

Lecture 2 – The Goal of Human Life (Part I)

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” *I Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)*

“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)*

Key Terms

Will of God, Scripture, Christ, Holy Spirit, *telos*, glory of God, image of God

Objectives

- *State a short definition of Christian ethics.
- *Express the significance of the Westminster Confession’s first question and answer.
- *Recognize the difference between consequentialism and teleological ethics.
- *Explain biblical human fulfillment.

The Goal of Human Life (Part I)

I. Introduction

II. Defining Christian Ethics

A. The study of ...

B. Role of the Holy Spirit in Christian ethics: illumination

III. The Goal of Human Life

A. *Westminster Shorter Catechism* Question 1

1. Teleological: Goal-oriented

2. Presupposes ultimate goal

3. All other questions flow from first question.

B. *Summum bonum*: What is the highest good?

1. Akkadian illustration vs. Abraham

C. Teleological ethics vs. deontological ethics

1. Our duty is subordinate to our goal.

2. Biblical teleological ethics incorporates both.

3. Teleological tradition and St. Augustine

a. Highest good: Knowing and loving God

b. Happiness

IV. Various Ways Scripture Presents the Goal of Human Life

A. The glory of God

1. Philippians 1:9-11

2. II Peter 1:3-4

a. *Theosis*

b. We reflect God in various aspects.