

Money, Power Relationship

Is Christian Morality Unique?

Part One A General View

Part 1
Slide Set 1 of 10

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

Michelle Nallon CSB

Introduction

The following pages are taken from a video/powerpoint available on the www.realitysearch.com.au websites.

They are designed to outline basic Christian teaching about morality, largely for people in the workplace.

In some ways the powerpoints (and these pages) are assuming a readership that is not necessarily familiar with more recent gospel studies or in fact any gospel studies at all.

This is because on the one hand church attendance (and gospel study) has dropped off in the lives of many people (for some reason the Anglo's especially!). But at the same time people have a much wider span of knowledge because of continual contact with the media.

Part One of *Is Christian Morality Unique?* deals with a quite basic outline of morality or ethics as some say.

This leads into Part Two which explores how the gospel texts are structured to reflect a tension that exists between the component parts of Christianity, that is Judaism and Hellenism (Greek Philosophy). Part Two explores how such tension extends further into something similar to the tension that exists between time and place.

It also explores how an "alignment" between time and place has been attempted over the aeons of human cultures. This is to be found in the remnants of their worship places. The suggestion is made that such an "alignment" between time and place, is re-enacted in the celebration of the Eucharist, also known as "the Mass".

These days some people prefer to work with digital media only. However a hard copy is sometimes helpful, hence the following pages.

Contents

A General View

Jesus Christ

A Church Council around 50 CE

Letters of Paul

Gospel of Mark

Gospel of Matthew

Gospel of Luke

The Crucifixion

Christianity and Industry

Other World Religions

Have you ever wondered?? **What are the most basic of values**
i.e. the foundation building blocks for all value systems including Christianity and/or

No. 1

Money, Power Relationship

Is Christian Morality Unique?

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No. 2

Money, Power, Relationship

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 Part One

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No. 3

No. 4

CONTENTS	
A General View	4
Jesus Christ	56
A Church Council around 50 CE	78
Letters of Paul	119
Gospel of Mark	152
Gospel of Matthew	178
Gospel of Luke	217
The Crucifixion	243
Christianity and Industry	276
Other World Religions	320

Is Christian Morality Unique?

Is a Question

that everyone probably needs to explore
 at some stage

No. 5

Judaic-Christian world view(s)
 are at the base
 of Western civilisation

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

5

No. 6

Influencing e.g.
Beijing

Dubai etc.



..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

6

No. 7



▶ At the same time, as we look at the skyscrapers around the world and consider the cultures and the world religions practiced within them, we are likely to recognize

▶ there is a “commonality” amongst all peoples in their basic morality.

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

7

No. 8

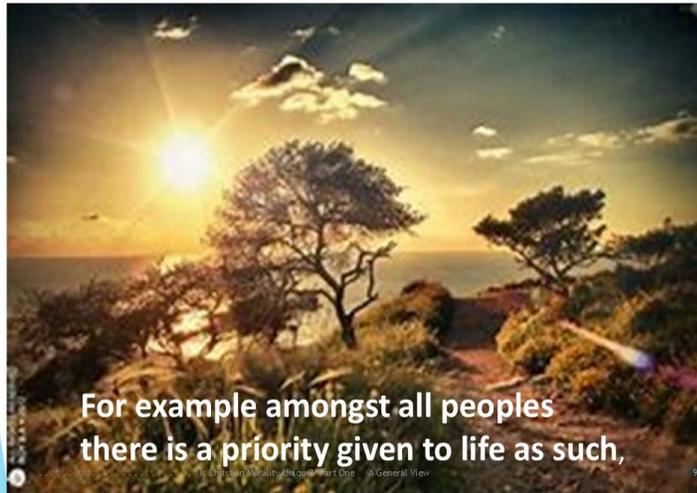
If we consider what universal morality would be,
 a few key things emerge.



..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

8

No. 9



No. 10



No. 11

There is on-going **debate** of course as to **WHO** has a right to life

▶ Recent debate has centred around the right to life for:

- ▶ The Unborn
 - ▶ Wildlife
 - ▶ Murderers
 - ▶ Feral animals
 - ▶ Domestic animals etc.
- Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

No. 12



No. 13



Some “rights” and needs go along with the priority of life in itself

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

13

No. 15

We could wonder what priority could be next in line to life in itself



..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

15

Page 4

No. 14

There are

Things connected to life in itself

such as

Health, safety and self-determination and the education needed for self-determination etc.

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

18



No. 16

Consider the people amongst whom our life has special importance and the social support group we find most life-giving.



..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

20



No. 17

In turn a key ingredient for a family is the life partnership that exists between parents.

In fact if a “blood” family is to exist there needs to be such a bond in (hopefully) an on-going way.



..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

No. 19

No. 18

We could suggest here that this social support group usually goes under the name of

“F a m i l y”

Social mores continue to shift around what constitutes a family.

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

18

No. 20

In any case, so far we have considered that Key needs (and morality requirements) are: ?

Life itself
Basic social support group

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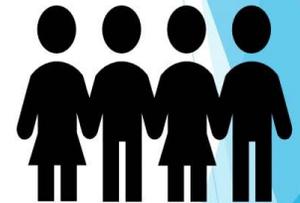
25



Page 5

- ▶ What would be the next
- ▶ “needs” and “rights”

- ▶ area of someone’s life.



..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

20

No. 21

There is the question of property

property



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28

No. 22

We all need material goods of some kind
such as food .



..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

22

No. 23

Clothing and housing etc.



..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

23

No. 24

So much of government legislation
revolves around
rights of ownership



..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

24

No. 25

We have basic human rights to:

Life Itself	Social Support	Material Goods
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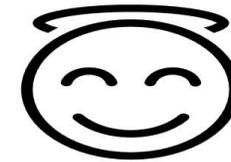
..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

35



No. 26

That is, there is:



life itself

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

26

No. 27

There is a prime social group



Prime Social Support Group

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

27

No. 28

Possessions



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28

No. 29

These would be tied to: a universal morality



Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

29

No. 31

- ▶ In fact, these needs and rights became embedded into the basic values of society e.g. as in the Babylonian Law Code of Hammurabi (1755 BC).



Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

A General View

Page 8

No. 30

We hear of Morality Essentials for all Cultures such as:

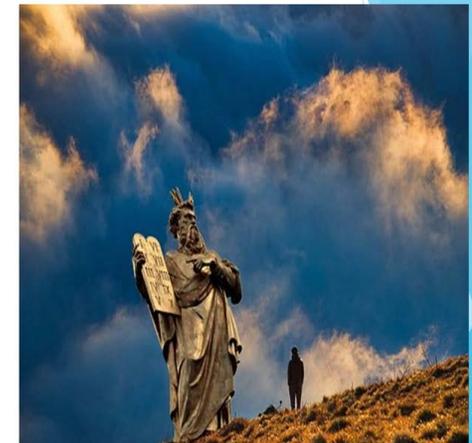
- ▶ “Do unto others as you would have them do to you”

Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

30

No. 32

- ▶ These rights were also embedded into the Commandments of Judaism, with the Commandments of
- ▶ “Thou shalt not kill”,
- ▶ “Thou shalt not commit adultery”,
- ▶ “Thou shalt not steal” (cf. C.13th BC).



Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

32

No. 33

Needs/Rights	Commandments - Designed to protect
Right to Life	<i>"Thou shalt not kill"</i>
Right to Basic Social Group	<i>"Thou shalt not commit adultery"</i>
Right to ownership	<i>"Thou shalt not steal"</i>

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

33

No. 34

Put these in a different order and we have what politicians are warned about i.e.
 money, power and sex

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

34

No. 35

Money,
 Power,
 Sex

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

35

No. 36

Needs/Rights	Commandments - Designed to protect
Power	<i>"Thou shalt not kill"</i>
Sex	<i>"Thou shalt not commit adultery"</i>
Money	<i>"Thou shalt not steal"</i>

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

36

No. 37

One would expect these warnings to be at the base of Christian morality as well



37

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No. 39

In what ways does **Christian** morality revolve around:

- ▶ Life itself
- ▶ One's prime social group
- ▶ Basic possessions ???

39

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

Page 10

No. 38



In dealing with the question raised here, we are looking in particular, at Christian values.

38

..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

No. 40

What special perspective is given to these basic human rights by Christianity ??



40

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Can this question about the Christian perspective on morality

be explored and “telescoped”

into simple language and in

a series of ten short PowerPoints?



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..... Is Christian Morality Unique? Part One A General View

41

Some Questions

If you were asked to name three basic values for a society would you name something else?
In such case would such a value e.g. justice, fit in with the three values discussed above?
Would you have given priority to the values discussed above before doing this workshop?