QUESTION

HOW IS JESUS MORALLY NORMATIVE FOR CHRISTIANS?

Purpose  - To examine an approach for discerning how Jesus guides Christian moral living.

Scope   - not to specify the normative content of Jesus’ story, but rather to explore the fundamental structure of Jesus’ moral relevance.

ANSWER

“GO AND DO LIKewise.”

Spohn’s Thesis - The story of Jesus is normative analogically: “Go and do likewise” not identically.

Jesus as a concrete universal

Jesus is a norm that is

1. Partly determined
   To extent that the Jesus story is finished, it sets definite limits on morality and is universally applicable.

2. Partly open
   To the extent that the Jesus story is not entirely finished, it takes on a different concrete form according to the circumstances, the agent, and the action of the Holy Spirit.

3. A historical prototype
   The Jesus story provides paradigmatic patterns of living.

4. A living norm
   The living Jesus is manifest through the Holy Spirit.

Source

Agenda for Next Class

3 routes of analogical transfer: Jesus story → our stories

1. Perception
2. Motivation → analogous to the story
3. Identity