Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges

PRESENTATION FOR THE
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The ethical choices of Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:1-11
Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges

Ethics is not:

Feelings
Obeying the law
Following one’s culture
Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges

Ethics:

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

Webster’s Dictionary
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

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
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
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

Jeremiah 9:24:

A God who exercises lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth, and delights in these things.
Micah 6:8:

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

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.”
“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

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

1. Taking things that don’t belong to you.

2. Giving or allowing false impressions.

3. Saying things you know are not true.
4. Buying influence or engaging in conflicts of interest.

5. Hiding or divulging information.

6. Permitting interpersonal and/or organizational abuse.
Psalm 15:

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

Responds......
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;
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.
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 pursing 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
