

We will now begin the fourteenth lecture on biblical theology. /Today we will cover **chapter 8, Moral Theology/Christian Ethics**. /The New Testament Bible teaches us about a higher level of morals that are different from secular morals. /Morals of the New Testament are highly difficult and noble.

/1. The Source of Morals.

/Secular morals also claim to have morals of their own. /However, secular moralists cannot fully practice their morals.

/However, our Jesus not only taught us about God's Word and morals, but He also taught us the way to specifically practice morals. /The Lord taught us while personally practicing morals. /Jesus taught and then acted.

/Jesus loved His enemies to the point of death on the cross, just as He taught. /Jesus said in Matthew 5:39, "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." /Then just as He taught, Jesus was silent as people struck Him on the cheek. /Jesus acted as He taught, and He taught as He acted.

/A. Standard of Morals.

/The standard of morals that Jesus taught is in the Lord's Word. /For example, Matthew 7:12 says, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." /This is known as the Golden Rule.

/Therefore, Jesus' morals included first doing good unto others, no matter what others may do to us. /This is an active moral law. /Jesus told us to love even our enemies. /Matthew 5:47, 48 /Matthew 22:39

/B. Methodology of Morals.

/It is important that we practice a higher moral law. /However, man does not have the power to practice such noble morals alone. /We humans are completely evil. /Man does not have the power to do good. /Romans 3:10-18 /Ephesians 2:1

/Hence, Jesus died on the cross and rose again to life to achieve the moral law. /Jesus suffered for the Lord's people and completed the Law. /Then how can we believers keep the Law? /Matthew 5:17

/We obey God's Word by the power of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. /We keep God's Word by the power of the resurrection of Jesus. /The Holy Spirit clothes us with the grace of Jesus' redemption.

/Thus, the deacon Stephen prayed for his enemies, just as Jesus did, when he was being stoned to death. /This was the power of the Holy Spirit, and this was possible only by the power of Jesus. /The methodology of New Testament morals is referred to in Colossians 1:9-12.

/2. Internal Morals.

/Internal. /Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their focus on the external. /The Pharisees leaned towards ritualism. /Jesus taught that our hearts must first be upright.

/Our hearts will receive judgment before Jesus. /The Ten Commandments tell us not to commit murder. /Here, we must not think that it is all right as long as we don't commit murder. /Matthew 5:21, 22 /Anyone who curses his brother is a murderer.

/1 John 3:15 /Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. /In Matthew 5:28, it says that anyone who lusts after a woman commits adultery. /Matthew 6:1-8 /Matthew 15:8 /In this way, the morals that Jesus emphasizes are morals of the heart, or internal morals.

/We must give thanks for the grace of Jesus' redemption, and we must do good. /Luke 7:47 /The apostle Paul encourages us believers of the moral law from Romans 12:1. /Christ redeemed us, and therefore, we must do good. /1 John 4:11 /Romans 14:6

/Believers must also do good while looking upon the rewards that God gives them. /God promised in the New Testament that he would reward those who do good unto others. /Matthew 5:12 /Mark 9:41 /1 Corinthians 3:8 /1 Timothy 5:18 /Revelation 11:18

/The New Testament speaks of the rewards and punishments of the Last Days. /Matthew 7:19 /Mark 8:31 /Luke 21:36 /It also says that we believers who live by the Holy Spirit can practice morals.

/Therefore, believers do not bear fruit of the Holy Spirit by their own strength, /but do so by the power of God, the power of the Holy Spirit. /Galatians 5:22, 23 /The purpose of morals must be centered on glorifying God.

/3. God-Centered Morals.

/A. Morals in the Church.

/In Romans 12, it says to give holy and pleasing sacrifices to God. /We must keep morals for God. /Next, from Romans 12:3, it says that believers must take the spiritual gifts that Christ gave them and serve the church, which is Christ's body.

/This means that believers must act in love for the church. /Believers reveal the works of Christ through love.

/B. National Morals.

/This is alluded to in Romans 13:1. /Believers must glorify God through their lives as citizens of nations. /We must obey the governments of the world.

/World politics, science and art, industries, and technology all come from God. /Yet, we must not submit to any authorities, cultures, or art of the world that go against God.

/We must submit to the authorities of nations, but we must not submit to any worldly authorities that go against God's Word. /We must also not personally betray nations when nations do wrong.

/We must act according to the ways that God allowed us to act in. For example, we must act reasonably through votes and elections. /We must submit to nations by paying taxes, /and we must fulfill our national duties.

/There are four duties that we must carry out as citizens of nations. /They are national duties, educational duties, /duties of paying taxes, and labor duties. /Romans 13:5 says, “it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.”

/God maintains peace and order through nations. /Therefore, nations create environments so that the church can freely preach the gospel. /We must have proper thoughts about nations and governments.

/Hence, the church cannot interfere with national activities, /and nations cannot interfere with the church. /This is what we call separation of the church and state.

/C. Freedom of Conscience of Faith.

/Romans 14:1-5:13 speak of freedom of conscience of faith in Christianity. /This is known as “Adiaphora.” /“Adiaphora” are the principles of behavior about things that the Bible forbids or does not command.

/This means to leave things that are not clearly explained in the Bible to each individual’s conscience. /There was a problem with eating meat in the times of the apostle Paul. /We can eat meat today.

/However, there are some people who say that it is all right to eat meat, and there are some who say that it is not okay to eat meat. /We must leave this to each individual’s conscience. Thus, we must not criticize one another.

/However, this does not mean that one can act however he wishes about the things stipulated by the Bible just because it is left to one’s own conscience. /We must always make judgments according to our consciences, with God’s glory at the center of everything. /Let’s take a particular and detailed look at a few morals.

/1) Sexual Morals. /Sexual places and roles according to the Bible. /Sex is something that is given by God. /This was given by God, yet, sex became used for wrongful purposes as a result of the fall of man.

/Sex can be seen as a material problem. /For example, money or bread can be used for the good. /However, when money or bread is used for wrongful purposes, it becomes filthy.

/We must study the principles of God’s creation regarding sex. /Genesis 2 says that God created Eve because he saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone. /God allowed sex between man and woman.

/Therefore, sexual urges itself is not a bad thing. /However, it is important how one releases or solves his sexual urges. /When it is used wrongfully, it becomes a sin.

/Therefore, the Bible allows sex only between married couples. /1 Corinthians 7:9 /Titus 2:5-6 /Thus, sexual urges must be resolved only in the boundary of marriage. /The Bible says that any sexual activities that take place outside of marriage, both before or after marriage, is sin.

/Love and marriage between man and woman are based on God's covenantal love. /We must be upright before God and upright in our families in regard to this problem.

/Next, let's look at the teachings of the Bible about sex. We will look at the pragmatic teachings. /Ecclesiastes 9:9 says, "Enjoy life with your life." /Proverbs 5:18-19 says, "May your fountain be blessed." /Therefore, we can look at marriage as a covenant.

/Therefore, marriage is the act of publicly proving that a man and a woman agree to live together. /Therefore, two people become one through sexual intercourse. /Jesus said in Matthew 29:5, and it is also written in Genesis 2:24 that two people will become one.

/What is the purpose of marriage? /Genesis 2:18 /Malachi 2:14 /The purpose of marriage is to help each other. /It is to help each other with what they lack. /Children are also born through marriage. /One can also avoid sexual temptations through marriage.

/Therefore, the most important thing between a married couple is love. /Married couples are in a special relationship. /Genesis 2:24 says that man and woman will become one flesh through marriage. /Therefore, a married couple grows closer through common experiences.

/They do not become sexually one only through physical unity, but also become emotionally one. /Then what is adultery? /Adultery is the sin of destroying marriage.

/When a couple gets married, they make a solemn promise before God, and adultery is the act of breaking that promise. /Punishment of the sin of adultery has been historically passed down. /Therefore, sexual intercourse with anyone other than one's spouse before or after marriage is a sin.

/We must also keep in mind that the Bible forbids marriage with unbelievers. /2 Corinthians 6:14 /Deuteronomy 22:10 /Marriage with an unbeliever causes many problems in a marriage. /Genesis 24:67 /Abraham sent his servant to Paddan Aram to find a wife for his son Isaac.

/Therefore, breaking the relationship between two people whom God put together is the same as breaking a covenant with God. /Therefore, one must faithfully keep his promise of marriage his entire life. /Mark 10:7-9

/Next, let us look at Jesus' view of sexual morals. /Matthew 5:27, 28 /Adultery is not

simply adultery in the physical sense, but is also sexual greed in one's heart. /Lust is different from sexual desires.

/Sexual desires between a married couple are not a bad thing. /However, when one harbors sexual greed for someone else besides his or her spouse, it becomes lust. /Next, Jesus spoke about the problem of divorce in Matthew 5:32

/No one must divorce his wife, except in the case of marital unfaithfulness. /Moses teaches about divorce in Deuteronomy 24:1. /However, the Jews abused this law and sent their wives away with certificates of divorce.

/Moses meant, "One can send away his wife only with a definite reason." /One must have a clear reason in order to get a divorce. /However, when the Jews wanted divorces, they wrote their wives certificates of divorce and sent them away. The Jews abused this.

/Therefore, one must not send his wife away without a distinct reason, and Jesus clearly said, "One must not get a divorce, except with the reason of marital unfaithfulness." /Therefore, marriage has a covenantal nature. /God created the marriage system.

/This generation has seen a rise in divorce rates. /We must protect our families. /We must protect the chastity of marriage. /Families must be well for the church to be well.

/Next, let us look at Paul's view of sexual morals. /1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 /1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 /He said, one must take his wife in holiness. /Our bodies are the temple of God. /We are members of Christ. /1 Corinthians 6:15-19

/Therefore, our bodies must be used holily before God. /Next, let us discuss homosexuality. /Leviticus 18:22 /Leviticus 20:13 /The Bible greatly condemns homosexuality. /Romans 1:26-27

/Therefore, homosexuality can be seen as the outcome of lust. /Jesus said that the Last Days would be like Sodom and Gomorrah. /What was the greatest sin of Sodom? One of the greatest sins was the sin of homosexuality. /When lewdness and debauchery reach its peaks, the result is homosexuality.

/Next, we will look up contraception and abortion. /There are many forms of contraception. /The Bible tells us to be fruitful and increase in number. /Genesis 1:28 /We must abide by the spiritual gifts that God gave us, and we must make decisions with our consciences.

/Next, the problem of abortion. /Abortion can be viewed acceptable or not, depending on when one considers the fetus to be human. /Some say that a fetus is human from the moment he is born. /Genesis 4:1 /We believe that a fetus is human from the moment he is conceived.

/When Jesus' mother was pregnant and visited Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother felt

the baby leap in her womb. /Job 3:3 /Therefore, we must believe that one is a human being from the moment he is conceived. /Hence, abortion is the act of killing a human being.

/Abortion can be acceptable if the mother's life is in danger. /Abortion can be acceptable if the fetus is aborted in order to save the mother's life. /Then let's move on to suicide and euthanasia.

/The Bible includes many records of wicked people who commit suicide. /There is Judas Iscariot, /Abimelech, /Judges 9:50, /King Saul, /1 Samuel 31:4 /Ahithophel, /2 Samuel 17:23 /Zimri, /1 Kings 16:18 /The act of suicide is equal to killing a God-given life.

/Therefore, suicide is a wicked act before God. /Then, do believers who commit suicide go to heaven? /We can only know when we go to heaven. /We are certainly not saved by our actions. /We are saved by faith in Jesus.

/One who has been saved by faith in Jesus can happen to commit suicide. /For example, even if a patient diagnosed with depression as a result of a mental illness has faith, he might jump off a high building and die. /There is a chance that believers who commit suicide can receive salvation.

/However, we must think straight about this. /True believers of Jesus cannot commit suicide. /Those who do commit suicide are usually unbelievers or wicked people. /Only God knows whether one who commits suicide receives salvation or not.

/Next, euthanasia. This is the act of killing one who is in great pain. A shot is used to kill the person. /Euthanasia is wrong. /We must wait until God naturally takes away one's life.

/Euthanasia is different from the removal of humanly tools that extend one's life, such as oxygen masks. /Euthanasia is not the act of letting a person die naturally.

/The removal of tools that are used to extend one's life must be left to the conscience. /Certainly, we must do our best to extend the lives of patients. /We must know that there is a difference between using tools and euthanasia.

/The death penalty system is fair. /It is right for a judge to sentence a heinous murderer to death. /Genesis 9:6 /Deuteronomy 19:21 /Shooting and killing the enemy in a legal war is not murder.

/That would be an act of self-defense. /If a thief enters one's home, the thief must be overpowered and caught. /Deuteronomy 20:1 /Hebrews 11:32-34 /Jeremiah 48:10 /Exodus 22:2 /Genesis 14:14

/It is not murder to kill the enemy in a legal war. /Ultimately, the master of life is our God. /Therefore, man cannot artificially harm the life of man. /Suicide and euthanasia is a

challenge and disbelief of God's sovereignty. /We must believe in God's sovereignty, and we must obey God's sovereignty.

/Next, we will discuss the relationship between the church and state in the Gospels.

/Matthew 22:21 /Jesus said to give to Caesar what belonged to Caesar, and to God what belonged to God. /We must obey national orders. /Romans 13:1

/We must also obey all systems established by man. /However, we must not obey anything that goes against God's commands, even if it is a national order. /When nations do wrong, sometimes the church stands against them in revolutionary ways.

/However, that is not the way the church should act. /In the 1960's and 1970's, liberation theology rose up. /Luke 4:18 /A group of people took this verse and used it in an attempt to overthrow the nation.

/The church must not interfere too much with the state. /The state must also not interfere with the church. /1 Timothy 2:1-2 /Titus 3:1 /We must absolutely obey God's authority.

/However, we must obey national authorities with the condition that they "do not violate God's commands." /In the Middle Ages, the church had greater power than the worldly powers. /Thus, the church ruled over secular powers. /This was also wrong.

/Hence, there must be a separation of politics and religion. /We must give to God what belongs to God, and to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, just as Jesus taught us. /Acts 4:19 /Acts 5:29

/Peter said that we must obey God rather than men. /Therefore, we must always obey God's commands first.

/Here we will conclude the fourteenth lecture on biblical theology. /Thank you.