



---

## BOOK REVIEW

### CHRISTIAN ETHICS: A PHILOSOPHICAL STAND POINT

(Jan 2012) by Dr.Koppula Victor Babu , Lambert Academic Publishers,  
Germany , pp 101, \$49.ISBN: 978-3-8473-1146-1

Ethics is a branch of philosophy dealing with right and wrong in human behavior. All religions have a moral component, and religious approaches to the problem of ethics historically dominated ethics over secular approaches.

In the first chapter ,among the specific questions which are part of philosophy of religion in general are, the nature of religion, the function and value of religion, the validity and claims of religions knowledge, the relation of religion to ethics, the character of ideal religion, the nature of evil, the problem of theology, religion revealed versus natural, soul and its destiny the relation of the human to the divine as to the freedom and responsibility of the individual and the character of divine purpose, whether there is divine purpose, prophecy, intuition, revelation, inspired utterances, prayer, immorality, rituals, rites, meaning of human existence, reality, the nature of belief and faith etc.

In the second chapter ethical theories in general are discussed. Author has also discussed about the scope of ethics, its nature and whether Ethics is a science or an art, what are the foundations of ethics and how ethics is classified. Later author discussed about the importance of moral philosophy and about man as a moral creator. Moral values are of great significance and the author discusses at length on this point. Some considered that ethics is necessary but it need not spring from religion. Can Ethics be without religion; this concept too is discussed.

In the third chapter a broad outline of Judaism from historical perspective is given generally and it is considered that the tradition has three stages, early, medieval, and modern. Author discusses about these three stages. Author has also briefly discussed about the Hebrew (Judaic) morality and about its biblical background. The family ethics of Judaism is also discussed (The words Judaism, Hebrew, and Jewish are used for the same religious group). Author discusses about the concepts of Justice, charity, peace. Christianity is an offspring of Judaism. Many of the religious and ethical concepts of Christianity are taken from Judaism though there are some changes.

In chapter four, author discusses about some important concepts of Christianity like the free will and the original sin, Death, Haven, and Hell etc. Finally author discusses about the Humanistic ethical values in the Christianity. The Sermon on the Mount is the core preaching of Christianity. It is derived from Mosaic Law. There are some changes and there is some difference between the Mosaic Law and the preaching of Jesus Christ.

The fifth chapter talks about the beatitudes, righteousness, prayer, and other



aspects and also about the relevance of Ten Commandments and their moral principles to the contemporary society.

In the concluding sixth chapter author made a critical estimate of Christian ethics. Religious ethics of all most all religions are facing challenges from modern Ideologies like Marxism, Humanism, and secularism. Morality is needed for every society and it need not depend upon religion is the opinion of some. Following and practicing morality is necessary for any civil community. Depending upon some authoritarian religious dogmas is not necessary. Morality should be based on reason and human concerns. Its purpose is mainly human progress and it should not lead to religious conflict. Ethics or morality should depend upon pure rationalism. However, all religions pertinent for morality.

**Prof.K.R.Rajani**

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
Andhra University – Visakhapatnam