

Christian Ethics or Christ Ethics, Part 2

“Duty”

- I. One of the core beliefs of the ethics debate is *duty*- The word “duty” comes from the root word *due*--that which is owing. The Latin word is *debitum*, from which we get the word “debt.” The 5 definitions of duty:
 - a. The word duty always refers to a sense of moral commitment to someone or something
 - b. The word duty is always active, never passive
 - c. What duty is not is a matter of passive feeling or recognition
 - d. When someone acknowledges a duty he or she becomes a person who is committed to such a cause that involves themselves without any self interest or any cause of action that may have previously mattered
 - e. It is therefore fact that duty involves sacrifice of immediate self-interest, and this may be in fact the answer to one of the questions of ethics the-- way of the best possible life

Notes on Cicero:

- II. Cicero is best known for introducing Rome to Greek philosophy. He therefore introduces “western” thinking into the world today. He wrote “On Duty” in which he points out 4 areas from which duty may be built
 - a. Duty comes from human beings
 - b. Duty can come from one's place in life (family, country, job)
 - c. Duty can come from personality
 - d. Duty can come from one's own moral code

Notes:

- III. Is duty created by man? Matthew 3:15
 - a. Luke 1:8, Luke 2:49
 - b. Acts 6:3, Acts 20:22
 - c. Duty refers to a moral commitment and is something that we owe God
 - d. When you acknowledge you have a duty you put aside your self-interest and you give everything you owe. Duty is not a human pattern, it is a God pattern

- IV. Does duty come from one place in society?
 - a. The importance of deeds
 - b. James 2:21-26-there is a direct correlation between faith in deeds. Faith in God

- V. Can personality drive duty?
 - a. What did personality get the 12 apostles, Jesus, Paul, Elijah, Jonah and David?
 - b. 1 Timothy 4:12, Hebrews 6:12, 13:7, 1 Peter 5:3, 3 John 1:11, Deuteronomy 18:9

Notes:

- VI. Can duty derive from one's own moral code?
 - a. Holy, Righteous, Just, Perfect
 - b. Matthew 5:48, Romans 12:2

Conclusion

- 1) Duty starts and begins with God
- 2) Duty is the responsibility of every disciple
- 3) Duty will be different for every person, but will glorify God

Notes: