

Bahnsen excerpt the authority of God's law today

Guide questions

1) What is the purpose of this book?

This is systematically basic to Christian ethical reasoning. It asks a question which is impossible to avoid and which influences every other aspect of one's ethical theory.

2) Christian ethics depends on?

It naturally depends upon God's self-revelation and the proper understanding of His word.

3) What is disturbing in Christian ethics in answering normative questions?

The disturbing thing is that so many Christian teachers and writers answer them without sufficient Biblical proof or concern for consistency. It is as though personal feelings give them subsequently seeking some kind of reason.

4) On what standards should Christians live?

The standards that the Christians live should not be restricted to the New Testament but includes the law of God revealed in the Old Testament.

5) According to this article, explain the word of the Lord

The word of the Lord is the sole, supreme, and unchallengeable standard for the actions and attitudes of all men in all areas of life; this word naturally includes God's moral directives.

6) What do God's standing laws reflect?

It reflects His immutable moral character and, as such, are absolute in the sense of being non-arbitrary, objective, universal, and established in advance of particular circumstances.

7) What is the obligation of civil magistrates in all ages and places?

It is to conduct their offices as ministers of God, avenging divine wrath against criminals and giving an account on the final day of their service before the King of kings, their creator and judge.

8) What is Theonomic ethics?

It rejects legal positivism and maintains that there is a law above civil law to which appeal can be made against the tyranny of rulers and the anarchy of overzealous reformers alike.

9) Where can we turn for socio-political wisdom which can effectively counter the degeneration and disintegration of our culture?

Turn to God's directives for social justice, and those are found in the Old Testament commandments to Israel as a nation, a nation facing the same moral problems about life, sex, property, and truth which all nations must face, including our own.

10) Do people consistently maintain their position of holding only to the New Testament ethics?

No, Christians do not find it a workable policy to follow, departing from the position whenever it seems convenient or necessary to do so. That simply opens the door to arbitrariness.