# **Characteristics** of Christian ethics / morals / morality:

## A. God- given | self - evident

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Romans 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; (ἐν αὐτοῖς) for God hath shewed it unto them (αὐτοῖς ἐφανέρωσεν). Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Christians usually understand morals / morality to be built into creation / self-evident:

- Designed that way
- Wired that way
- > Self evident
- Cross cultural

Meaning they apply across cultures and throughout time!

### The way things work / the way other things don't work

"Can you imagine a country / culture working where the 10 commandments are turned upside down?

#### Natural law

### B. Rule | law-oriented

Exodus 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

<u>Exodus 31:18</u> And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, <u>two tables</u> of testimony, tables of stone, written <u>with</u> the finger of God.

<u>Exodus 32:15</u> And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

Exodus 32:16 And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.

**Exodus 34:1** And the LORD said unto Moses, **Hew thee two tables of stone** like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

<u>Exodus 34:4</u> And he hewed **two tables of stone** like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand **the two tables of stone.** 

**Exodus 34:28** And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, **the ten commandments.** 

<u>Deuteronomy 4:13</u> And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even <u>ten commandments</u>; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

<u>Deuteronomy 5:22</u> These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. **And he wrote them in two tables of stone**, and delivered them unto me.

<u>Deuteronomy 9:9</u> When I was gone up into the mount to receive <u>the tables of stone</u>, even the tables of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water:

<u>Deuteronomy 9:10</u> And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

<u>Deuteronomy 10:1</u> At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee <u>two tables of stone</u> like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. <u>Deuteronomy 10:2</u> And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark. <u>Deuteronomy 10:3</u> And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand. <u>Deuteronomy 10:4</u> And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, <u>the ten commandments</u>, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me.

**Exodus 20:1** And God spake all these words, saying, **Exodus 20:2** I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

<u>Exodus 20:4</u> Thou shalt <u>not</u> make unto thee any graven image, <u>or</u> any likeness of any thing...<u>Exodus 20:5</u> Thou shalt <u>not</u> bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God...

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain...

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother...

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet...

Mark 12:28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? Mark 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. Mark 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

<u>Matthew 7:12</u> Therefore <u>all</u> things <u>whatsoever</u> **ye would** that men should do to you, do ye **even so** to them: <u>for</u> this is the law and the prophets.

Luke 6:31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

### 1 Peter 2:17

### Fear God.

Love the brotherhood.

### What does the 10 commandments look like?

- > Protecting God's honor
- ➤ [Protecting the rhythms of life → God Himself established]
- > Protecting the family
- > Protecting human life
- > Protecting marriage
- > Protecting private property
- > Protecting reality / truth

FIRST TABLE:	SECOND TABLE:
Love God	Love others
1 <sup>st</sup> → 4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> →10 <sup>th</sup>
	The Golden Rule