



Chapter Twenty Four: How Then Shall We Live?, Part 2

Interdependence of the Perspectives

Each includes the other two:

- Rightly to understand each I must also understand the others.
- To understand the situation, I have to understand that Scripture and the self are a part of the situation.
- To understand Scripture is to have insight as to how to apply it to my situation and to myself.
- I cannot understand myself except in the light of Scripture and apart from the situation in which I live.

The three perspectives coincide (cohere, agree):

For instance, a true understanding of the situation will not contradict a true understanding of the Word or the self. They are all just various angles of vision on the same thing.

Why Three? Why Not Just One?

Finitude — God can look at everything all at once, we can't.

Sin — We need checks and balances.

Multiperspectivalism Is Not Relativism

“I am not saying that any viewpoint is a legitimate perspective. There is in ethics and in other disciplines an absolute right and wrong. The procedure I have outlined above is a means for us to discover that absolute right and wrong” (SBL p. 325)

The Ethical Life

Frame traces ethical implications of various chapters of SBL.

The Lord's Commands

Greatest Commandments: Love God with all your heart (Dt 6:4-5) and love your neighbor as yourself (Lev 19:18). Affirmed by Jesus (Mt 22:36-40) and Paul (Rom 13:8; Col 3:14).

Sermon on the Mount — Mt 5-7, largely an exposition of the deeper implications of the 10 Commandments.

The 10 Commandments (the Decalogue) as “putting feet” on loving God and our neighbor — Ex 20:1-17; Dt 5:1-21), as affirmed by Jesus (Mt 19:17-20) and Paul and James (Rom 13:8-10; Gal 3:10; Jas 2:8-13). Kidd: “You're in my image. Here's what it is to line up with my character. As I redeem you, here's a snapshot of what I'm making you into.” To wit:

Love God by:

- Worshiping him alone and renouncing all other gods & lords (1st)
- Worshiping him as he desires and not by our own idolatrous devices (2nd)
- Using his name only with a full understanding of his holiness (3rd)
- Acknowledging the Sabbath as a day for rest and worship, not doing business as usual (4th)

Love our neighbor by:

- Honoring our parents and other authorities (5th)
- Revering human life as sacred to God (6th)
- Respecting the marriage bed (7th)
- Respecting the property of others (8th)
- Respecting the truth (9th)
- Guarding our heart against desires that lead to breaking other commandments (10th)