

Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges

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PRESENTATION FOR THE
WAD QUINQUENNIAL DIVISION-WIDE COUNCIL
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Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges

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The ethical choices of Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:1-11

Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges

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Ethics is not:

Feelings

Obeying the law

Following one's culture

Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges

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Ethics:

The moral principles that govern a person's behavior and actions.

Webster's Dictionary

Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges

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These principles come from one's world view.

For Christians, one's world view comes from one's view of God and our view of God is based on Scripture.

Pictures of God

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Genesis 1 and 2:

God who **plans and acts**

God who **expresses joy**

God who **delights in beauty**

God who **thinks and works**

God who **cares for what He has created**

God who **seeks a relationship** with His
creation

Pictures of God

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Deuteronomy 10:17-18:

God who **shows no partiality**

God who **takes no bribes**

God who **administers justice** for the
fatherless and the widow

God who **loves and cares** for the stranger

Pictures of God

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Leviticus 19:35-36:

An **honest God** who requires we use honest scales and honest weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin.

Pictures of God

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Jeremiah 9:24:

A God who **exercises lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness** in the earth, and **delights in these things.**

Pictures of God

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Micah 6:8:

A God who **requires us to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.**

Ethical Rationalization

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1. Calling an unethical act by a different name.
2. “Everybody does it!”
3. “That’s the way we do things here.”
4. “We were only following orders.”
5. “It’s a gray area.”

Ethical Rationalization

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“I looked up the word ‘cheat’ in the dictionary and decided it didn’t apply, given that it meant ‘to gain an advantage on a rival or foe.’ I didn’t view doping that way. I viewed it as a level playing field.”

Lance Armstrong, January, 2013

Big Picture Ethical Issues

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1. Policy for denominational structure is not followed.
2. Unethical top-level decisions to “benefit the work.”
3. Pressure to meet goals which results in “fudged” numbers.

Slippery Slope Challenges

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1. Taking things that don't belong to you.
2. Giving or allowing false impressions.
3. Saying things you know are not true.

Slippery Slope Challenges

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4. Buying influence or engaging in conflicts of interest.
5. Hiding or divulging information.
6. Permitting interpersonal and/or organizational abuse.

The Ethical Standard

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Psalm 15:

In answer to the question: Who may abide in
Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

Responds.....

The Ethical Standard

17

He who **walks uprightly,**
And **works righteousness,**
And **speaks the truth in his heart;**

He who **does not backbite** with his tongue,
Nor does evil to his neighbor,
Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;

The Ethical Standard

18

In whose eyes a vile person is despised,
But he **honors those who fear the LORD;**
He who **swears to his own hurt and does not
change;**
He who **does not put out his money at usury,**
Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved.



The Ethical Standard

Since an overseer (elder) is entrusted with God's word, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Titus 1:7-9

References

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