

## Situational Ethics

On 27 July 2019, our rugby team took on their arch foes, the All Blacks in Wellington, New Zealand. Although it was a dour test match, it was remarkable for its climax, a draw, which seemed very much like a win.

One of the small instances during the match which probably went unnoticed by most of us, was Beauden Barrett moving the ball forward immediately prior to a penalty kick. What I found astonishing about that instance was Steve Hansen, the New Zealand Coach’s, remark that “everybody does it”.

That is the problem with the world frankly.

Our moral compass seems to shift with the times.

If other people do it, so can we.

If Taxi drivers sometimes jump the traffic lights, so can we. The only limit on this type of wrongdoing is whether we get caught, or not. If the referee has not spotted it, play on.

If the traffic police are nowhere to be found, that is a licence to break the law.

Like in the case of divorce statistics, I don’t think Christians are any better to adhering to the law than anyone else. Is this not an indictment on the call to be obedient to Christ’s commands? If we cannot obey man made laws, how do we expect to obey those commands of Christ which tend to go much further?

One of the slogans which accompany the challenge to be Unashamedly Ethical is “Do it right and do it right now”.

I have heard it said in guidance around what is not ethical, if it is something you would not like to see in the newspaper for all your family and friends to see then it is probably wrong.

But that cannot be the only indicator, after all, we have an audience of one! An all seeing and all-knowing God. Do it right and do it right now.

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