

Making Sense of Biblical Values
Schedule

(3/2) Introduction

(3/9) Discovering a Biblical Anthropology

1. God's right to rule as Creator and Redeemer
2. Tracing every struggle back to the entrance of sin into the world
3. Believers answer to ethical questions - surrender

(3/16) Developing a Biblical Ethic

1. Known Will of God
2. Unknown will of God
3. Principles to live by in the "gray matters"

(3/23) Biblical Ethics in issues of Sexuality

1. Is sexuality from God?
2. Is sexual intimacy for reproduction or pleasure?
3. How can you help children develop a biblical view of sexuality?
4. Perversions of God's intent:
 - a. Homosexuality
 - b. Promiscuity/Pre-marital sex
 - c. Pornography
5. An appeal for modesty (the difference between men and women)
6. Practical suggestions and the promise of help.

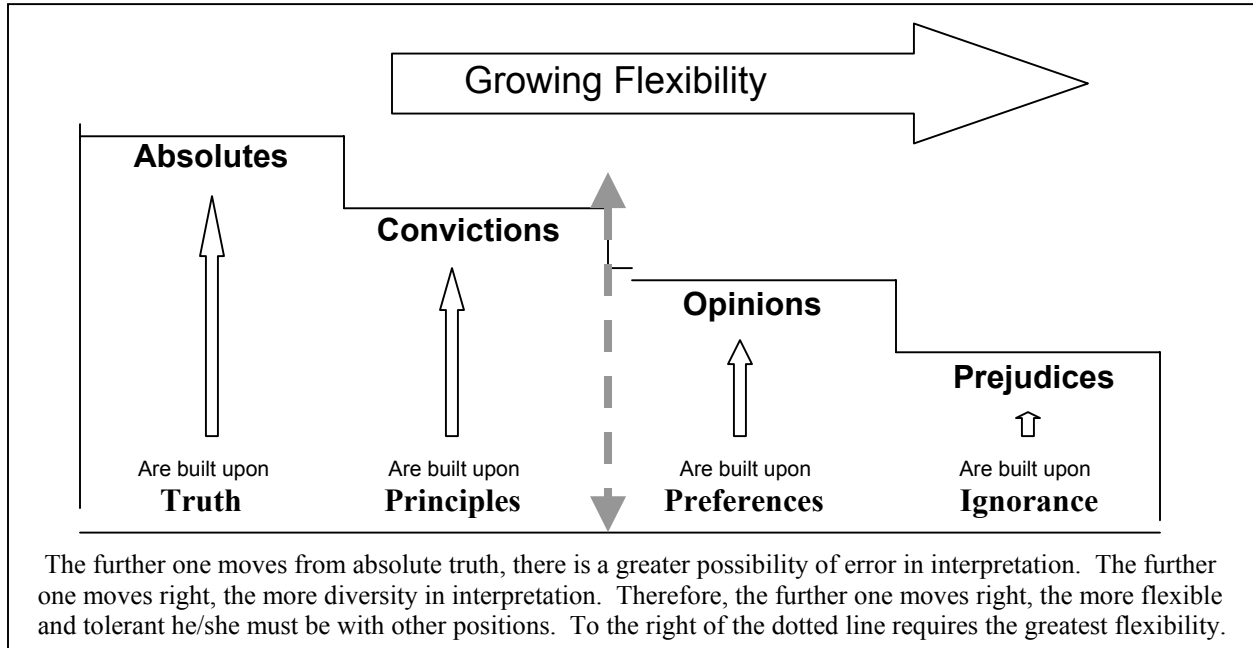
(3/30) Biblical Ethics in issues of Relationships

1. Honesty in relationships
2. Where your responsibility for others begins and ends
3. Relationships with the opposite sex outside of marriage
4. A Biblical approach to others (am I just selfish?)
5. Practical suggestions and the promise of help

(4/6) Biblical Ethics in issues of Technology

1. What are we to do with technology (black cars and plain hub caps)
2. Fertility issues (including surrogate mothering)
3. Euthanasia Issues
4. Genetic engineering
5. Q&A

Making Sense of Biblical Values General Introduction



Comments:

What Gives God the Right to Rule?

- I. He Is The Creator And Has The Right Of Maker Hood
 - A. He made man and all of man's environment (Genesis 1 & 2)
 - 1- Man is made "after God's Kind."
 - 2- We are His sons and daughters.
 - B. He Sustain man's existence (Matt 5:45; Gen. 2:6, 9, 18)
 - 1- We take from His hand each moment (Isa. 45:5ff./Romans 9:20)
- II. He Is The Redeemer and Has The Right Of Ownership
 - A. He Purchased Mankind From Bondage to Sin (Gen. 21ff.-Ex. 19/Gal. 3:23)
 - 1- He is our liberator.
 - B. He sanctifies those born again (I Thess. 5:23/Rom. 8:26)
 - 1- He is our living Father (I Cor. 6:19f./Rom. 14:7ff.)
- III. Point of Interest – Every struggle on the face of the earth for all time can be traced to this single issue.
 - A. If man would not be sinful he would not lash out against God, his fellow man or the created universe.
 - B. The answer to the issues of life is reconciliation to God.
 - C. The answer for believers in the ethics of life is – surrender.

| Relationship to... | Mankind In Creation | Mankind in Sin | Mankind In Grace |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| God | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Created by God ○ Made in the image of God | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Unfit</u> for God's presence ○ <u>Unable</u> to do God's Will ○ <u>Unrighteous</u> before God ○ <u>Insensitive</u> to God's Word | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reconciled ○ Restored ○ Justification ○ Redemption, etc. |
| Self | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Functional Unity ○ Ontological Duality ○ Relational Plurality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-Idealization – made in God's image? ○ Self-Condernation – dignified because made in God's Image | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accurate self-estimation ○ Two Facts: - More sinful than ever imagined - More loved than ever dreamed |
| Neighbors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social ○ Complimentary (different but ...) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conflict ○ Exploitation ○ Self-preservation (fear of being found out) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ambassador ○ Ministry ○ Gifted to serve ○ Unity/diversity |
| World | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dominion ○ Stewardship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exploit ○ Pollute | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New respect ○ New responsibility ○ Stewardship |
| Time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Before/After | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Days are numbered ○ Busy (materialism) ○ Anxiety over time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Redeem the time ○ Purposeful living ○ Already/not yet |

Comments:

How To Develop a Biblical Ethic

The Known Will of God

- II Timothy 3:14-17
- James 4:11
- Titus 3:3-9

The Unknown Will of God

- Where there is no mention in Scripture; i.e. sports, dating, family outings, personal hobbies, music styles, etc.
- When society has changed its position; i.e. alcohol, drugs, sexual activity, etc.
- When modern technology has advanced, i.e. TV/VCR-cable, Radio, Fuzz busters, contraceptives, artificial fertilization, cloning, etc.

Statement: Within the unknown will of God there is something known about His will.

A series of questions . . .

1. Will it be profitable to spiritual growth? (I Corinthians 6:12a)
2. Will it have a controlling effect? (I Corinthians 6:12b; Hebrews 11:23-27)
3. Will it build up the body of Christ? (I Corinthians 10:23; I Cor. 8; Rom. 14)
4. Will it glorify God? (I Corinthians 10:31)
5. Will I offend my conscience? (Romans 14:23)

Proper Response to our conscience

- a. First, you commit an act, say a word, think a thought, harbor an attitude, or simply contemplate one of these actions.
- b. The conscience then speaks, giving its judgment regarding the rightness or wrongness of the situation.
- c. You must examine the Scriptures regarding the subject. Even if there is nothing directly stated; look for principles. This willingness to seek God's understanding will open you up to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- d. Seek counsel if you have no direction at this point.
- e. Finally, you must act or not act on the basis of faith.

6. Will it detract from my witness to the lost? (I Corinthians 9:24-27)
7. Other questions to ask...
 - a. What if everyone did it?
 - b. Would I be sorry I did it?
 - c. Would Jesus do it?

Sound Mind Principle In Decision making

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of power and love and sound judgment. (II Timothy 1:7)

| | Yes | No | N/A |
|--|------------|----|-----|
| Does it contradict implicit commands of Scripture | | | |
| Have you prayed about it? | | | |
| Will it be profitable to spiritual growth? | | | |
| Will it have a controlling effect? | | | |
| Will it build up the body of Christ? | | | |
| Will it glorify God? | | | |
| Will I offend my conscience? | | | |
| Will it detract from my witness to the lost? | | | |
| What if everyone did it? | | | |
| Would I be sorry if I did it? | | | |
| Would Jesus do it? | | | |

If, after prayer and application of the sound mind principle, you still have doubt, **Don't Do It.**

Biblical Principles -vs- Evils of Humanism

How do the Biblical principles of godly behavior compare with the humanistic principles of ungodly behavior?

God's Word versus the tenants of humanism

"It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" Titus 2:12). "For it is written: Be holy, because I am holy"(I Pet. 1:16). "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14).

Sexual Conduct

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). "Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh" (1 Corinthians 6:16). "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship" (Romans 12:1). "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple" (I Cor. 3:16,17). "That each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God" (I Thess. 4:4,5).

Moral Values

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). "So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man" (Acts 24:16). "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ" (Col. 2:8). "Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful

"Yeah, has God said...?" (Genesis 3:1).
"Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done." (Romans 1:28).

In the area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct."

"Sex is fun and joyful, courting is fun and joyful, and it comes in all types and styles all of which are okay. Do what gives pleasure and enjoy what gives pleasure. Don't rob yourself by focusing on old fashioned ideas about what's 'normal' or 'nice'" (Planned Parenthood booklet for teenagers).

"Moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational, and needs no theological or ideological sanction." "Parents with traditional values are intolerant, ignorant, bigoted...Sex educators approach the following in 'openness' to 'relieve' the child's anxieties: non-marital sex, homosexuality, masturbation, abortion, contraception, and incest. Noticeably missing are God's plans for reproduction, the beauty of marital sex, and the value of abstinence until marriage." "Schools must not be allowed to continue the immorality of morality. An entirely different set of values must be nourished" (*Sexuality and the School*, Marianne & Sidney Simon).

Parents and Family

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it” (Prov. 22:6). “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). “Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deut 11:19).

Children

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth” (Eph. 6:1-3). “My son, keep your father’s commands and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life” (Prov. 6:20-23).

Fornication/Adultery

“You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14). “Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul” (I Pet. 2:11). “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable...For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life” (I Thess. 4:3-4, 7). “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal/ 5:19-21).

“Parents are the worst source of factual information regarding sex” (Human Sexuality textbook). “DOP (Dimensions of Personality, a course used in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades) demotes and patronizes the parent when it isn’t showing them to be mean, lacking in sensitivity to the child’s feelings... parents hold foolish and false values. Children are told their parents lack the skills to be good parents”

Planned Parenthood calls for compulsory sex education, K-12th grades. “No religious views, no community moral standards, are to deflect [the child] from the overriding purpose of self-discovery, self-assertion, and self-gratification.”

“Youth led [through school sex education programs] to believe that carnality need not be sublimated; governing factors responsible for normal maturation are thereby excluded from their lives.” “Teachers must be alert to keep ‘moralizing crap’ [Christian morality] out of their work with values.” “A lengthy list of reasons why young people have sex...included such reasons as ‘they want to prove their masculinity or femininity,’ ‘everybody else is doing it,’ without one mentioning love or marriage.”

Abortion

“You shall not murder” (Ex. 20:13). “If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman’s husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise” (Exodus 21:22-25; see also Deut. 22:6,7; Isaiah 59:1-9).

Abortion is touted to young people as one more form of birth control. Planned Parenthood centers arrange teenage abortions without parental knowledge or consent. What happens...if you get pregnant, what are the choices? Well, you can carry the baby or abort.”

Sodomy

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Gen. 1:27). “Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.” “Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion.” “Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled” (Lev. 18:22-24). “Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion” (Rom. 1:26, 27).

“The prevailing theme...children from the sixth grade on must come to accept it [homosexuality] as normal...A good experience [is to] have two ten-year-old girls role play two male lovers...Parents who quote Scriptures against homosexuality are ‘irrational,’ their minds are perverted.

Perversion

“Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another” (Rom. 1:24; see also vv. 28-31). “They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him” (II Pet. 2:19). “They defiled themselves by what they did; by their deeds they prostituted themselves. Therefore the LORD was angry with his people and abhorred his inheritance” (Psalm 106:39-40).

“The many varieties of sexual exploration should not in themselves be considered evil...Individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their lifestyle as desired. The influence of sex educators has the same effect as seduction, which can lead the young person into all kinds of sexual aberrations.”

Biblical Ethics In Issues of Sexuality

Is sexuality from God? Yes

1. The doctrine of the autonomous self, with its panacea for rights and liberties, has resulted in a redefining of human sexuality in western civilization.
2. When Jesus and Paul deal with the question of marriage or human sexuality, they always refer back to the creation ordinance of Genesis 2:18-25 [Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; I Cor. 7:10,11]. What is stated in these verses transcends culture and time. They constitute God's ideal for sexuality and marriage.
3. Marriage is to be monogamous and heterosexual. From the creation account it is impossible to justify polygamy or homosexuality. It is the standard, the ideal for all marriages. With this standard established for marriage, the other Scriptural passages dealing with sexuality must be measured by what is learned in the Genesis 2 account. Each details that fornication, adultery and homosexuality is an aberration, and a radical departure from God's clear standard.
4. A careful study of the creation account reveals that sexuality has its origin in the design of God and includes companionship, equality, commitment, security, intimacy and freedom from shame. Sexual intimacy is the capstone of this beautiful relationship.
5. Unfortunately, the entrance of sin into the world has allowed for selfishness and perversion to mar God's design.

Perversions of God's intent

1. Homosexuality
 - A. Genesis 19:1-11 is the story of Sodom, which God utterly destroyed with fire. Homosexual commentators see the sin of the men as a violation of the Ancient Near Eastern hospitality codes. But verse 5 and Lot's response in verse 8 demonstrate unequivocally that a homosexual relation is what was on the minds of these men. It is a deliberate departure from God's clear revelation in Genesis 2.
 - B. In Leviticus 18:22,29 and 20:13 are apart of the Law that Jesus satisfied, however, issues of human sexuality transcend the law because the creation ordinance of God. Homosexuality, then, is ethically wrong.
 - C. Paul's argument in Romans 1:26,27, about the debased sexual practices cited in the verses hangs on the word, "natural." The words "natural" and "unnatural" can only be understood as a departure from or adherence to some standard that determines what is natural or unnatural. That standard can only be the standard established in God's creation ordinance of Genesis 2.
 - D. There are many other issues that need to be discussed that this presentation can't encompass, i.e. Causal issues (genetic or environmental), its ties to pagan worship, etc.
 - E. Finally, unconditional love is an absolute requirement in ministry to those in bondage to this sin.
2. Pornography
 - A. Pornography is born of lust, it thrives on lust (James 1:15).
 - B. Pornography degrades that which God created in his image (Gen. 1:27).

- C. Pornography is a affront to God and promotes everything that is in direct violation to God's Law. For example , adultery (Ex. 20:14; Prov. 6:32), carnal desires (Eccl. 9:9; Eph. 4:17-19, 21, 22; Matt. 5:28), bestiality (Deut. 27:21; Lev. 18:23), incest (Lev. 18:6-9; 20:11-14), rape (Deut. 22:25-27), Sodomy (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26, 27), child molestation (Matt. 18:10).
 - D. God's Word is clear: we must abstain from any and everything that even appears evil (I Thess. 5:21-22). We are not only to refrain from the evil act, but also the evil thought (the seed) that produces the evil deed (Matt. 5:28). We are to promote and support that which is true, honest, pure, lovely, and of good report (Phil. 4:8).
3. Promiscuity - particularly among teens
- A. Sex education is a parental responsibility [Proverbs 22:6; Deut. 11:19].
Sex education is an important part of the instruction parents are to impart to their offspring; it is a responsibility of parenthood.
 - B. Moral values must be based on God's Word, not situational ethics or secular norms [Col. 2:8; Rom. 12:2].
As part of parental responsibility to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," parents have the responsibility to help their offspring form firm moral values based on Biblical teaching. To fail in this preparation is to leave a mental and spiritual void to be filled by those who espouse the amorality of hedonism and humanism.
 - C. Sexual conduct should be an expression of the deepest love reserved for husband and wife; it is to be governed by God's commandments and Christ's teachings [Mt. 19:5; I Thess. 4:4,5].
 - D. Christians must stand firm against the onslaughts of an ungodly world [Eph. 6:10-18].
 - E. The Christian witness must shine through personal deportment as well as public works and words [Matthew 5:14-16].
We are to be living examples of the power of Christ within us, thus to present hope and counsel winsomely to those who are searching and confused.
 - F. **Some valuable instruction from I Thessalonians 4:1-8**

Biblical Ethics in Relationships

The Believers Relationship to the World

“... for they are **not of the world** any more than I am of the world. My prayer is **not that you take them out of the world** but that you protect them from the evil one. They are **not of the world**, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, **I have sent them into the world**. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.” John 17:14-19

| PARTICIPATION | | SOURCE | | EXPRESSION |
|------------------|---|------------------|---|----------------|
| Not in the world | + | Of the world | = | Hypocrisy |
| Not in the world | + | Not of the world | = | Legalism |
| In the world | + | Of the world | = | Licentiousness |
| In the world | + | Not of the world | = | Christianity |

Comments:

1. If God’s offer of salvation was strictly to secure heaven, then the moment one believed they would be transported to glory.
2. However, God’s purpose first is to reveal “a righteous from God” (Rom.1:17). This righteousness is witnessed in the lives of those who trust in Christ as Lord and Savior.
3. Therefore, Jesus’ prayer in John 17 declares the primary purpose of the believer. As he/she chooses to be “in this world” (visible witness of salt & light), but not “of this world” (recognize that we do not derive our life & values from this world, but God), God has a living, breathing example of what God can do in anyone’s life if they too will only believe.
4. Of course, we should be wise to not be in a place where we might stumble. Jesus prayed that we would be protected from “the evil one.” God is fully aware of the danger of being swept away in sin. We must be prayerful, wise and accountable to others for our life.

Four Models

1. The Separation Model – Christians must withdraw from any involvement in the world. There is antithesis between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world and the choice is clear-withdraw.
 - a. There are some dangers with this model:
 - 1- Separatism can quickly lead to asceticism, a lifestyle of self-denial that ends up denying the goodness of God’s creation (I Tim. 4:4).
 - 2- This model can easily produce a dangerous secular/sacred dichotomy. For the believer, everything is sacred (I Cor. 10:31).
 - 3- It can lead to a complete withdrawal from culture, something clearly condemned in the Bible (I Cor. 5:9-11).

2. The Identification Model – Accommodation is the key word for this model; to live both in the kingdom of God and in the world. God works in the world both through the church and through the state. The believer, therefore, has a dual commitment to both the church and the state. Identifying with, participating in, and working within all cultural institutions (e.g., business, government, law) is part of the mandate for the Christian..
 - a. There are some dangers with this model:
 - 1- The principal danger is that the identificational model can lull the Christian into complacency, into blindness toward the influence of evil in the culture's institutions. Evil is always present and the pressure to compromise one's convictions is ever present.
 - 2- It can lead to an uncritical acceptance of prevailing cultural practices and attitudes.
 - 3- This model can lead to a loss of the church's prophetic stance. The Church can almost become married to the culture.
3. The Transformation Model – This model takes the transforming power of the Christ and applies it to culture. Despite the fallen nature of humanity and the subsequent curse of creation, Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection reversed the curse for both humans and culture. There is new hope for human release from the bondage of sin and for creation as well. This hope is easily translated into optimism about culture's transformation.
 - a. There is a danger with this model:
 - 1- The transformation model can neglect the radical nature of sin's devastation. Humans remain enslaved to sin and even believers daily struggle with its power.
 - 2- Scripture abounds with warnings about how subtle and powerful the enemies of the world, the flesh, and the devil really are.
 - 3- In addition, this model promotes an unbiblical optimism, a near utopianism. The Bible rejects such optimism apart from the return of Christ.
4. The Incarnation Model – Robert Webber proposes a synthesis of all three models as proper for the believer. His proposal is modeled after Jesus, for He separated from the evils of His culture, identified with its institutions and people, yet sought to transform it from the inside out. By adding humanity to His Deity, Jesus identified with the world, its social order (its people and customs). Similarly, the church is to do the same. This is at the heart of Jesus' admonition to be in the world but not of the world.
 - a. The Christian always lives with tension, the tension between that which is transformable and that from which we must remain separate. For example, there are many good structures in the culture-art, economics, sports, vocations-yet there are evil distortions of those good structures-pornography, greed, workaholicism, idolatry. The Christian should identify with the good structures, and separate from those evil distortions.
 - b. There is no simple formula for resolving or living with this tension. Looking for "the" biblical answer to each practical question is rarely possible. The Believer's responsibility is to know God's Word, to know the mind of Christ, and then choose a course of action that each believes most faithfully represents God's revealed will.

* Adapted from *Christian Ethics*, James P. Eckman, *Evangelical Training Association*, 1999, pp. 15-21

Biblical Ethics in Issues of Technology

Introduction