**Christian Ethics**

By Daryel Erickson

**A. What is Christian Ethics?**

1. The Dictionary defines ethics as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

a. It relates to how a person should or could live in relationship to a set of standards and/or moral convictions.

1) Ethical behavior is judged based on a standard of laws, rules or regulations associated with family values, a given culture and its traditions, people groups, religious beliefs, world view, etc.

b. Situational ethics is a particular view of ethics that basically holds that the morality of certain behavior is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1) It states that if there is a right and wrong, it is merely determined by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The end justifies the choice.

2. What is Christian ethics? Write a definition using the following words: Bible, Jesus, God, Holy Spirit, Morals, and any other words you think is needed.

a. What Christian Ethics is and is not. Make two lists and compare them.

**IS IS Not**

b. What is legalism? Why can this be a problem? Four reasons:

1)

2)

3)

4)

3. In the end, Jesus reduced a list of moral details into a limited set of principles.

a. What does Matthew 22:37-40 have to do with ethical principles?

4. The Bible has all we need to know about how to live the Christian life, however it does not explicitly cover every situation a Christian will face in life. What do we do then?

a. Where does Christian principles come in?

b. It is the principles found in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that gives us standards by which we conduct ourselves.

c. By using the principles found in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we can determine the ethical course for any given situation.

d. In addition God gave us the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to help us make moral and ethical choices (John 14:26-27)

**B. Practical application of Christian Ethics as it relates to leadership.**

1. As Christian leaders we are held to a higher level of moral, ethical and social standards. And this is rightly so.

a. However, it is not just a question of what we do but who we are.

1) Each Christian needs to establish certain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_that they use to screen their decisions and choices.

b. We need to do what please the Lord, but more importantly is being who we should be.

c. Ethical behavior comes out of a choice to please God.

2. Questions to ask ourselves when trying to make a moral or ethical choice:

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

3. What about cultural differences? How do they affect ethics?

a. Three key questions related to this:

1)

2)

3)

b. We need a cross-cultural Biblical \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. What do we do as Christian Leaders about what we know?

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

5. Why have we chosen to be a Christian Leader?

a. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is important to God and to others.

.

b. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people lead is also important to God. (Philippines 2:1-8)

c. When it comes to being a leader who pleases God, attitude is everything and motives do matter.

6. Action steps – make a list of things you need to change about your Christian Ethics.