ro 2:14-15

The basis of ethics revealed in Scripture  
All Scripture 2Ti 3:16-17

The word of God Lk 11:28; Jas 1:22; Ps 103:20; 119:17; Jn 17:6; Rev 3:8

The commandments of God Dt 11:26-28; Jdg 2:17; 2Ch 34:29-31

The will of God Mk 3:35; Ps 143:10; Col 4:12

The commandments of Jesus Christ Jn 15:10; Jn 13:34; 14:15; 15:12-17; 1Co 14:37

The example of Jesus Christ Jn 13:15; Ro 15:2-3,7; 2Co 8:9; Eph 5:1-2,25; Php 2:5; Col 3:13; 1Pe 2:21

The ethical teaching of Jesus Christ  
*In the Sermon on the Mount:* Mt 5:22,28,32,34,39,44; 7:29  
Jn 1:9; 3:18-19; 5:19; 12:48-49; 13:34; 14:6; 15:22; 17:6

Areas of life in which ethical conduct is expected of believers  
In sexual behaviour Ro 1:26-27; Lev 18:22-23; 1Co 5:1

In government Ro 13:1; Mt 22:21 pp Mk 12:17 pp Lk 20:25; Jn 19:11; Ro 13:2-5; 1Pe 2:13-14

In rewarding individuals 1Co 9:7

In punishing individuals Gal 6:7

I have looked up and read all scripture references: \_\_\_\_\_

## Personal Ethics

Scripture teaches that individuals have a responsibility before God for their conduct.

Ethical principles in relationships generally

Mt 7:12; 22:39 pp Mk 12:31; Ex 20:13-17 pp Dt 5:17-21; Lev 19:18; Lk 6:31; Ro 12:9-10; Gal 6:10; 1Ti 5:10; 1Pe 3:8

The importance of thoughts and motives

Mt 6:1-4; Ex 21:13-14; Mt 5:22,28; Php 4:8; Jas 1:15

Personal ethics in relation to God

Idolatry prohibited Ex 20:4 pp Dt 5:8; Lev 26:1; Jos 24:14; Ac 14:15; 1Jn 5:21; Rev 22:9

God's name to be honoured Ex 20:7 pp Dt 5:11; Lev 19:12; Dt 28:58; Mt 5:34; 6:9 pp Lk 11:2; Jas 5:12

Sabbath observance Ex 20:8 pp Dt 5:12; Ex 31:15; 34:21; Lev 26:2; Ne 10:31; Isa 56:2

Obedience to God's commands Ac 5:29, Dt 26:16; Mt 7:21

Personal ethics and human relationships

Wives and husbands Eph 5:22,25; Ge 2:24; Dt 24:5; Mt 19:6 pp Mk 10:9; 1Co 7:10-11; Col 3:18-19; 1Pe 3:1,7

Children and parents Eph 6:1-4; Ex 20:12; 21:15; Lev 20:9; Dt 6:7; Pr 19:18; 22:6; 23:22; Col 3:20-21; 1Ti 3:4; 5:4

The extended family 1Ti 5:8; Lev 25:10,25,49; Nu 36:8; Dt 25:5; 1Sa 20:29

Slaves and masters Col 3:22; 4:1; Ex 21:2; Eph 6:5,9; 1Ti 6:1; Tit 2:9; 1Pe 2:18

Employers and employees Lev 19:13, Dt 24:14-15; Job 31:13-14; Jer 22:13; Mal 3:5; Jas 5:4

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## Social Ethics

Scripture sees ethics as embracing the life of society as a whole, and not simply individual relationships.

The benefits of social ethics

Pr 14:34; 2Sa 23:3-4; Ps 2:10-12; Pr 11:11; 16:12; 25:5; 28:2; 29:4; Isa 54:14

Believers are to behave ethically in society

Praying for rulers 1Ti 2:1-2; Ezr 6:10; Ps 20:9; 72:1

Submitting to the authorities Ro 13:1; Tit 3:1; 1Pe 2:13-14; Ex 22:28; Dt 17:12; 1Sa 24:6; 1Ki 21:10; Pr 24:21; Ecc 8:2; Ac 23:5; Ro 13:5; 1Pe 2:17

Paying taxes Mt 22:21 pp Mk 12:17 pp Lk 20:25; Lev 27:30; Dt 14:28; Ne 10:32; Mt 17:27; Ro 13:6-7

Specific areas of social concern

Promoting justice Dt 16:19-20; Mic 6:8; Ex 23:8; Lev 19:15; Dt 27:19; Pr 21:3; Isa 1:17; 10:1; 56:1; 1Ti 5:21

Helping the poor Dt 15:7-9; 25:35,39; Dt 24:12; Pr 19:17; Mt 19:21 pp Mk 10:21 pp Lk 18:22; Lk 11:41; 12:33; Ro 12:13; Gal 2:10; Jas 2:3-4

Feeding the hungry Dt 26:12; Ex 23:11; Lev 19:9-10; 23:22; Isa 58:10; Mt 15:32 pp Mk 8:2-3; Lk 3:11; Ro 12:20; Pr 25:21

Protecting the vulnerable Ps 82:3-4; Jas 1:27; Ex 22:22; 23:9; Lev 25:25; Dt 24:17; Ps 41:1; Pr 23:10; Isa 58:7; Jer 22:3,16; Ac 20:35

Peacemaking Mt 5:9; Pr 12:20; Ro 12:18; 14:19; Heb 12:14; Jas 3:17

Showing concern for the environment Ge 2:15; Ge 1:26-28; Lev 25:2-5; Ne 10:31; Ps 115:16

I have looked up and read all scripture references: \_\_\_\_\_

## Grace and Ethics

ethics, and grace

Ethical conduct on the part of believers rests upon both the grace of God and human obedience.

People are unable to fulfil the law of God without divine grace

Mt 15:19 pp Mk 7:21-22 Ro 7:14-15; Ge 6:5; 1Ki 8:46; Ps 51:5; 64:6; Isa 53:6; Ro 1:21; 3:23; Gal 3:22; 1Jn 1:8

Ethical conduct also depends on human obedience

Dt 26:16; Php 2:12; Dt 4:40; 6:17; Jos 1:8; 22:5; 1Ki 2:3; 11:38; 2Ki 17:13; Jer 7:23; Mt 5:48; 7:21; 19:17; Ro 6:19; 2Co 7:1; 1Ti 6:11; 2Pe 1:5-7; 3:14; 1Jn 3:3

God assists believers' ethical endeavours (Grace)

He enlightens their minds Ps 119:130; Dt 4:1; Ps 119:144; Pr 6:23; Mic 6:8; Ro 7:7; 1Co 2:12-14

He gives them his Spirit Gal 5:16; Eze 36:27; Jn 14:15-17; Ro 8:3-5,9,13; Gal 5:22-23; 2Th 2:13; 1Pe 1:2

He gives them spiritual resources 2Pe 1:3; 1Ki 8:58; Ps 19:13; Jn 15:5; 1Co 10:13; Eph 6:11,13; Php 2:13; 2Ti 1:7; Heb 2:18; Jas 4:6

God will bring believers to ethical perfection

He will deliver them from the power of sin Ro 7:24-25; 1Co 1:8; Eph 4:24; Col 3:10; Php 1:6; 1Th 3:13; Jude 24

He will make them like Jesus Christ 1Jn 3:2; Ro 8:29; 2Co 3:18

He is preparing them for a righteous existence 2Pe 3:13; Mt 13:41-43; Rev 21:8,27; 22:15

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## Faithful



**FAITHFUL**—as a designation of Christians, means full of faith, trustful, and not simply trustworthy (Acts 10:45; 16:1; 2 Cor. 6:15; Col. 1:2; 1 Tim. 4:3, 12; 5:16; 6:2; Titus 1:6; Eph. 1:1; 1 Cor. 4:17, etc.).

It is used also of God's word or covenant as true and to be trusted (Ps. 119:86, 138; Isa. 25:1; 1 Tim. 1:15; Rev. 21:5; 22:6, etc.).

### The Faithfulness of God

1. Is part of his character. Isa 49:7; 1 Co 1:9; 1 Th 5:24.
2. Declared to be
  - a. Great. La 3:23.
  - b. Established. Ps 89:2.
  - c. Incomparable. Ps 89:8.

- d. Unfailing. Ps 89:33; 2 Ti 2:13.
- e. Infinite. Ps 36:5.
- f. Everlasting. Ps 119:90; 146:6.
- 3. Should be pleaded in prayer. Ps 143:1.
- 4. Should be proclaimed. Ps 40:10; 89:1.
- 5. Manifested
  - a. In his counsels. Isa 25:1.
  - b. In afflicting his saints. Ps 119:75.
  - c. In fulfilling his promises. 1 Ki 8:20; Ps 132:11; Mic 7:20; Heb 10:23.
  - d. In keeping his covenant. De 7:9; Ps 111:5.
  - e. In executing his judgments. Jer 23:20; 51:29.
  - f. In forgiving sins. 1 Jo 1:9.
  - g. To his saints. Ps 89:24; 2 Th 3:3.
  - h. Saints encouraged to depend on. 1 Pe 4:19.
  - i. Should be magnified. Ps 89:5; 92:2.

## **Faithfulness to God**

Faithfulness is seen as steadfast commitment to God  
 In unwavering devotion Mic 4:5 See *also* Jos 24:14-15; Lk 9:62; Rev 2:10

In obedience Dt 11:13; Eze 18:9

In service 1Sa 12:24; 2Ch 19:9; 34:10-12 pp 2Ki 22:4-7; Eze 44:15; 48:11; 1Ti 1:12

In giving 2Ch 31:12 *Faithfulness to God is expressed in giving to him for the benefit of others*; 2Co 8:1-5

In prayer Ro 12:12; 1Th 5:17

In patient endurance 2Ti 2:11-13; Heb 10:36; Rev 13:10; 14:12

In fulfilling vows Nu 30:2; Dt 23:21-23; Ps 22:25; 61:8; Ecc 5:4; Jnh 2:9

Faithfulness is especially important in leaders

1Co 4:1-2; 3Jn 3 See *also* Ex 18:21; 1Ti 4:13-16; 6:20; 2Ti 1:13-14; 2:2,15; 4:1-2

## Idleness

Laziness or unproductiveness. As work is hallowed by God's working, idleness is regarded as a sin against oneself and society.

Idleness reproached

In terms of daily labour 1Th 5:14 *Paul to the Christians at Thessalonica*. See also Pr 19:24; 10:4; 22:13; 26:13-16; 2Th 3:6-15; 1Ti 5:13; Tit 1:12

In matters of faith Heb 6:11-12 *To Christians who were tempted to give up*.

Idleness discouraged by examples of industriousness

Pr 6:6-8 See also Pr 31:27 *the good wife*; Ecc 11:6; 2Th 3:7-9 *Paul referring to his practice of not depending on others for his living*

The results of idleness

Pr 6:9-11 See also Pr 10:26; 12:24; 13:4; 15:19; 19:15; 20:4; Ecc 10:18