

From ethical foundations to ethical issues

- **So far** we have covered:
 - What is ethics?
 - A Christian perspective
 - The ethical teachings of the Old Testament
 - The ethical teachings of Jesus Christ
 - Christian ethics
- **Now** we will move on to:
 - A model for approaching ethical issues
 - Global issues
 - Social issues
 - Personal issues

A Model for Approaching Ethical Issues

Understanding Ethics: A Christian Perspective

A 5 step approach

- 1) What is the issue and why is it relevant?
- 2) How can we understand the issue better?
- 3) What are the key principles and values at stake?
- 4) What is the distinctive contribution from a Christian ethical perspective?
- 5) How should the ethical response be – e.g. from (a) Christian journalists in mainstream news media? (b) Christian communication workers in church media? (c) Christian local churches?

Step 1: Identify the issue

What is the issue and why is it important?

- How can we define and describe this ethical issue?
- Why is this issue important?
- For whom is this issue (especially) relevant?

Step 2: Understand the issue

How can we understand the issue better?

-What are the best philosophical, historical, social, and cultural explanations of the issue?

-What are the key motives and attitudes involved in this issue?

-Where do we find more reliable knowledge about this issue?

Step 3: Analyze the issue

What are the key principles and values at stake in this issue?

- Which key ethical principles are at stake?
- Which key ethical values are at stake?
- To what extent are there conflicts (a) between fundamental ethical principles or (b) between key ethical values?

Step 4: Contribute to the issue

What is the distinctive contribution from a Christian ethical perspective?

We need a fourfold biblical framework:

- 1) Creation
- 2) Fall
- 3) Redemption
- 4) Hope / consummation

How does this contribution differ from the ethical responses from other key worldview perspectives?

Step 5: Respond to the issue

How should our ethical response(s) to the issue be?

Three case studies:

(a) Christian journalists in mainstream news media?

- To what extent would that response be different from other journalists?

(b) Christian communication workers in church media?

(c) Christian local churches?

The ethical responses should be both in terms of (1) reflections, (2) attitudes, and (3) actions.

Reflections / discussions

We will now apply this ***five step approach*** to:

- The issue of war and peace
- The issue of caring for creation