

Study Guide for *Christian Ethics*, by Robert Mackintosh

Extra Reading for the course: "Making Biblical Decisions"

ACADEMIC
PACKET

**RESOURCES FOR GROUPS
USING THE ACADEMIC PACKETS**



Read Robert Mackintosh, *Christian Ethics*

NOTE: While this book has many useful teachings, in some chapters the author shows a more liberal, or modernistic, view of Scripture. Some of the questions are aimed at helping the student identify those views which are not in accord with the more traditional conservative views of Third Millennium Ministries.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Chapter 1

1. Does the author think that in the New Testament, either Christ or Paul developed a formal ethical system?
2. The author explains that Christian ethics has been a separate branch of study since when?
3. What is the purpose of the study of Christian ethics, according to the author?

Chapter 2

1. According to Dr. Newman Smyth, the first postulate of Christian ethics is the ethical idea of _____.
2. The author agrees that sin should not be considered simply a "defect," but rather _____.
3. Does the author agree that "all sins weigh equally heavy in the scales of justice"?
4. Does the author agree that man would not be responsible if he were not also free?
5. Does the author say that the general teaching of the Christian Church has been that moral perfection can be obtained in this life?

Chapter 3

1. Describe each of the following philosophical ethical theories.
 - a. hedonism
 - b. utilitarianism
 - c. Intuitionism
2. What are the two key concepts in philosophical ethics, the "rival watchwords"?

Chapter 4

1. Where in the Bible do we find a summary of Old Testament ethics?
2. The central Old Testament ethic flows through the _____.
3. Which ethical aspect of the Old Testament especially points to salvation in Christ?
4. Which writings of the Old Testament point especially to individual righteousness?

Chapter 5

1. What is the author's view of why some ethical teachings of the Old Testament seem "imperfect"?
2. Describe the characteristics of the Pharisees.
3. Why did Christ criticize the Pharisees?
4. How did Paul differ from the Pharisees?

Chapter 6

1. What modernist concept does the author express regarding the Gospel of John? (This is a theologically liberal concept that traditional conservative theologians would not hold.)
2. Does the author think that, for Jesus, the Old Testament is divine?
3. According to the author, what was the difference between Jesus' view and the Pharisees' view of Old Testament ethics?
4. What passage of the gospels is key to New Testament ethics, according to the author?
5. Jesus taught that no act is morally good unless the _____ is right.

Chapter 7

1. What is the audience of the epistles of the New Testament?
2. "Almost the whole New Testament is dominated by the thought of _____."
3. "No epistle gives us such an inside view of the early Christian churches as _____."
4. "On the whole, St. Paul's teaching remains clear -- that the law is _____."
5. The author expresses another modernist, or liberal, view regarding the authority of the Bible when he talks about the early Christians' expectations that Christ would return soon. What is his comment?

Chapter 8

1. The author says that Catholicism placed emphasis on three different things. What are they?
2. What problem in the Middle Ages led to the Reformation?

Chapter 9

1. According to the author, it was the discovery of the Pauline gospel that made the Reformation a religious movement. What book does he mention that especially contributed to this impact?
2. What aspects of Pauline teaching were not clearly seen until modern scholarship arose, according to the author?
3. The author states that Protestantism, especially Lutheranism, frequently focuses on what doctrine and forgets what?
4. Who said, "Good pious works will never make a good pious man, but a good pious man will do good pious works."
5. "Conscious deliberate theory for Christian society arose in Protestantism as developed by _____."
6. The author asserts that our modern democratic form of government is the result of what?
7. What new view toward wealth was brought by Protestantism, according to the author?
8. The author claims that political toleration was especially emphasized by whom?

Chapter 10

1. What statement does the author make about the Old Testament which would not be accepted by orthodox theologians, but rather would be considered modernistic?
2. The author says, "The State chiefly relies upon _____."
3. What is the author's view about what the Church should forbid or require?
4. The author says that if there seems to be a conflict among different kinds of moral authority, our ultimate loyalty is to _____.

Chapter 11

1. Describe the special emphasis of each school of thought:
 - a. German Pietism
 - b. The Broad Church School (or Christian Nurture)
 - c. Revivalism

Chapter 12

1. The author says, "If now we try to offer a preliminary definition, we might say that the peculiarity of Christian obedience consists in... _____."
2. The author asserts that Christ's ethical teaching focuses on the present or the future?

Chapter 13

1. Does the author agree with D.L. Moody when he said that "duty" was a poor description of a Christian's calling?
2. Does the author agree that, as long as we respect the limits of authority laid down, we are permitted to act as we please?
3. Does the author believe that appropriate recreation and amusement can be helpful?
4. Does the author agree that sometimes it is better for a Christian to properly claim his rights?

Chapter 14

1. What are the author's recommendations for practicing temperance?
2. The author states that justice demands equality of _____ in some sense.
3. The author states that love and justice are not two separate things. What statement does he make about how they are related?
4. The author states, "The fundamental tone of virtue before God is _____."
5. The author says, "Thankfulness includes in itself _____."
6. Does the author agree that Christian virtues are most beneficial and wholesome when we do right for the abstract right's sake?

Chapter 15

1. What are the three key social institutions that the author explains?
2. What is the author's view of polygamy in the Old Testament?
3. What is the author's view of possible legitimate grounds for divorce?
4. The author explains, "The State is the realm of organized _____."
5. What is the name of the philosophical concept that the State should simply stay out of people's way?
6. Does the author believe that it is good for a Christian to affiliate with a political party?

Chapter 16

1. While the author agrees with the purpose of the Keswick movement, he disagrees with an important theological issue. What is that issue?
2. True or false? The author recommends total abstinence from alcoholic beverages.
3. What is the author's view about gambling?
4. What does the author recommend about limiting child-bearing?
5. What is the author's view regarding racial issues?
6. Does the author believe that the Bible teaches vegetarianism?
7. What is the author's view of Christian participation in war?

8. Does the author affirm the equality of men and women?

Chapter 17

1. The industrial revolution brought ethical changes. According to the author, what new attitude took the place of the previous moral customs?

2. According to the author, what movement was very influential at the time he wrote this book?

3. What positive ethical value does the author find in individualism?

4. What positive ethical value does the author find in socialism?