

Christian Ethics or Christ Ethics, part 5

“Rights”

1 Timothy 4:8, James 1:26

- I. What is right and what is fair for the Christian?
 - a. What was the presumed thought of rights pre-enlightenment period? The divine right of the king.
 - b. We live today (post-enlightenment) in the natural law; the thinking that it is “my right”...”What is fair to me.”

- II. 1 Timothy 4:8; James 1:26; 1 Peter 2:4; Job 28:13—What does God say our rights are?
 - a. The conclusion is that God is absolute. Therefore, the question of rights has to be looked at in an absolute term.
 - b. What is right and fair? God is only right and God is only fair.

Notes:

- III. Colossians 4:1-6
 - a. Paul never put down the government or institutions of his time. He told his Christian readers to pray diligently.
 - b. God should be your provision and authority, not Caesar.
 - c. The example of Philemon—Paul submitted to the law of Rome because it was the government he lived under, but he ultimately submitted to the absolute law of God.

Notes:

- IV. What about the question of evil governments?
 - a. Listen to God to know whether it is right to bear arms or refrain from violence.
 - b. Jeremiah 21

Notes on the question of evil governments:

~Scriptures: John 17:6,11-15; Revelation 3:7; 2 Corinthians 2:14

Questions for thought:

1) What are your rights as a Christian?

2) How are you to respond to a wicked government?