

Christian Ethics or Christ Ethics, Part 3

“Justice”

Review Scripture:

~Ephesians 6:1; Ephesians 6:7; II Thessalonians 3:7; Matthew 5:48

- I. Justice
 - a. The concept of justice talks about one thing: moral rightness
 - b. Rationality, law, natural law, and fairness
 - c. Justice is a bedrock for society—society sets a moral code
 - d. “Justice is the first virtue of society just as truth is essential to thought”

- II. 5 areas of Justice:
 - a. Consequentialism
 - b. Retributive justice
 - c. Retaliation justice
 - d. Distributive justice/socialism
 - e. Oppressive law/dictatorship

~ Is something right because God commands it or does God commanding it make it right? Goodness and justice are God’s character

“God creates the moral norm. Much like duty, they reflect God’s very essence, which means they are not arbitrary, and therefore, we must know God’s essence.” -Aquinas

- III. Psalm 89:14; James 1:12
 - a. God is perfect
 - b. God is righteous unto Himself
 - c. God’s standard of righteousness supercedes all moral government and all moral law
 - d. Justice is not an optional byproduct of Gods will; it is an unchanging principle of God
 - e. His legislative laws require conformity to Him

~Scripture references: II Timothy 4:8; II Thessalonians 1:6; II Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; Hebrews 11:33; Jude 1:7; Revelation 19:11

Notes:

Notes cont'd:

- IV. Genesis 18:19, 25
 - a. In Genesis and throughout Deuteronomy, Psalm and Job, these men never cried out for mercy from the world; they cried out to God for His justice.
 - b. John Locke was one of the first thinkers in natural law and he understood that it must be established in divine law.

Notes:

“The Christ Ethic is based on God’s very essence”

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