

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

ETHICS IN SCRIPTURE



THIRD MILLENNIUM

MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

For videos, manuscripts, and other resources, visit Third Millennium Ministries at thirdmill.org.

Journal Questions

1. Compare an ethical system based on God himself as the ultimate standard with an ethical system in which God is not the ultimate standard. How are they similar? How are they different?
2. Why should we think of application as part of theology? What dangers exist when we do not include application in our definition of theology?
3. Explain the idea that all feelings have moral consequences. Which biblical passages make this point most clearly?
4. Describe the most important difference between the similar actions of an unbeliever and a believer.
5. Why are faith and love the criteria for proper motives? What do these criteria reveal about what God and his values?
6. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What are some benefits to using *all* of Scripture for ethical training?
7. Which perspective do you most frequently rely upon in your decision making? What advantages and disadvantages does this preference offer you in your ethical decisions?
8. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
TWO

THE NORMATIVE
PERSPECTIVE: GOD AND HIS
WORD



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

Journal Questions

1. In what ways do you strive to know God? Give an example of a time when knowing God has revealed a proper course of action to you.
2. How do people respond to the fact that God is the absolute moral judge? What human parallels make this idea easier to understand? What human parallels make this truth harder to understand?
3. Read 1 John 1:7. Why did John say that our obligation to obey God's standard is related to our forgiveness in Christ?
4. Describe some true things about God that you have learned through general revelation.
5. Describe some true things about God that you have learned through general revelation.
6. How may believers learn truth about God by looking at other people?
7. Give an example of the Holy Spirit's illumination in your life. Give an example of the Holy Spirit's illumination in the life of an unbeliever.
8. Explain the importance of using all forms of God's revelation in making ethical decisions.
9. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
THREE

THE NORMATIVE
PERSPECTIVE: THE
ATTRIBUTES OF SCRIPTURE



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

For videos, manuscripts, and other resources, visit Third Millennium Ministries at thirdmill.org.

Journal Questions

1. How has God's word provided you with strength to carry out what you know to be right and good?
2. Read Romans 1:15-16. Why was Paul compelled to preach the gospel in spite of its apparent foolishness in the eyes of some? What implications does this have for our lives today?
3. In what ways are you challenged to obey the breadth of God's word? In what ways have you sought to avoid some aspect of Scripture's moral teaching?
4. How is our obedience to Scripture connected to our love for God? How does obedience flowing from a heart of love for God differ from obedience done from other motivations?
5. God does not reveal all knowledge to us, only some. How does this make you feel?
6. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
FOUR

THE NORMATIVE
PERSPECTIVE: PARTS AND
ASPECTS OF SCRIPTURE



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

For videos, manuscripts, and other resources, visit Third Millennium Ministries at thirdmill.org.

Journal Questions

1. In light of the Bible's ordinary use of language, how should you approach Scripture?
2. How should your knowledge of biblical history influence your behavior?
3. A friend of yours asks; "How can it be that in one sense the Old Testament civil and ceremonial laws have expired, but in another sense they still apply?" How would you answer your friend's question?
4. How can the "love command" and all other biblical laws be aspects of each other?
5. What reason to obey the law does the new covenant give you?
6. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
FIVE

THE SITUATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE: REVELATION
AND SITUATION



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

Journal Questions

1. Why does God as our ultimate fact, our ultimate ethical environment, obligate us to live by the standard of his character? What happens if we ignore this fact?
2. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” How can we glorify God in the mundane activities of life (i.e. brushing teeth, making the bed, driving a car, etc.)?
3. Why is it important to interpret the Bible within its historical context? What kinds of ethical mistakes can we make if we fail to interpret the Bible rightly?
4. Provide three real or hypothetical examples of the strategy of laxity. What overall impact might this strategy have on the person or community that has embraced it?
5. Provide three real or hypothetical examples of the strategy of rigor. What overall impact might this strategy have on the person or community that has embraced it?
6. Provide three real or hypothetical examples of the strategy of relying on human authority. What overall impact might this strategy have on the person or community that has embraced it?
7. Which popular strategy or strategies toward revelation most reflect your own practice? What practical steps can you take to correct these inclinations?
8. How does an understanding of the Scriptures as the supreme revealed authority keep us from falling into a strategy of laxity, rigor, or human authority?
9. We all make many ethical decisions every day. How might you use the insights of this lesson to help you make better decisions in the future?
10. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
SIX

THE SITUATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE: PURSUING
OUR GOAL



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

Journal Questions

1. How does consideration for God's kingdom aid us when making ethical decisions?
2. Describe a practical example of paying proper attention to the kingdom of God in an ethical decision.
3. What implications can we draw for Christian ethics from the fact that human beings are the image of God?
4. List three changes might you make in your life to increase God's fame and reputation, and explain why they would have this effect.
5. In what ways is your life characterized by joy and peace? In what ways do you fall short of this goal?
6. Do you think of God's law as a joy and delight, as a burden, as irrelevant to Christian living, or as something else? Why? How does your view of the law need to change to become more biblical?
7. How can marriage aid a person in fulfilling the Cultural Mandate and the Great Commission? How can singleness aid a person in fulfilling these same commands?
8. What would society look like if the Cultural Mandate were successfully and consistently applied throughout the world?
9. What are you currently doing in life to help fulfill the Great Commission? What additional steps could you take to be more effective in reaching this goal?
10. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
SEVEN

THE SITUATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE:
UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

Journal Questions

1. What are some typical excuses people use to avoid submitting to what God has clearly commanded? Why do we make such excuses?
2. How would you explain to a friend that God orders creation in such a way that our circumstances never excuse our unethical choices?
3. Why is it important to recognize that God is in complete control over all creation, and that humanity is still morally responsible?
4. How is God's presence with us as royal judge a critical fact to consider as we make ethical decisions?
5. Why should Christians take comfort from the fact that Jesus is our mediator?
6. What lessons can we learn from Jesus' earthly presence as the supreme pattern of righteousness?
7. Besides indwelling us, the Holy Spirit gives believers special abilities to perform works of service for the church. What does this purpose imply about the proper use of spiritual gifts?
8. We are engaged in a spiritual war, but James 1:14 still says that we fall into sin because of our own evil desire. How do our sinful desires and our enemies work together? What can we do to combat our sinful desires and our enemies?
9. Describe how a recent decision has affected other people. Did it benefit them or hurt them? Did it encourage them to behave more ethically, or did it encourage them to sin.
10. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
EIGHT

THE EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE: BEING GOOD



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

For videos, manuscripts, and other resources, visit Third Millennium Ministries at thirdmill.org.

Journal Questions

1. How can Christians find comfort in the fact that God's attributes are immutable? What comfort is to be found with the knowledge that God's attributes never conflict?
2. In what ways does the concept of the image of God as royal children dignify humanity?
3. How can a morally evil person who is living under the curse make seemingly morally good decisions (i.e. truthful, helpful, kind, etc.)?
4. The Fall corrupts human nature, enslaves the will, and severely damages our knowledge of God's revelation. What impact does this have on our efforts to evangelize the world? How should it inform our evangelism strategies?
5. Explain from your own life how knowledge of God has led to obedience.
6. In what ways have you seen your obedience to God's standard result in a more intimate knowledge of him?
7. In Christ we have again become capable of true goodness, but we still struggle with sin. What strategies have you found helpful in resisting sin? What strategies have you found unhelpful in resisting sin?
8. In what ways do you see your church community loving God and obeying him? In what ways are you loving God and obeying him? Explain the connection between this love and obedience.
9. Why should the return of Jesus and the full application of his redeeming work bring Christians hope?
10. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
NINE

THE EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE: INTENDING
GOOD



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

For videos, manuscripts, and other resources, visit Third Millennium Ministries at thirdmill.org.

Journal Questions

1. Why are motives so important to God? Does it bother you that he doesn't just ask for outward conformity?
2. Besides those discussed in this lesson, what are some inward dispositions that the Bible points to as legitimate motives for good works?
3. Reflecting upon your own heart, what motivates you to action? Does your outward obedience flow from a heart truly committed to God's and his Word?
4. How can we guard ourselves from acting hypocritically? What measures should be taken to insure that both our actions and our motives coincide with our God's word?
5. Do you remember when you first came to saving faith? If so, how did this experience affect your motives and behavior? How have your motives and behavior changed over the course of your ongoing life of faith?
6. Is your life characterized by repentance? In which areas and in what ways are you actively in rebellion?
7. What practical steps can believers take toward ongoing repentance? How can we successfully overcome temptation?
8. Have you ever felt abandoned by God or unsure that our faith was true? Have you ever felt confident that your faith was true? What difference do these attitudes make in the ongoing lives of believers as we strive to make biblical decisions?
9. In what ways can you or your church reflect God's common grace to those outside the Christian faith, and even to your enemies?
10. Is your past understanding of love different from the description of love presented in this lesson? How? What impact will this have on the way you make future decisions?
11. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

Making Biblical Decisions

Journal Questions

LESSON
TEN

THE EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE: CHOOSING
GOOD



THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

For videos, manuscripts, and other resources, visit Third Millennium Ministries at thirdmill.org.

Journal Questions

1. How have you tended to make ethical decisions in the past? What inward dispositions and faculties have you relied on most? What inward dispositions and faculties have you tended to ignore?
2. Why is it important to utilize imagination when studying the Scriptures?
3. How does a correct understanding of the role of reason lead to good ethical decisions?
4. Discuss a time when your conscience was wrong. How can we distinguish when our conscience is right from when it is wrong?
5. If we feel emotionally indifferent or detached from our sin, how might we be brought to repentance?
6. In Luke 6:45, Jesus referred to our commitments as the things that are stored up in our hearts and that express themselves in our works. What do your works and your speech suggest about the commitments of your own heart?
7. Practically speaking, our inward dispositions, capacities and faculties are often in tension with each other. Under these conditions, what are some things we can do to ensure that we make the most biblical, responsible decisions possible?
8. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this lesson?
9. What is the most significant insight you have learned from the series *Making Biblical Decisions*?