

**Ethics is the study of morality**, Morality is often seen as a commonly accepted and approved standard on how one is to act, it is affected by relativism and normativity

**Morality** = an objective standard that stands above and outside of all other mores, it is a standard of how every person ought to act

**Christian Ethics** = the Christian study of a moral order that is for all of humanity

**1. Moral Order** is made up of principles and precepts

**a. moral principles** = divisions of whole group according to what is and what is not permitted

**b. moral precepts** = divisions of people within each of these two groups

**Rules** = how a moral precept is incarnated into a particular time and place, it is the application of principles and precepts

**Doing Good- Types of Good**

**1. Saving Good** – only God is capable of this kind of good

**2. Christian Good** – arises out of true faith, conforms to God's Law, and is done for his glory. This good praises God, thanks God, assures us of our faith, and turns our neighbors to Christ.

**3. Common Good** – can be done by anyone, Christian and nonChristian alike

**4. Relative Good** – example is a good movie

**God's Will** – includes **1. performative** – God is the agent, he performs **2. permissive** – God is not the agent, he permits **3. prescriptive** – what God wants and desires, the prescriptive will includes God's **particular will** = what God wants me to do and his **universal will (UW)** = what God wants everyone to do. The 1<sup>st</sup> table of the Law is God's religious UW and the 2<sup>nd</sup> table is his moral UW. God's universal moral will is God's moral order

**God's Laws** – **1. Civil** – positive laws of the nation **2. Ceremonial** – community rituals

**3. Moral** – always remain the same

**3 uses of the Law** – **1.** Regulates civic community by keeping it from being full of and destroyed by sin **2.** Convicts us of our sin **3.** We know how to respond to God's deliverance

**Characteristics of the Moral Order**

**1. universal** – God rules over the whole world **2. objective** – it is revealed by God

**3. knowable** – everyone is able to know it **4. rational** – it is coherent

**5. transcendent** – it is above culture, is God's blueprint

**Approaches to Moral Order**

**1. Anti Realism** – Naturalism, humanism, nihilism

**2. Realism** – Divine Command Theory – an act is morally obligatory b/c God commands it and a n act is morally impermissible b/c God forbids it, God's **being grounds God's Creation which grounds the moral order which grounds God's commands.**

**The Decalogue** – RCC and Lutherans combine #1& #2, they divide #10 into #9& #10

- Jews combine #1& #2 into #2 and they make the prologue #1

- The Decalogue is a blessing rather than a burden, it is a key to living in God's grace

## **The 10 Commandments**

**#1 – scope** – religion and religious life, acts and affiliations

- **Pos force** – complete allegiance and love for God
- **Neg Force** – do not share any part of our allegiance with anyone/anything but God

**#2 – scope** – worship of the true God

- **Pos Force** – worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth
- **Neg Force** – do not worship God in any way that will misrepresent his divine nature

**#3 - scope** – religious language, referring to and talking about God

- **Pos Force** – always protect and honor God’s majesty
- **Neg Force** – do not blaspheme with irreverent or light use of God’s name

**#4 - scope** – our use of time

- **Pos Force** – use time in ways that are consistent with God’s holiness
- **Neg Force** – do not use time in ways that are inconsistent with God’s holiness

**#5 - scope** – exercise and respect for authority, receiving and giving of authority

- **Pos Force** – honor and obey legitimate authority
- **Neg Force** – do not dishonor those in authority or misuse one’s own authority

**#6 - scope** – human well being in this life, “earthly needs”

- **Pos Force** – promote the well being of everyone (yourself and others)
- **Neg Force** – do not harm anyone, HARM = damage HURT = suffering leading to good

**#7 - scope** – marriage

- **Pos Force** – preserve and encourage marriage relationships (your own, others, and potential marriages)
- **Neg Force** – do not do anything that could harm any existing or potential marriage

**#8 - scope** – acquisition, care of, and use of possessions

- **Pos Force** – everything that we have must be acquired honestly, cared for diligently, and we must be good stewards of what we have
- **Neg Force** – do not hoard, destroy, or steal

**#9 - scope** – communication between people (verbal and nonverbal)

- **Pos Force** – communicate what is true and helpful
- **Neg Force** – do not deceive or mislead people

**#10 – scope** – desires linked to emotions

- **Pos Force** – desire things and people in proportion to their proper value
- **Neg Force** – do not tolerate inordinate desires