

## Where Philosophy Becomes Real

Part 1 of Building Lives With Christian Ethics

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**Intro:** Our desire is to help believers at IBC develop to maturity in the faith to answer the many *ethical* questions that come up constantly: can a Christian do yoga, do martial arts, watch this movie, drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, etc).

Towards the beginning of the message, we saw these graphs.

Culturally Insensitive:



Multi-Culturally Experienced and Sensitive:



Relativistic:



- The first sees most things as right and wrong and leaves little room for just “different”
- The Second is more culturally sensitive and, while still seeing many things as right and wrong in a culture, has a larger area for things just being “different”
- The *relativistic* person, though, ends up seeing most things as “different” as is hesitant to say anything is right or wrong

The desire for Christians is to know what is right and what is good. This is where we must start:

### 1. What is “Good?”

- All God made was “good” (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)
- There is no one “good” but God (Mark 10:17-18)
- Mankind is basically *not good* (Ps. 14:2-3)

Application: Only God is *intrinsically* good. He is goodness and is therefore the definition of what is good.

### 2. What Place Does “Philosophy” Have in My Life?

The word *philosophy* comes from the Greek *Philos* meaning “love of” and *sophia* meaning “wisdom.” So, a philosopher is a lover of wisdom.

Read Col. 2:8

- This philosophy is *empty*
- It is *deceit*
- It is the tradition of *men*, not God
- It is the basic principles of this *world*
- It is *not* of God (not according to Christ)

We all have a philosophy of life, whether we have thought about it or not. The question is where do we get ours from?

Application: My philosophy, or love of wisdom, must be firmly grounded in the source of wisdom, knowledge and understanding. I must be careful of philosophy that shuns God.

### 3. Where Should I Get My Ethics From?

Ethics is *moral philosophy*. Ethics is where our Philosophy is put into practice and is shown every day.

- Someone who has poor ethics is living out what his philosophy of life is based on
- Read Psalm 119:9; Prov. 23:7
- Where will you go to get your ethics? Get them from One who is trustworthy.
- God's Word will not let you down

#### Questions:

1. What would you say are some common traits of the basic philosophy of the world today? (Personal happiness is no.1, you don't have to answer to anyone, the world owes you... etc.)
2. When someone is displaying poor ethics in their family, commitments, or marriage, what is the real problem? (The real problem isn't trying to get people to just change their behaviour, but realising the foundation they have built their philosophy on is wrong)
3. How can we build on proper ethics (Christian ethics)?

**Prayer:** "Father, thank you that for communicating to us through Your Word. Help me to look solely to You for my source of wisdom. Help me to be a "love of wisdom," but not of the wisdom of this world, but You. I commit myself to building my life on Christian ethics from Your Word. Guide me and lead me into all truth, I pray in Jesus' name, amen."