

Week 9 Responding to Attacks on Biblical Ethics

1. Overview

- 1) In modern society, biblical ethics are often criticized as outdated or immoral.
 - 2) This lecture aims to analyze these criticisms and provide an apologetic defense of the nature and validity of biblical ethics.
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2. Learning Objectives

- 1) Understand major criticisms of biblical ethics
 - 2) Distinguish between moral relativism and moral absolutism
 - 3) Explain the objective foundation of biblical ethics
 - 4) Respond logically and biblically to ethical challenges
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3. Key Contents

1) Major Attacks on Biblical Ethics

- (1) “The Bible is violent” (wars and judgment)
 - (2) “The Bible is discriminatory” (women, slavery)
 - (3) “The Bible is outdated” (sexual ethics)
 - (4) “Why does God allow evil?”
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2) Moral Relativism vs Absolute Morality

- (1) Moral Relativism: Morality changes by culture and individual
 - (2) Biblical Ethics: Based on the unchanging nature of God
 - (3) Key Point: Without an objective standard, “evil” cannot be defined.
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3) Foundation of Biblical Ethics

- (1) God’s holiness and love
 - (2) Human fallenness and sin
 - (3) Restoration through redemption
 - (4) Ethics is not merely rules, but an expression of God’s character
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4) Understanding Difficult Ethical Issues

- (1) Old Testament wars: God’s righteous judgment
 - (2) Slavery: progressive transformation within context
 - (3) Sexual ethics: rooted in creation order
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5) Apologetic Response Strategy

- (1) Respond with logic, not emotion
 - (2) Interpret within the full biblical context
 - (3) Emphasize God's character
 - (4) Center ethics on Jesus Christ
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4. Discussion Questions

- 1) What is the main reason biblical ethics are criticized today?
 - 2) What happens if there is no absolute moral standard?
 - 3) How do modern ethics conflict with biblical ethics?
 - 4) What is the most difficult ethical issue to explain?
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5. Application & Assignment

- 1) Write an apologetic response to one major criticism of biblical ethics
- 2) Analyze a modern ethical issue (sexuality, life, justice) biblically
- 3) Prepare a presentation based on discussion insights