

Leave
blank

Christianity

Whilst Religious communities still flourish, they are rarely advocated today, even by their members... Still another way is to make a sharp separation between the realm of love in the church and the stern realm of justice and order in the world, or to say that the purpose of Jesus' radical ethic is to convict us of sin and prevent the development of spiritual pride. None of these attempts will do. The radical elements in Jesus' ethic are an authentic corollary of the radical stance of the kingdom of God, calling us past the necessary struggles with justice to a fuller realization of love. It is the more challenging because the more serious sins feed on moral achievements not on the more coarse and flamboyant ones. Both with individuals and collectives corruption can feed on moral achievement, so that if there is a moral collapse it can be greater than if the achievement had been less. Nazi Germany is the great example of this in the twentieth century. Hence the question has been raised. Is there any point in such a radical ethic which is always being ignored? Would not a less drastic and more practical one be better? It is a question which is frequently asked in this century by adherents of other faiths.

From Ronald Preston – Christian Ethics in Singer P (ed) – *A Companion to Ethics* (Blackwell, 2001) p99

1. (a) Clarify the argument and/or interpretation in the passage. (24)

(b) Do you agree with the idea(s) expressed? Justify your point of view and discuss its implications for understanding religion and human experience. (16)

(Total 40 marks)

TOTAL FOR PAPER 1D: 40 MARKS

Start your answer on page 3.



