Worldviews  
Mr. Myers

Ethics: The Basis for Christian Morality

1. **Basis for Christian Morality: What is the standard of right or wrong in Christianity?**
   1. The Ten Commandments? The teachings of Jesus? The golden rule? The Bible?
   2. Christian morality is rooted in the character of God
      1. Is something wrong or right because God says so? Or does God say something is right or wrong because it is right or wrong? Would it still have been right or wrong even if God had not said so?
      2. God has a moral nature, a definite way of being—He speaks truth, He loves everyone, He is fair, He is merciful, etc—His character is the standard of right and wrong. Actions and desires that line up with the actions and desires of God are right; actions and desires that go against the actions and desires of God are wrong.
      3. Sin is not sin just because God decided to tag a particular behavior that way; it is sin because it misrepresents Him; we are created in His image and bring Him glory and pleasure when we behave like Him, but when we behave in ways that are unlike Him then we dishonor and anger Him.
   3. Christian morality is a description of what works for life and what does not work for life
      1. Someone once gave their impression of God: “the sort of person who is always snooping around to see if anyone is enjoying himself and then trying to stop it.”
      2. In contrast to that idea, “moral rules are the directions for running the human machine.” (C. S. Lewis)
   4. Virtues and sins in Christian morality
      1. Virtues
         1. Love
         2. Prudence
         3. Humility
         4. Temperance
         5. Justice
         6. Chastity
         7. Forgiveness
         8. Fortitude
      2. Sins
         1. Pride
         2. Lust