CHRISTIAN ETHICS

The term “Ethics” is from the Greek word “ethos” which generally means “custom mores.” James P. Eckman in the book Christian Ethics in a Postmodern World said, it refers to “a set of standards around which we organise our lives [in the society and institutions] and from which we define our duties and obligation.” For Eckman, Ethics results is a set of imperatives that establishes behaviour [or attitude] patterns that are acceptable *in any given society, institutions, and organizations. [[1]](#footnote-1)*

NATURALISTIC ETHICS

ETHICS

Natural laws what are the Norms (Rules, Guidelines, Values virtues etc

Who is she /he?

Who am I ?

Moral Agent (You)

Moral Patient your Neigbbour, friends, Institution etc

Actions, Attitudes, feelings, (What do you do & what you feel)?

Source: Wayne G. Boulton 1994:4

Norman Gersler in his book Christian Ethics (option and issues) summarizes the definition by saying, “Ethics deals with that is morally right and wrong. Christian ethics deals with what is morally right and wrong for a Christian”[[2]](#footnote-2) (Gersler 1989:17). Christian ethics is rooted in the character of God, who reveals himself to man through general revelation (Rom 1:19-20, 2:12-14) and special revelation (John 3:16; Col 1:16-17).

Christians are in the world but not of the world. Therefore, we must live right to be the light and salt of the world. Living ethically right would correct the social ills in our society, communities and institutions. Christian ethics is informed by Christian worldview, because it is an expansion of the moral order that is generally revealed to all men (Rom 1:20-25). Christian worldview hinges on the Christian beliefs. Christian beliefs are derived from the Bible - the Word of God as its *principium*.

The Bible is our final authority in drawing conclusions concerning ethical issues. Whatever we think, do and say rationally, empirically and synthetically, or base on our experiences be it education, profession, ethnicity, status, leadership and governance etc., the Bible has the final say if we would please God in our lives and through our endeavours.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

JESUS CHRIST Ultimate Role Model Model

Bible

What are the Norms? Rules, Guidelines, core values, virtues, ethics 2cor 5:17; Eph 6:10-17

Moral Patient Yourself and people around neighbours: Community Gal 5: 22-23

Moral Agent

(You) Isa 59:2 1Peter 1:6

Action, Activities Feelings (What do you and how you feel

1. James P. Eckman, *Christian Ethics in a Postmodern World*, Italics mine. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Norman Gersler *Christian Ethics: Options and Issues*, (1989) 17. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)