

Framework For Biblical Ethics

January 2016

I. Introduction

II. Why Biblical Ethics

- a. **Glory of God**
- b. **Witness to the Goodness of God**
- c. **Personal & Common Good**

III. Terms & Definitions:

IV. A Redemptive & Covenantal Context: The Kingdom of God

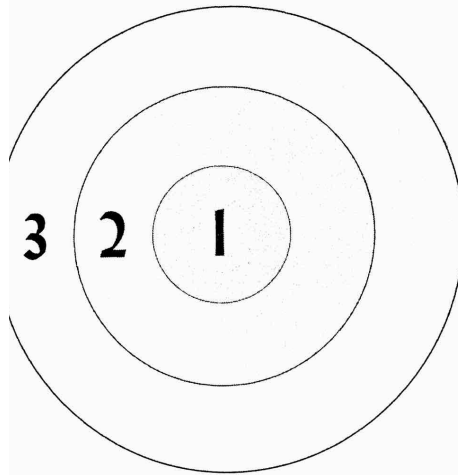
- a. **A People**
- b. **A Place**
- c. **A Rule & Blessing**

V. Unbiblical Approaches to Ethics

VI. An Interpretive Matrix

- a. **Normative Perspective (deontological ethic): A focus on Scripture and its determination of what our duty, ethical norm, or obligation is.**
 - i. **“We bring our problem to the Bible and ask, “What does Scripture say about this situation?” At this point, we invoke God’s Lordship attribute of authority.”**

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1. AREA OF THINGS PROHIBITED
 - “Put offs”
 - Requires obedience in all situations
 - Area of church discipline

2. AREA OF THE APPLICATION OF GOD’S POSITIVE COMMANDS
 - Guidance by wisdom and discernment
 - Can be in or out of God’s will depending on the situation, motive, outcome, etc.

3. AREA OF CHRISTIAN LIBERTY
 - Choices between equally good alternatives
 - Providential guidance (small “g”)
 - Motive must be to glorify God

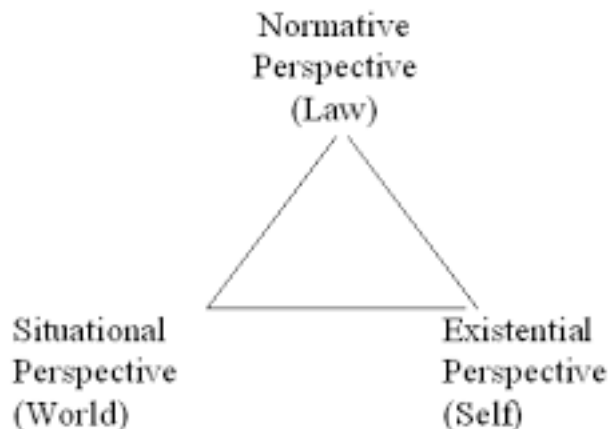
CHARACTERISTICS OF DECISION MAKING	CIRCLE 1 (INNER CIRCLE)	CIRCLE 2 (MIDDLE CIRCLE)	CIRCLE 3 (OUTER CIRCLE)
Direction Obtained By:	Knowledge of God’s Law	Wisdom and Discernment	Personal Choice
Moral Status of the Decision Making	Moral Absolutes	Applied Love	Morally Equal Options (Pass Test of 1 and 2)
Decision Making Based On:	Prohibitions in Scripture	Positive Commands	Christian Liberty
God’s Role in Decision Making	Revelation (Deut. 29:29)	Illumination (1 Cor. 2:1-15)	Providence
Role of Motives	Godly or Ungodly Motives (James 4:1-4)	Godly or Ungodly Motives (1 Cor. 13:1-2)	Godly or Ungodly Motives (2 Cor. 10:31)

- b. **Situational Perspective (teleological ethic):** The examination of situations or problems and how to best respond to them.
- i. “focuses on God’s actions in creation and providence that have made the situations what they are, hence God’s lordship attribute of control. The situational perspective asks, “What are the best means of accomplishing God’s purposes?” That is, how can we take the present situation and change it so that more of God’s purposes are achieved?...If we do this, will it enhance the glory of God and his blessing on His people?”

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- c. **Existential Perspective:** A focus on the ethical agent, the person or persons who are trying to find out what to do.
- i. “The ethical question becomes, “How must I change if I am to do God’s will?” The focus is inward, examining our heart’s relationship to God. It deals with the doctrines of our regeneration, our sanctification, our inner character.”

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VII. Before ‘The Game is a foot’

a. **Dependence Upon the Holy Spirit & the Word of God**

b. **Weekly Methodology**

- i. **Weekly Topic Given in Advance for Prep**
- ii. **Working in Groups**
- iii. **Studying, Thinking, & Discussing through the Topic (See Handouts)**

c. **Facilitators**

- i. **Tolivar Wills**
- ii. **Jacob Dearolph**
- iii. **Hung Troung**
- iv. **Drew Archer**
- v. **Ryan Heath**