Annotated Bibliography

The study of ethics includes a number of other disciplines and divisions which should be considered to make up an exhaustive bibliography. I have chosen to highlight only works that deal more generally and broadly with the field.


Bahnsen, Greg L. Theonomy in Christian Ethics, Expanded Edition. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1977. The late Greg Bahnsen was probably the foremost thinker and apologist for Christian Reconstruction or Theonomy. All who want to interact critically with this distinct view of the covenants and the law must come to grips with this well-written volume.


*Barth, Karl. Ethics. New York: The Seabury Press, 1981. Barth, who became the best known theologian of the century, wrote this originally as lectures given in his early days as a professor. He relates moral issues to piety and the Gospel with a pastor's concern. Recommended for the discerning and the scholar.
Annotated Bibliography

*Bloesch, Donald G. Freedom for Obedience: Evangelical Ethics for Contemporary Times. New York: Harper & Row, 1987. An extremely important book in that it grounds the Christian approach to ethics in the Gospel of God’s grace following the classical approach that is missed by many today, especially in the Reformed community, where ethics is not always linked to the obedience that is genuinely produced by the Cross.


Davis, John Jefferson. Evangelical Ethics: Issues Facing the Church Today. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1993 reprint. A valuable work recently reprinted. This work deals with several important contemporary matters; e.g., abortion, contraception, divorce and remarriage, euthanasia, capital punishment, etc.

*Elert, Werner. The Christian Ethos. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1957. An out-of-print volume that is essential for those who want to understand how the Reformation faith, especially with an emphasis on the Lutheran law-grace distinction, comes to this subject. Highly recommended if you can find a copy.

Feinberg, John S. and Feinberg, Paul D. Ethics for a Brave New World. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 1993. The Feinberg brothers, professors at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, have tackled the most important ethical issues facing the modern evangelical Christian.


Hauerwas, Stanley. The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics. South Bend, Indiana: Notre Dame Press, 1983. Hauerwas, a controversial figure in this field, is a writer serious philosophers and ethicists must wrestle with through his important works.


Henry, Carl F. H. Christian Personal Ethics. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957. It is fascinating to note that Henry devotes 615 pages to this subject and only 190 to social ethics.

Holmes, Arthur F. Ethics: Approaching Moral Decisions. The retired chairman of the philosophy department at Wheaton College provides a solid introduction in only 132 pages.


Smedes, Lewis. Choices. New York: Harper & Row, 1986. The Fuller Seminary professor is an important writer in the modern scene but should be used with discretion and concern for hermeneutical issues that demand better treatment.


White, R. E. O. Christian Ethics. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981. Surveys the field thoroughly with a special emphasis upon historical concerns including the moral philosophy of Augustine, the ethical psychology of Abelard and the moral theology of Aquinas.