

**APOLOGETICS - DEFENDING OUR FAITH AGAINST ALL OPPOSITION**

**LESSON 5: WORLDVIEWS III - KEY ISSUES OF A WORLDVIEW**

**REVIEW**

- +We have to “always be prepared” to defend our faith (1 Pet 3:14b-16 Acts 22:1 etc.)
- + The unbeliever is not neutral and (Rom 1:18) we must not be (Prov.26:4).
- +Everybody has a worldview = elementary presuppositions **NO NEUTRALITY!**
- +Our worldview must be Christian in all we say, think and do. (Mk 12:30 etc.)
- +First key issue of a worldview: *Metaphysics*-what accounts for the physical world?
- +Second key issue: *Epistemology* - how and what do we know?



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**I. ETHICS** (*ethos*: “habit, custom”)

**1. The Branch of philosophy known as *moral philosophy*.**

- a) What is right and wrong?
- b) What are moral responsibilities and obligations?

**2. Four Major questions of Ethics:**

- a) What is the nature of good and evil?
- b) What are the standards for ethical evaluation?
- c) What about guilt and personal peace?
- d) How do we attain or produce moral character?

**3. For the Christian morality is founded upon the eternal God of Scripture.**

- a) God’s will is the standard of “right”

- b) Since God is **all good** (Ps.119:137; Mark 10:18b) and **all knowing** (Ps.139:2-27; Prov.15:3), moral principles revealed in Scripture are always righteous and always relevant to our situation.
- c) Since God is **eternal** (Ps. 90:2; 102:12), His moral commandments are **always** binding.

*“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Eccl. 12:13-14)*

**4. For the non-Christian there is no sure basis for ethics.**

- a) His METAPHYSICS (view of reality) is founded on nothing.
- b) His EPISTEMOLOGY (knowledge) is rooted in irrationalism.  
**THEREFORE:**
- c) His ETHICS (morality) is purely arbitrary and relativistic and can never be absolute.

*“The Golden Rule is that there are no golden rules”*

(George Bernard Shaw)

[- and even that is self-contradictory (sets up an absolute rule)]

- d) The unbeliever cannot support a single absolute rule - NONE!

*“Either our moral values tell us something about the nature and purpose of reality or they are subjective and therefore meaningless”*

(D.M. Baillie)

*“If our rationality and morality do not come from God they come from chance permutations of some basic stuff or from the working of mindless forces. In either case, they have no validity.”*

(Richard Purtill)

**5. EXAMPLE: Nuremberg Trials QUESTION: BY WHAT STANDARD?**

- 6. The Christian uses God’s REVELATION (general, special and incarnational) to find out METAPHYSICS (reality) and ETHICS (morality). The non-Christian uses arbitrary ideas to produce arbitrary metaphysics and arbitrary ethics for no reason. He cannot totally get rid of special revelation because the Law of God is written on their hearts. And again THEY’RE STEALING FROM OUR WORLDVIEW!**

**Rom 2:15** They show that the work of the **law** is written on their **hearts**, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.