

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Ethics**

"The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants." – Gen. Omar Bradley, speech, Armistice Day, 1948

"We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount." (Ibid.)

"The real problem is in the hearts and minds of men. It is not a problem of physics but ethics. It is easier to denature plutonium than to denature the evil spirit of man." – Albert Einstein

"I am not sure whether ethical absolutes exist. But I am sure that we have to act as if they existed or civilization perishes." – Arthur Koestler

"Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do." – Potter Stewart

Webster's Dictionary defines ethics as, "Rules of behavior based on ideas about what is morally good and bad." Not to make light of this, but for many folks, what is morally right or wrong is based upon their own personal concept of right and wrong. If their ethical behavior has its basis in Scripture, then they have a true moral compass.

Sometimes folks will verbalize that they did not act because they felt it was unethical. Notice that the determination of ethics has its basis in feelings. In other words, we are talking about a subjective view of morality.

Years ago Debbie Boone made famous a song entitled, "You Light Up My Life." In the lyrics there is a rather disturbing thought: "It can't be wrong, when it feels so right." You can readily see that one's ethics can be flawed and heavily influenced by their own personal feelings.

But if one has their ethics rooted in Scripture, then their moral compass will be sound. "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psa. 119:11). "I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me" (Psa. 119:30). "I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me" (Psa. 119:102). "O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23).

An ethical behavior that is pleasing in the eyes of God is not possible apart from Scripture. When we begin to trust in our own feelings and depart from God's Word, we chart a course away from God. We must never get it in our minds that man's ethics are greater than God's.