

Everyday Ethics, Season 1, Episode 1
What is Christian Ethics?
Continuing the Conversation

An excellent source for daily reflections with an ethical focus is the Center for Congregational Ethics, founded by Dr. Tillman: <https://www.facebook.com/CenterforCongregationalEthics>.

Dr. Morgan mentioned a retired English professor who stated: "I'm not sure I know what you mean when we talk about Christian Ethics."

A question to consider: If someone asks you, "What is Christian ethics?" How would you respond? [From Christian Ethics].

The Importance of Relationships

Bill and David spent several minutes speaking of how long they have known each other and worked together. Both highlighted the longevity of David's pastorates. Relationships are critical to making good ethical decisions. They introduced Dr. Maston in relational terms—humble, approachable, a good listener. **Do you regularly give attention to creating new relationships and developing existing ones? How have relationships impacted decisions you have made?**

At 25:24 of the podcast, a triad to use as a framework for making decisions is introduced. Here the paragraph in [Christian Ethics: A Triadic Approach \[CE\]](#) which prompted that conversation:

The development of another triad came into play. That is, the three major ethical theories, in my mind—which can be used to encapsulate each of their subsets—are deontological (duty, obligatory, law and order, command, imperatives); teleological (consequential, utilitarian) and relational (relationships, of course). This triad gave me opportunity to demonstrate there were expressions of each and all of these in Christian scripture and that each intersects with the others in those decisions we enter into, with one theoretical base sometimes dominant but not exclusionary of the others.

A question to consider: "Do you have an example of a decision made, or being made, that includes elements of deontological, teleological, and relational ethical theories?" [From Christian Ethics].

Common Ground and Common Good

Suggestion for building relationships—Name a colleague, friend, or even a family member with whom who strongly disagree on how to respond to the hot-button issues. List up to five values, life experiences, etc. that you have in common. Reach out to this person with the sole intent of a conversation where you share what you have in common.