

## Lecture 1 – The Subject Matter of Ethics

*“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.” Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)*

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1, 2 (NIV)*

### Key Terms

Morality, character, rules, right/wrong, virtue/vice, will of God

### Objectives

- \*Identify key elements of any ethical system.
- \*List the key questions answered by any ethical system.
- \*Discuss the motive and goal in a biblical system of ethics.

### Introduction

### The Subject Matter of Ethics

|         |             |
|---------|-------------|
| Rules   | Right/wrong |
| Persons | Virtue/vice |
| Goals   | Good/evil   |

#### I. World & Life View

##### A. Three basic issues

1. Origin of the universe and man
2. Present human condition
3. Fulfillment of human nature

##### B. The Christian answer

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Redemption

##### C. Shalom

1. The goal/will of God defines for us the good
2. Which side will we choose?
3. A responsible person finds his role in the building of Shalom

##### D. C.S. Lewis’ *Mere Christianity*: Three part morality

##### E. The three-fold question

1. What goals ought we to pursue in life?
2. What sort of persons ought we to be?
3. What rules ought we to follow?

##### F. The basic question: What is God calling us to be and to do?

##### G. The Christian answer to the three-fold answer

1. Purpose – the glory of God
2. Motive – the love of God

3. Principle – the law of God
4. All three are needed together

## II. Christian Motives

### A. Romans 12:1-2

1. Affectional
2. Volitional
3. Rational
4. Will of God