

This question prompts the further question, "What do we mean by 'good'?" How is "good" to be defined in the study of ethics in general?

2. Definition of Christian Ethics

The addition of the adjective "Christian" sharpens the question from "What does it mean to live the good life?" to "What does it mean to live the Christian life?"

Ethics in general is defined as the science of moral conduct.

Christian ethics is also the science of moral conduct, but the criterion of moral conduct is the will of God addressed to mankind's obedience. Thus conduct is good or bad, right or wrong in relation to those commands which God has given to human beings.

3. Distinction between Christian personal ethics and Christian social ethics

Christian personal ethics asks the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian in my personal relationship to God?" Christian social ethics asks the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian in my societal relationships to my fellow human beings?"

B. The Location of Christian Ethics in the Theological Encyclopedia

- I. Biblical field
- II. Historical field
- III. Theological field
 - A. Exegetical theology
 - B. Biblical theology
 - C. Historical theology
 - D. Systematic theology
 - E. Philosophy of religion

- 1. Apologetics
- 2. Comparative religions
- 3. Christian ethics

- a. General ethics
- b. Personal ethics
- c. Social ethics

IV. Practical field

C. The Necessity of the Study of Christian Ethics

The nature and purpose of salvation (to save the whole human being), together with the concept of vocation, demand the study and the development of a science of moral conduct according to the standards of the Word of God.