

Calvary Chapel
Wednesday Night
Foundational Concerns in Ethics
April 4, 2007

- I. What is ethics?
- II. What is love?
 - A. The importance of love (Mark 12:28-34)
 - B. The definition of love
 - C. The motivation for love (1 John 4:19)
 - D. The nature of godly love
 - i. John 3:16; Ephesians 5:2; Galatians 2:20
 - ii. Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10)
 - iii. Lamentations 3:22-23; Romans 8:38-39
 - iv. Ephesians 5:25-27; Hebrews 12:6
 - E. Case Study on Love

Situational Ethics

The subject of situational ethics is a foundational issue simply because this is a view that has been particularly influential within our culture, and it raises issues concerning the Bible's teaching on ethics that need to be addressed.

- I. What is situational ethics?
- II. Important Proponent
- III. Problems with situational ethics
- IV. A related question: Do God's laws sometimes conflict with another, so that a person must break one command of God in order to obey another?
 - A. Yes, with no escape (Lesser of two evils view) Sometimes in a fallen world, we face situations in which all options are wrong. At those times, we must choose the lesser of two evils, and then confess our sin to God.
 - 1. Problem:
 - B. Yes, with an escape (hierarchical view) There is a hierarchy of commands in God's Word with some laws being more important than others. When God's laws conflict, we must obey the greater commands, and in doing so we have not sinned.
 - 1. Problem
 - C. No, without exceptions (unqualified absolutes view) God gives moral absolutes without exceptions and they never conflict, so that it is always possible to obey all of God's commands.
 - 1. Problem
 - D. No, with exceptions, (qualified command view) God gives absolute commands and sometimes gives commands with exceptions. There are no real conflicts in God's laws if we carefully note the exceptions.

Non-conflicting, Absolutist, Transcendental, Theological Ethics