

CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

I. WHAT IS MEANT BY "CHRISTIAN ETHICS"?

- A. Ethics are standards and rules for correct behavior.
- B. How we talk and what we do reveals our ethics.
- C. "Christian Ethics" refers to how we are to conduct ourselves as Christians.
- D. 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.
- E. 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." (I Tim.3:15)

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

- A. No. The Bible says as sinners we all come short of what God wants us to be and to do.
 - 1. Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- B. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that we must be "born again".
 - 1. John 3:1-21
- C. We must receive a new nature. This is done by repenting of our sins and receiving Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

1. Ephesians 4:23-32 (also read Ephesians chapter 5)
 - a. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.
 - b. Put on the new man.
 - c. Put away lying, speak the truth.
 - d. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath.
 - e. Give no place to the devil.
 - f. Steal not, but labor to have good things to give.
 - g. Speak no corrupt communications but that which ministers grace to the hearers.
 - h. Grieve not the Holy Spirit.
 - i. Put away from you all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking with malice.
 - j. Be kind one to another.
 - k. Forgive one another.

D. 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.

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

We learn proper conduct by:

A. Study of God's Word.

1. Psa. 19:8b ...the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.
2. Psa 119:105 Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
3. Prov. 6:20-23
4. Josh 1:8
5. II Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and

is

CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

B. Following the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

1. John 14:26 ...He shall teach you all things,...
2. John 16:13 ...He will guide you into all truth:...

C. Giving attention to the teachings of God's ministers and teachers.

1. Heb. 13:7
2. Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls,...
3. Eph. 4:11-13
4. I Peter 5:5a (AMP) Likewise, you who are younger and of

lesser

rank, be subject to the elders (the ministers and spiritual guides of the church) - [giving them due respect and yielding to their counsel]....

IV. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PROPER CONDUCT?

A. To be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, not hard-hearted. (Mark 3:1-6)

NOTE: The phrase "hardness of heart" in verse 5 means (callousness, dulled perception, lose the power of understanding, hard-hearted).

1. When a person becomes insensitive to the Spirit of God in a service (that includes any part of the service -- singing, worship, preaching, etc.), that person will become selfish, rebellious, etc.

2. When a congregation is insensitive to the Holy Spirit, then

CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

the

Holy Spirit will lift the anointing. Without the anointing, the service is in vain.

make

3. On the contrary, if we are sensitive to the Holy Spirit, we Him welcome, then the anointing flows. This is when lives are changed for the glory of God.

lives are

service.

4. We show our sensitiveness to Him by our actions in the

their

5. Jesus was grieved by their actions. Their actions showed attitude toward His presence.

B. To walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh. (Romans 8:4-8)

1. So that righteousness of the law may be fulfilled in us, we must not walk after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
2. Carnal minded (minding of the flesh -- which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit)) is death, but spiritually minded (minding of the Spirit) is life and peace.
3. The carnal mind is enmity (hostile and unsubmitive) to God.
4. They that walk in the flesh cannot please God.

C. To manifest the fruit of the Spirit, not the works of the flesh. Galatians 5:16-26

1. If you walk, live, and are controlled by the Holy Spirit, then you will not fulfill the lust (gratify the cravings and desires) of the flesh.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- prevents
2. Because the desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit oppose and are contrary to one another, this conflict us from doing what needs to be done.
 3. Works of the flesh (such as: adultery, impurity, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, strife, anger, envy, jealousy, drunkenness) will stop the flow of the anointing.
 4. Walking in the Spirit will produce the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) and cause it to be manifested in the church body.

D. So the Gifts of the Spirit will be manifested by flowing in the anointing, and they will operate in the proper order.
(I Cor. 14)

- will
1. Proper order of the manifestations of the Gifts of the Spirit eliminate confusion and disorder, allowing the peace and order of God to do His work in the church.
 2. All things should be done decently and in order in the church.

IT IS THE ANOINTING THAT DESTROYS THE YOKE. YOU CAN SAY ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, BEHAVE PROPERLY, ETC., BUT IT NEEDS TO COME FROM THE HEART. IT MUST HAVE THE ANOINTING TO BE EFFECTIVE.

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

CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

A. When Late For Services, You Should Be Seated:

1. When the order of service changes.
2. After prayer.
3. After the worship service.
4. Just before the offering.
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. You are preventing those near you from hearing from God's Word, which can cause someone to miss what God has
for
Him for
them (healing, deliverance, etc.), even the call to accept
their Lord and Saviour.

C. What Conduct Shows A Disrespect For God's House?

1. Talking during the service:
 - a. Loud conversations or whisperings among yourselves.
 - b. Loud unnecessary comments or inserts to the minister and/or to the Word being ministered (other than appropriate "amens").
 - c. Mocking the minister or the Word that is being
ministered.
2. Writing and passing notes.
3. Chewing gum in service.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

4. Throwing paper on the floor.
5. Walking out and back into the sanctuary during the service, except in the most extreme emergency.
6. Allowing our children to walk out and back in during the service.
7. Not giving our children proper supervision in the sanctuary.
8. Allowing our children to mock the minister and/or anyone else in the church.
9. Smoking in the building (corridors or restrooms), or in the parking lot.
10. Leaving during the Altar Call.

THESE GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT BEING FOLLOWED
WILL INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO FLOW IN THE SERVICE.
FOR HE IS A GENTLEMAN AND WILL ONLY MOVE IN OUR MIDST
WHEN INVITED.

VI. CONCLUSION:

- A. Paul the Apostle said in Colossians 3:17, "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus,...*"
- B. When we choose Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we choose His way of doing things.
- C. We want to be obedient to our Lord in everything we do and say, whether at home, on the job, or at church.
- D. All things should be done decently and in order in the church.