

## **New Testament Ethics**

The New Testament view of Human Nature, the Nature of God and the Nature of Ethics is Continuous with that of the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament.

### ***Jesus confirms the Law.***

Mat 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' "This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

### ***There is a continuation of the emphasis on the corrupted God image in man:***

Rom 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Humanity has not lost the dignity of the image, but like a damaged coin or cracked mirror image is marred and needs to be repaired.

### ***As the perfect man, Jesus is the exemplar of moral virtue.***

Act 13:28 "And though they found no ground for *putting Him to death*, they asked Pilate that He be executed."

***As the logos, Jesus is the rationalism behind all ethics.***

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Logos, and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

***As the Savior, he considered the greater good of the majority above his personal needs.***

Rom 5:6-8 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

***He Instituted The Golden Rule:***

The ancient Rabbi Hillel stated a negative form of the Golden Rule, “Do not unto others that which you would not have them do unto you. That is the entire Torah. The rest is commentary. Now go and study.”

Jesus Golden Rule is positive: Mat 7:12 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

It was meant to be applied the in the treatment of all people, not just friends, neighbors and associates as Jesus illustrated through the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

***The Law is not abolished by Jesus, rather fulfilled through him. His life, actions and statements demonstrated his intent for the internalization of the law.***

The prohibition against murder is extended to cover unjustified anger and hatred.

The Prohibition against adultery is extended to cover lust.

The prohibition against false witness is extended to cover needing to take an oath at all; rather, let your word be your bond.

The legalism that surrounded honoring one's father and mother is cut through so that responsible love replaces casuistry.

Regarding the Sabbath: He focused on the spirit of the Sabbath not the law of the Sabbath "The Sabbath is made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

Instead of Do not covet (the tenth commandment): "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you" (Mt. 6:33).

***There is a focus on the grace of God.***

***There is a focus on faith in God and his provision for our security.***

***There is a focus on Loving one another.***

Joh 15:12-15 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."

1Jo 4:7-9 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

1 Corinthians 13 speaks of love being the very heart of the Christian character and thus the highest virtue.

The highest are not reason and courage (Greek) but faith, love and hope, with love being on top. Humans are not mere rational animals but beings that need love, trust, and emotional fulfillment in order to flourish. They belong to God, have a “God-shaped heart,” and cannot satisfy that heart with substitutes.