

# contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| FOREWORD   | vi        |
| INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS   | 2         |
| <b>Unit 1: Foundations for Ethics</b>                                | <b>10</b> |
| CHAPTER 1  | 12        |
| <b>Creational Foundations for Ethics</b>                             |           |
| 1.1 God's Character as a Foundation for Ethics                       | 13        |
| DEFENDING THE FAITH <i>Is Too Much Authority a Bad Thing?</i>        | 15        |
| 1.2 The Created Order as a Foundation for Ethics                     | 16        |
| 1.3 The Image of God in Man as a Foundation for Ethics               | 21        |
| Introduction and Chapter 1 Review                                    | 25        |
| CHAPTER 2  | 26        |
| <b>The Fall's Effects on Ethics</b>                                  |           |
| 2.1 The Root Cause of All Ethical Difficulties                       | 27        |
| 2.2 Faulty Approaches to Ethics                                      | 32        |
| 2.3 Evaluating the Faulty Approaches to Ethics                       | 38        |
| Chapter 2 Review   | 44        |
| CHAPTER 3  | 45        |
| <b>The Role of Redemption in Ethics</b>                              |           |
| 3.1 Redemption and the Law   | 46        |
| 3.2 Redemption and Wisdom  | 50        |
| 3.3 Redemption and Man's Chief End                                   | 54        |
| DEVELOPING ETHICAL SKILLS <i>What if My Duty Doesn't Delight Me?</i> | 55        |
| Chapter 3 Review   | 59        |
| <b>Unit 2: Virtues</b>   | <b>60</b> |
| CHAPTER 4  | 62        |
| <b>Becoming Like Christ</b>  |           |
| 4.1 Virtues and Vices  | 63        |
| GRAPPLING WITH ETHICAL ISSUES <i>Can Evil People Do Good Things?</i> | 66        |
| 4.2 Christlikeness and Counterfeits                                  | 66        |
| Chapter 4 Review   | 73        |

|  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
|  | CHAPTER 5  | 74  |
|  | <b>Three Central Virtues</b>                                       |     |
|  | <b>5.1</b> The Virtue of Faith                                     | 75  |
|  | <b>5.2</b> The Virtue of Love                                      | 79  |
|  | <b>5.3</b> The Virtue of Hope                                      | 84  |
|  | Chapter 5 Review   | 89  |
|  | CHAPTER 6  | 90  |
|  | <b>Virtues, Part 1</b>   |     |
|  | <b>6.1</b> Righteousness and Goodness                              | 91  |
|  | <b>6.2</b> Prudence  | 95  |
|  | GRAPPLING WITH ETHICAL ISSUES <i>Is It Ever Virtuous to Fight?</i> | 100 |
|  | <b>6.3</b> Diligence, Faithfulness, and Courage                    | 101 |
|  | <b>6.4</b> Self-Control, Temperance, and Patience                  | 106 |
|  | Chapter 6 Review   | 110 |
|  | CHAPTER 7  | 111 |
|  | <b>Virtues, Part 2</b>   |     |
|  | <b>7.1</b> Humility, Meekness, and Gentleness                      | 112 |
|  | <b>7.2</b> Kindness and Compassion                                 | 116 |
|  | <b>7.3</b> Gratitude, Joy, and Peace                               | 122 |
|  | <b>7.4</b> Honesty   | 126 |
|  | Chapter 7 Review   | 133 |
|  | <b>Unit 3: Issues</b>  | 134 |
|  | CHAPTER 8  | 136 |
|  | <b>A Method for Handling Ethical Issues</b>                        |     |
|  | <b>8.1</b> The Components of a Sound Ethical Method                | 137 |
|  | <b>8.2</b> Using a Sound Ethical Method                            | 142 |
|  | EVALUATING CONTEMPORARY EVENTS                                     | 144 |
|  | GRAPPLING WITH ETHICAL ISSUES                                      | 145 |
|  | Chapter 8 Review   | 146 |
|  | CHAPTER 9  | 147 |
|  | <b>The Ethics of Life and Death</b>                                |     |
|  | <b>9.1</b> Murder, Manslaughter, and Self-Defense                  | 148 |
|  | EVALUATING CONTEMPORARY EVENTS                                     | 150 |
|  | EVALUATING CONTEMPORARY EVENTS                                     | 154 |
|  | <b>9.2</b> Suicide and Euthanasia                                  | 154 |
|  | EVALUATING CONTEMPORARY EVENTS                                     | 156 |
|  | <b>9.3</b> Abortion  | 159 |
|  | Chapter 9 Review   | 165 |

|  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
|  | CHAPTER 10   | 166 |
|  | <b>Ethical Government</b>  |     |
|  | <b>10.1</b> Capital Punishment                                     | 167 |
|  | <b>10.2</b> Just War   | 173 |
|  | <b>10.3</b> Immigration  | 178 |
|  | EVALUATING CONTEMPORARY EVENTS                                     | 181 |
|  | <b>10.4</b> Christian Disobedience to Authority                    | 185 |
|  | Chapter 10 Review  | 191 |
|  | CHAPTER 11   | 192 |
|  | <b>Ethical Society</b>   |     |
|  | <b>11.1</b> Racial Discrimination and Inequality                   | 194 |
|  | <b>11.2</b> Addictions   | 201 |
|  | <b>11.3</b> Communication and Media Use                            | 206 |
|  | GRAPPLING WITH ETHICAL ISSUES <i>Dik and Communication</i>         | 207 |
|  | <b>11.4</b> Business Ethics  | 210 |
|  | GRAPPLING WITH ETHICAL ISSUES <i>Hiring and Firing</i>             | 211 |
|  | Chapter 11 Review  | 215 |
|  | CHAPTER 12   | 216 |
|  | <b>Ethical Science</b>   |     |
|  | <b>12.1</b> Stem Cell Research, Cloning, and Gene Editing          | 217 |
|  | <b>12.2</b> Organ Donation and Transplantation                     | 223 |
|  | <b>12.3</b> Conservation, Environmentalism, and Animal Rights      | 228 |
|  | Chapter 12 Review  | 235 |
|  | CHAPTER 13   | 236 |
|  | <b>Sexual Ethics</b>   |     |
|  | <b>13.1</b> Marriage and Divorce                                   | 237 |
|  | <b>13.2</b> Fornication, Adultery, and Marital Purity              | 242 |
|  | <b>13.3</b> Homosexuality, Bisexuality, and Transgenderism         | 247 |
|  | <b>13.4</b> Birth Control, Reproductive Technologies, and Eugenics | 256 |
|  | Chapter 13 Review  | 260 |
|  | CONCLUSION   | 262 |
|  | NOTES  | 266 |
|  | GLOSSARY   | 272 |
|  | SCRIPTURE MEMORY   | 277 |
|  | SCRIPTURE INDEX  | 279 |
|  | TOPICAL INDEX  | 290 |

# foreword


When I was a senior in high school, what I wanted most was to be done with school. I didn't hate school. I liked learning, and I liked my friends. But I was ready to start enjoying the independence of adulthood. I got my wish. Before I knew it, I was walking across the stage to receive my diploma.

I found that adulthood did indeed come with a lot of independence. I had my own car, my own job, and my own bank account. I was able to choose the college I went to, and I chose my own major. But independence, I soon learned, was a two-edged sword. It allowed me to make my own decisions, but it also forced me to take responsibility for my actions. My decisions were my own now, not my parents'. If my car broke down, I paid for it. If I fell behind in my schoolwork, I had to reach out to my professor—he wasn't going to contact me.

Of course, I wasn't alone. Everyone I graduated with had to learn this lesson too. And some didn't learn it very well. Some of my friends managed to cram into the first three months after high school every bad decision a person could make in three months. That's when I learned another lesson: the decisions you make after high school are high-stakes decisions. When you make a bad choice at 10 years old, it doesn't follow you, not usually. When you make a bad choice at 18 or 22, it does. Bad decisions about relationships, substance use, marriage, conflict—these can destroy your life.

That's the reason we produced this course on ethics. Ethics is the study of right and wrong. It helps people make decisions that are morally good and shows them how to avoid the ones that are not. Our world is complex and messy. Doing the right thing is not always obvious. In fact, very often it's not. God has not left us to sort out such questions on our own. He has given us His Word and His Spirit. But we must learn how to make use of what He has given. That's what this course is meant to do for you—to show you how to make right decisions based on the wisdom of God in the Bible.





There are many books on ethics. But this one is different. It's focused on what the Bible teaches about ethics, and it gives a great deal of attention to being the right kind of person. God is interested in more than our decisions. It isn't just what we do that matters to Him; it's also who we are. That's why this course isn't just about issues—issues like abortion, euthanasia, racism, and cloning. It's also about virtues: love, righteousness, patience, and hope. The best way to learn how to make good decisions is to first learn to be a good person. Virtuous people tend to make virtuous decisions.

Of course, no textbook can make you a virtuous person. It takes the grace of God to do that. But a textbook can require you to reckon with God's grace by reading about it, meditating on it, and praying for it. It's my prayer that as you do these things this year, God will in His grace take hold of your life and do something wonderful in you and through you. Here's what I'm praying:

That ye might be filled with the knowledge of [God's] will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness. (Col. 1:9-11)

Bryan Smith, PhD  
Assistant Director  
Biblical Worldview Formation  
BJU Press

