

# Lesson 10

## Christian Ethics



## 1. WHAT IS MEANT BY “CHRISTIAN ETHICS?”

ETHICS are standards and rules for correct behavior.

How we talk and what we do reveal our ethics.

“Christian Ethics” refers to how we’re to conduct ourselves as Christians. There are times when new Christians are unsure what God expects of them in differing circumstances. This must be learned through Bible Study and instruction from mature Christians. Paul the Apostle said.

*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the House of God, which is the Church of the living God, the Pillar and Ground of the*

*Truth {1 Timothy 3:15}*

## 2. DOES MAN BY NATURE HAVE THE PROPER CODE OF BEHAVIOR?

No. The Bible says as sinners we all come short of what God wants us to be and to do. {Read Romans 3:23} Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that we must be “born again.” We must receive a new nature. This is done by repenting of our sins and receiving Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior. We may make all kinds of resolutions, repeatedly try to turn over a “new leaf,” or say to ourselves, “I’ll do better tomorrow.” But unless we have a new nature we will continually meet failure.

### 3. AFTER WE RECEIVE OUR NEW NATURE, HOW DO WE LEARN PROPER CONDUCT?

By study of God's word, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and giving attention to the teaching of God's ministers and teachers, we learn proper conduct. The training program of Bethesda is designed to train and mold new Christians after the pattern of Christ.

A. Hebrew 13:7 says:

***Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.***

B. Hebrews 13:17 says:

***Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.***

C. Ephesians 4:11-13 says:

***And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:***

***Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:***

## 4. WHAT ARE THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH?

### A. Unity

Christians should be united in spirit to carry out the mission of the church and the vision of the local church. God gives vision to the leadership of each local church and expects them to impart that vision to the fellowship in order that it may be carried out. We must not resist this very important aspect of Christian service. It is unethical to resist and fight against the direction God has given.

***Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; (Philippians 1:27)***

B. Honesty

We should practice honesty before all men.

***Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (I Timothy 4:12)***

C. A Peace Maker

A true believer will not be deceitful in his dealing with others, nor will he be envious, nor one who participates in activities or actions which produce strife. He will consistently seek to bring peace into every situation. {James 3:13-18}

D. Love

All our actions must be motivated by love. True love will always be expressed toward others with the intent of blessing or bringing good into their lives. {Read I Corinthians 13:1-7}

## E. A Work Ethic

As Christians, we must accept responsibility for our families and demonstrate our willingness to work to receive the necessities and material blessings of this life. We should do everything we can to avoid public assistance programs. If we find that, of necessity, we must receive subsistence from these means, we should pray, receive council, accept (re)training (in fact, whatever is necessary) to become self-supporting. No one owes us a living.

***Neither did we eat any man's bread for naught; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:***

***<sup>9</sup>Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.***

***<sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.***

***(II Thessalonians 3:8-10)***

## F. Blameless

This would mean that there is nothing that anyone can accuse us of that would bring discredit to God's Kingdom, His church, or the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Although we are not perfect, we should endeavor to live godly lives that honor God and give expression to the grace of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must be quick to repent of any wrong-doing and quick to apologize for any inappropriate activity. It will demand a strong prayer life in order to live life in this manner.

***And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)***

***That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; (Philippians 2:15)***

## 5. WHAT ARE THE GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT TO BE OBSERVED IN THE HOUSE OF GOD?

A. When late for service, when should you be seated?

1. When the order of service changes.
2. After prayer
3. After the praise service
4. Just before the offering (NEVER while the offering is being received).
5. ALWAYS, when directed to be seated by an usher.

B. Why is it important not to create a disturbance during the service?

1. You are being discourteous to God Himself by failing to listen to His voice.
2. Word.

### C. What Conduct shows a disrespect for God's House?

1. Talking during service
2. Writing and passing notes.
3. Going in and out of the service without good cause.
4. Running through the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and hallways at any time other than as an expression of worship.