



In His Image

Study Guide

A BIBLICAL INTRODUCTION
TO SOCIAL ETHICS

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Chapter 1

Image Bearers

1. As you look at the practical evidence for the uniqueness of humans, which of these do you find most significant, and why?

2. Why do you think some people are resistant to the idea that human beings are unique, and how would you respond to their arguments?

3. It is clear from Genesis 1:31 that human beings are the pinnacle of God's creation. What difference should that make to our daily lives and the way we relate to the world around us?

4. Read Gen. 1:26-27. What are the key truths that you observe from these verses?

5. Think about contemporary culture; how do people in today's culture ignore these truths?

6. In what practical ways would the recovery of these truths begin to impact society for the good?

Chapter 2

Paradise Lost – The Fall and its Consequences

1. Read Genesis 3:1-7. As you read these verses, how would you describe the character of the serpent?

2. What are the different steps that the serpent took to persuade Adam and Eve to disobey God and sin?

3. What mistakes did Adam and Eve make, and what lessons ought we to learn as a protection against the Devil's work in society today?

4. Think of specific ways in which people in our contemporary culture have already been deceived by the Devil. How would you speak prophetically into those situations?

5. Read Genesis 3:8-24. What evidence of these verses do you see in today's world?

6. Given the dire consequences of disobeying God, is it loving for Christians to call for society - including non-Christians – to live according to God's design?

Chapter 3

The Need for Moral Foundations

1. Suppose you were having a conversation on the issue of morality with an atheist friend. How would you argue for the importance of morality?

2. On pages 33-36, various ethical systems are critiqued according to their strengths and weaknesses. Which of these ethical systems is the weakest, and why?

3. What are the weaknesses and dangers of moral relativism?

4. Consider the statement: 'Without God, objective morality cannot exist'. Is it true and if so, why?

5. Read Ecclesiastes 3:11 and Romans 1:20. How might you use these verses to argue for Christian morality?

6. Read Romans 1:23-25. How can these verses help us to understand and critique contemporary culture and its moral confusion?

Chapter 4

Towards a Christian Ethic

1. Why do you think many people in our society react negatively to the modern-day application of the Ten Commandments? How would you respond to any hostility you may face?

2. Read Jeremiah 27:9 and Matthew 5:13-16. As we survey the damage done to our society by the moral vacuum that has been created, what response do you think these verses demand of Christians?

3. How can we be salt and light in a fallen world without belittling people or giving the impression of self-righteous arrogance?

4. As you look at the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:3-17) do you think there is a logical thought flow to them, and if so what?

5. Which of the moral values mentioned in the Ten Commandments are the most neglected/rejected by society at large, and what evidence do you see of this?

6. What arguments would you use to persuade someone who is not a Christian that the Ten Commandments are worth observing?

Chapter 5

Abortion – The Slaughter of the Innocent

1. What would you say to someone who wishes to have an abortion and insists that she should have the right to do whatever she wants with her own body?

2. How would you answer the question, “When does human life begin?”

3. How would you define what a person is, and what arguments would you use?

4. Read Psalm 139:13-16. What can we learn from these verses about unborn children and the relationship they have with God?

5. How would you use Psalm 139 as an argument against abortion?

6. Given that abortion is such an emotive issue, what practical steps can the church take to defend the unborn and support vulnerable mothers?

Chapter 6

The Redefinition of Marriage and the Destruction of the Family

1. What benefits does the idea of 'family' bring to society?

2. What benefits does the institution of marriage bring to family life?

3. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. What does Paul tell us about a properly functioning marriage, and how does this compare to the disposable relationships experienced by many in society?

4. Someone once said, 'divorce is never inevitable, but it is always a failure'. Do you agree with this statement, and if so why or why not?

5. Is same-sex marriage equivalent to traditional marriage, and if not, then why not?

6. If you were offering advice to a couple who are struggling in their relationship, what practical steps could you encourage them to take to affirm and strengthen their relationship?

Chapter 7

Transgender Culture

1. What arguments would you use to support the notion that there are only two genders, male and female?

2. Why do you think this has become such a big political and media issue in recent years?

3. This is an issue that causes concern even among people of no faith. If you were discussing the issue with non-Christian friends, what arguments would you use to express your concern about the issue?

4. On pages 95-99, six concerns were raised in relation to the transgender issue. How would you rank these in order of significance? Can you think of examples that illustrate these points?

5. Read Genesis 1:31. How would you use this verse when talking to someone who says that they are trapped in the wrong body?

6. In a counselling situation, what hope does Romans 8:22,23 give to someone suffering from gender dysphoria?

Chapter 8

The Christian Voice and Secular Democracy

1. Read Matthew 5:13-16. Why did Jesus use the images of salt and light in these verses, and what do they teach us about our responsibility as Christians in a fallen world?

2. How do Christians prepare themselves for engaging with ethical issues in the public square?

3. What barriers might prevent Christians from such engagement, and how can they be overcome?

4. How do we learn to speak truth into our culture while at the same time love people, even though we disagree with them?

5. Read Matthew 5:39 and 10:16. What qualities does Jesus suggest we adopt as we engage with our wider culture?

6. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. What advice does Peter give us about our engagement with our wider culture and how can we apply this to our current situation?

Chapter 9

Church – A Refuge for the Broken

1. What are your unchurched friends' honest impression of church? If you don't already know, could you ask them now? How might that help?

2. Read John 3:17. How does that compare with what your friends believe about church?

3. How do we develop the ability to speak truth without condemning or giving the impression of arrogance?

4. Consider the following statement: 'The gospel is the only definitive answer to the moral chaos of society'. Do you agree? Why, or why not?

5. What practical steps can a local church take to equip itself to be a refuge for broken people?

6. Read Romans 12:2. How could this help in counselling someone whose life is broken and who needs a fresh start?

A study guide for groups and churches to
accompany *In His Image* by **Stephen McQuoid**



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