

Practical

CHRISTIAN

ETHICS

1. Basic Principle of Christian Ethics
2. Capital Punishment
3. Gender & Love
4. Justice of War
5. Christian Politics: Liberalism & Conservatism

I. Basic Principle of Christian Ethics

Ethical Dilemma

Are these four passages paradoxical? How?

Deuteronomy 22:22	2 Samuel 11
<p>“If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die- the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel.”</p>	<p>²One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” ⁴Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.” (Ref. Lev.15:19)</p>
	1 Cor. 5:10-11
	<p>Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.</p>

Objective Morality (Meta-Ethics)

Absolutism: morality exists independently of us and is unconstrained.

Kant: you should not lie no matter what!!! A moral principle should not be overridden by other moral principles, even if those facts are part of a competing moral theory.

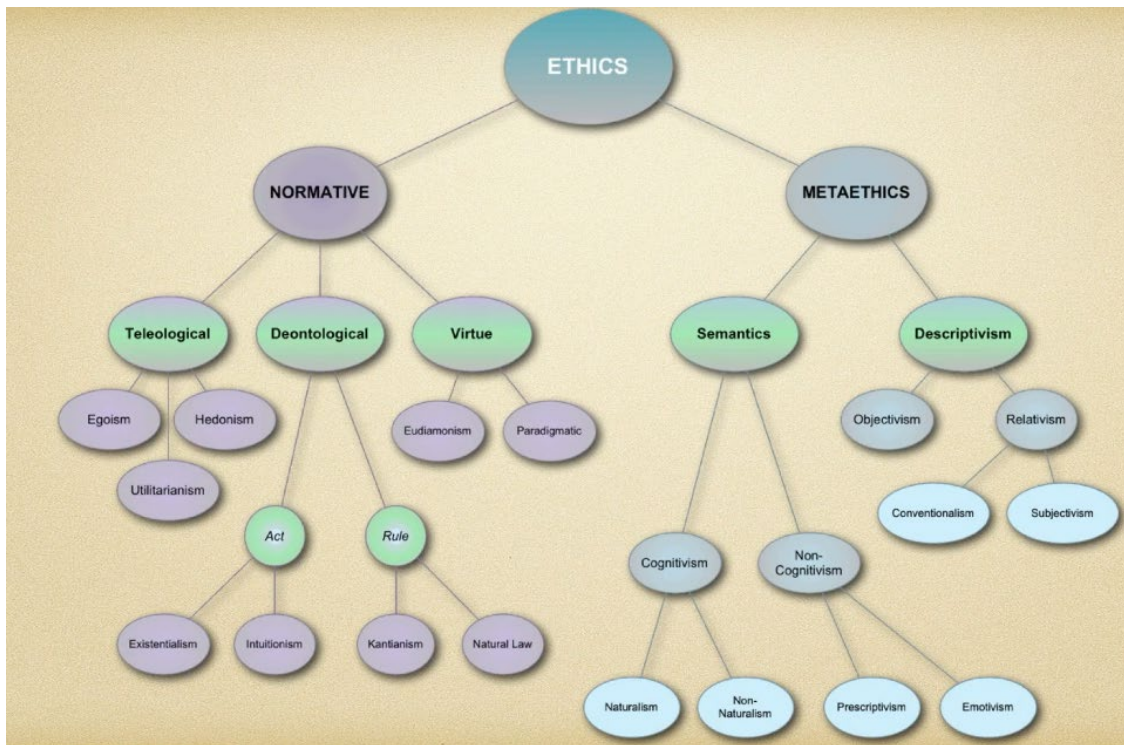
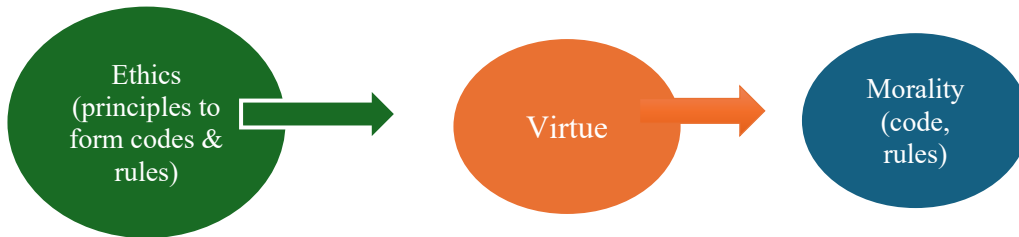
Objectivism – morality exists independently of us but may be limited by some natural constraints.

One moral obligation might take precedence over another in a particular circumstance.

Ethics 101

Ethics	Morality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Philosophical investigation of goodness (moral system) ○ Rules to form codes and rules. ○ Philosophical analysis of morality and all of the various aspects. 	Rules & codes to judge actions or behaviors.
Virtue determines the views of Ethics and Morality.	

Moral agency: does God suffer? Then how can he understand human suffering?



Where do Christian Ethics belong to?
 1. Normative Ethics: the systematic justification of moral intuitions
 2. Meta-Ethics :

epistemological and metaphysical analysis of moral systems.

Things to Ponder

Hannah Arendt, 'Eichmann in Jerusalem.'

“Evil does not come from malevolence or a delight in doing wrong. Instead, the reason people act in such ways is that they fall victim to failures of thinking and judgment.”

How did ordinary people become actors in totalitarian systems, which was considered by some an apologia and for the phrase “the banality of evil?”

II. Capital Punishment (CP)

Opponents	Advocates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cain (Gen.4) • Moses (Exod.2) • David (2 Sam.11-12) • The woman caught in adultery (Jn.8:1-11) <p>God did not kill them.</p>	<p>God/Jesus' messages are pardon and repentance regardless of CP.</p>
<p>- How does the image of God connect with the blood of men? - Shedding blood symbolizes the significance of God's forgiveness today (Heb 9:10-22).</p>	<p>Ge.9:6: "Whoever sheds the blood of men, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."</p>
<p>- Take the text prescriptively or predictively? - The Mosaic law is not necessarily mandatory but permissible. "eye of an eye" and "life for life" are general principles, not an exact legal requirement.</p>	<p>Ex. 21: 23-24 ²³ But if <i>any</i> harm follows, then you shall give life for life, ²⁴ eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵ burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. Deu. 22:22 "If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die—the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel.</p>
<p>It is hardly evidence that God expects civil authority everywhere to employ capital punishment.</p>	<p>Acts 25:11 ¹¹ For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying;</p>
<p>-Government should bring deserved punishment. -"Swords" should not be a synonym for execution. Rather, it is the state's ultimate power of coercion available to ensure that all punishment.</p>	<p>Romans 13:1-5 "Let every should be subject to the governing authorities....if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."</p>
<p>- The law of love demonstrated most fully in the life and death of Jesus. So, we should seek the love - We are responsible for producing such criminals, so we ought to search for remedies other than killing.</p>	<p>Retribution & Deterrence and protection of society. (Lev. 24:17-21). "Anyone who takes the life of a human being is to be put death." v17</p>

Body & Soul (p. 3 'I Spiritual Adaptation,' Paul's Ethical Adaptation in Cor.I II)

Definition of Killing – Soul or Body?

Capital Punishment

And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. -

Romans 8:10-11

Things to Ponder

- When did human life start?
- How do the Old and New Testaments interrelate and speak authoritatively to ethical issues in society today?
- John Murray – “CP emphasizes the sanctity of human life rather than showing disregard for human life.”
- Howard Yoder – in Noah’s day, the killing of a murderer was not a city, nonreligious matter as in societies that practice the death penalty. -life for life principle. It was a sacrificial act, developed in the course of humanity and permitted by God.

III. Gender & Love (GL)

*** Scripture describes homosexual acts, not homosexual orientation (constitutional H/inversion)

Lev.18:22	You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.	Canaanite fertility worship, involving sacral prostitution and orgies, constituted a direct threat to God’s exclusive claim. A common Middle East practice during this period was to submit captured male foes to anal rape.
Lev. 20:13	If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood <i>shall be</i> upon them.	
Deu.23:17	“There shall be no <i>ritual</i> harlot of the daughters of Israel or a perverted one of the sons of Israel.	
1K.14:24; 15:12; 22:46	And there were also perverted persons in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel.	

Romans 1:26-27

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

- 1) Paul’s diatribe is merely marketing of the immoral world by Hellenistic moralists, such as Plato. It has nothing to do with Christianity and barely tells us about the behavior of real people in Paul’s day.
- 2) It is linked between idolatry and perverse sexuality and is related to corrupt religious roots (v23, 25).
 - (a) Paul is surely not saying anything of the highly moral homosexual monogamy of faithful Christians.

1 Corinthians 11:14

¹⁴ Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

- 3) “Nature.” – does this word also say that long hair is degrading for a man (1 Cor 11:14)?
 - (a) This word may be nothing more than convention, fashion, or common use.
 - (b) Paul doesn’t talk about natural law or human nature, male, and female.
 - (c) **Boswell** – they are in fact heterosexuals who defy their own heterosexuality. – Generic condemnation of homosexuality

Things to Ponder

1. Can the great premise of God’s creation be altered or broken?

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female, And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it....

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very good.**” Genesis 1:27, 31

2. How can humans be defined?

By who they are? or what they do?



LIFE

IV. Justice of War

Things to Ponder

War is moral failure?

Can Christians fight without sinning or falling into morally wrong behaviors?

Activism	<p>- Rom. 13:1-7“...the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”</p> <p>- 1 Peter 2:13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and <i>for the praise of those who do good.</i></p>
Just war or Selectivism	<p>- Morally defensible cause</p> <p>- Conditions necessary for declaring war (jus ad bellum) and the guidelines to be followed once a war is underway (jus in bello).</p> <p>- Preventive war, crusade: Idi Amin’s reign of terror in Uganda.</p> <p>(1) In the OT, God’s people fought in just wars. God permitted them (Josh 8:1-29; 11:1-23; 1 Sam. 23:1-5). Abraham rescued his nephew, Lot (Gen.14). –</p> <p>However, they were the special theocratic people of God -pacifists</p> <p>(2) The intuitive sense of justice within most people - a terrorist’s killing innocent children.</p> <p>(3) A moral basis for foreign policy</p> <p>Christ should act as a salt and light in the national life of their society</p>
Pacifism	<p>- Widespread killing of civilians</p> <p>- An individual soldier can be involved in an evil act regardless of the principles of just war.</p> <p>- Christ lived nonviolently (Matt. 5:38-48; Luke 6:27-36).</p> <p>- Human life is sacred and a gift of God, no one has the right to end another’s life.</p> <p>- <i>In the OT, the people of Israel were the special theocratic people of God.</i></p> <p>- <i>Deontological views and Consequentialists</i></p>

Are these two passages contradictory?

“You shall not kill.” (Exodus 20:13)

“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God he made them” (Gen. 9:6)

Justice of War

Murder



Duty



⁵One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in **their own mind**.

- Romans 14:5

¹⁴I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that **nothing is unclean in itself**. But if anyone **regards something** as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.

- Romans 14:14

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, **my conscience confirms** it through the Holy Spirit

- Romans 9:1

⁹Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if someone with a **weak conscience** sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols?

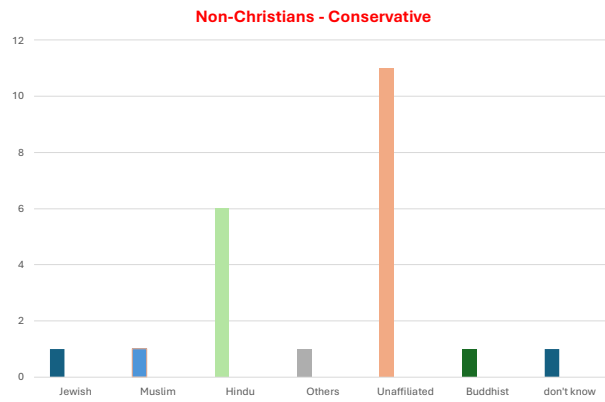
- 1 Cor. 8:9-10

V. Christian Liberalism & Conservatism

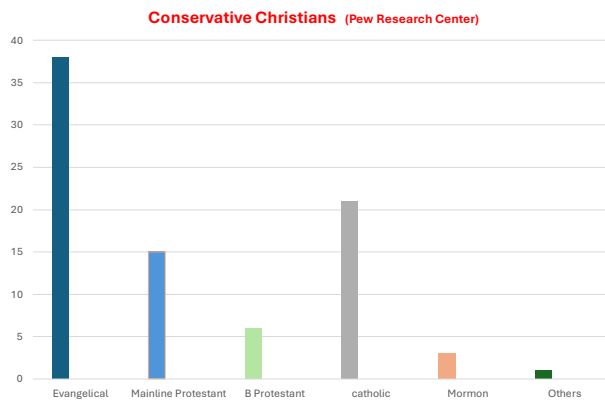
	Liberalism	Conservatism
Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Religious movement, late 15c -16c in Northern Europe - Martin Luther - Enlightenment extended these religious ideas into political and cultural spheres. - French Revolution (1787 -1799) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A reaction to the politics of the Enlightenment. - In King Louis XVI's death (beheading, 1792) and thousands of citizens were persecuted in the name of progress and the French Revolution. - After the American Revolution of 1775 -1783, when American colonists successfully defied British imperial rule), it became difficult for politicians and philosophers to argue against the principles of the Enlightenment without appearing regressive and intolerant. - Reaction to French Revolution (1787-1799)
Principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each individual has free will and is the best judge of his/her own interests. ** John Locke (1632-1704): why and how individuals should defer to those who governed them. - father of liberalism -Human beings were uniquely endowed with the power of logic, calculation and deduction. And it was logical, they argued, that human beings should create by themselves and for themselves, a political system based upon reason. – <i>mechanistic theory</i>. The state is the Divine creation → Human reason. Rationalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - change to conserve as opposed to Reactionary politics (refuse to change). -A certain type of change is the only way to conserve that which is worth conserving. As Edmund Burke (1729–97) - ‘A state without the means of change...is without the means of its conservation.’ -It is NOT synonymous with the ideas of the Conservative party. Skepticism
Human Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human nature has a huge capacity to bring about progress and an unending ability to forget human happiness. - Individuals are guided principally by reason or rationalism. - Self-aware individual & egotistical individualism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restraining human capacity for endless achievement by stressing human frailty and fallibility. – ‘philosophy of human imperfection.’ - Conservatives thus deny any possibility of a perfect, utopian society, comprising flawless and rational individuals. - human nature is pretty much fixed and constant, and the job of politicians is to accommodate, not alter, this reality.
State	Individualism and capitalism work best when accompanied by a certain kind of state.	State, order, intervention

	<p>Within the state of nature, there would have been clashes of interests between individuals pursuing their own, egocentric agendas.</p> <p>The state is like a referee in a sports game.</p>	
Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'natural society', 'natural law' and 'natural right' precede society. - a collection of atomistic individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stability, securing and orderly (as opposed to revolutionary) change. - a collection of localized communities. - guided by Judaeo-Christian morality (OT)
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private property - Capitalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tradition & continuity - Property is often something inherited by one generation from another. - capitalism tends to nurture economic inequalities between the poor and rich.
Figures	<p>John Stuart Mill- "On Liberty (1859)</p> <p>Adam Smith</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Edmund Burket rejected the idea that human nature was guided mainly by reason and dismissed any notion that mankind could plan the near-perfect society. -Thomas Hobbes: without the restraints of formal authority, relations between human beings would be marked by 'envy, hatred and war', leading to a life that was 'nasty, brutish and short'.
20 Century	<p>Neo-Liberalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - government and state intervention - The collapse of Soviet communism in 1989, - The emergence of new capitalist states in Eastern Europe strengthened the idea (put forward by US academic Francis Fukuyama) that market economics and liberal democracy represented 'the end of history', the goals to which all states eventually aspire. - 11 September 2001 - UK on 7 June 2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Right Conservatism <p>A combination of social conservatism and qualified support for economic liberalism. In other words, while conservatives stressed order, authority and traditional communities, their support for private property and capitalism was tempered by a fear that market forces could generate gross inequalities that would outrage the majority of (working-class) voters. As a result, traditional conservatives in Europe and the UK supported interventionist economic policies, such as Keynesianism, and high public spending on state welfare.</p>

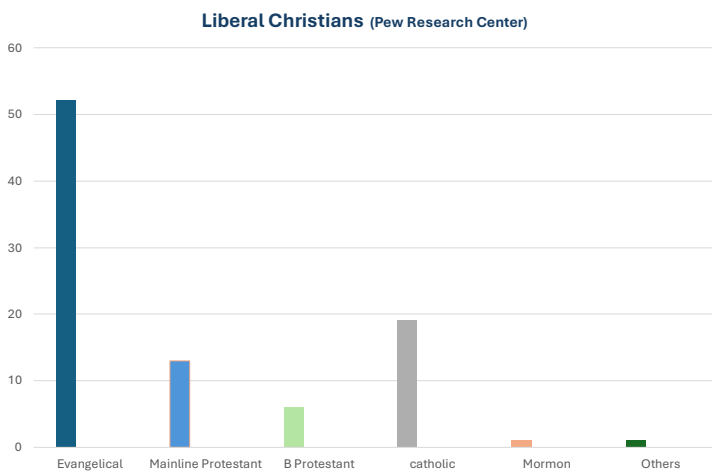
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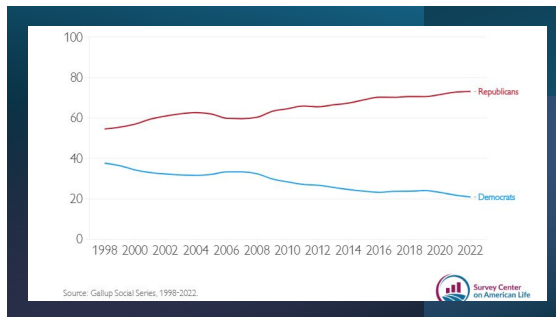
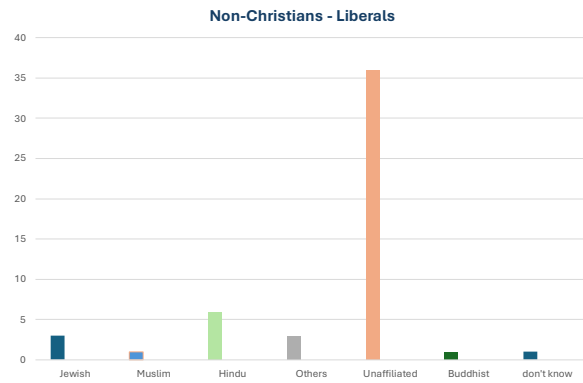
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