

Making Biblical Decisions

Essay Questions

LESSON
ONE

ETHICS IN SCRIPTURE



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Essay Questions

1. How does our definition of Christian ethics focus on God and his blessings?
2. Why does this approach cover a more issues than other approaches to ethics?

3. How does this approach cover more aspects of the ethical process than other approaches to ethics?

4. Why is a proper motive significant when it comes to actions, and what motives are proper?

5. Why must our works be done according the proper standard, and what is the proper standard for ethics?

6. Why must our works have a proper goal, and what should our goal be?

11. Summarize the biblical model for making ethical decisions.

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LESSON
TWO

THE NORMATIVE
PERSPECTIVE: GOD AND HIS
WORD



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Essay Questions

1. How is God himself the absolute standard for morality?
2. How does God serve as the absolute judge of morality?

3. Describe the three categories of revelation that are part of God's Word.

4. How does general revelation teach us about God's standard?

7. How are general, special and existential revelation interconnected?

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LESSON
THREE

THE NORMATIVE
PERSPECTIVE: THE
ATTRIBUTES OF SCRIPTURE



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Essay Questions

1. How does Scripture empower people to believe and to live in ways that please God?
2. What does Scripture say about its own authority? Describe some important implications of these claims.

5. Why is Scripture necessary for ethical decision making?

6. How is Scripture sufficient for ethical decision making?

7. How does Scripture help us conform to God's will and character?

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LESSON
FOUR

THE NORMATIVE
PERSPECTIVE: PARTS AND
ASPECTS OF SCRIPTURE



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3. In light of the variety we find in Scripture, what are some implications for the way we teach ethics today?
4. In what ways is the primacy of the Ten Commandments both historical and theological?

5. What are the three traditional categories or types of Law, and how can we use them to help us apply the Law in the modern world?

6. How does the Law relate to the commandment of love?

7. What is the relationship between the Law and the gospel of grace?

8. Describe the Law in relation to redemptive history and the new covenant.

9. What harmony exists among all divine commands?

10. How is Scripture's unity displayed in regard to the Law?

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LESSON
FIVE

THE SITUATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE: REVELATION
AND SITUATION



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3. What are goals? Why is it important to understand biblical goals if we want to make biblical decisions?

4. What are means? Why is it important to account for biblical means in our ethical decisions?

5. Describe the doctrine of inspiration taught in this lesson.

6. What types of situational considerations apply to revelation itself?

7. What characterizes a an overly lax approach to revelation? What dangers does this strategy present? How can we avoid falling into this strategy?

8. What characterizes a an overly rigorous approach to revelation? What dangers does this strategy present? How can we avoid falling into this strategy?

9. What characterizes a an improper reliance on human authority? What dangers does this strategy present? How can we avoid falling into this strategy?

10. When it comes to applying Scripture to modern life, why is it important to account for the facts associated with a given biblical text? Why is it also important to account for the facts of the modern situation?

11. When it comes to applying Scripture to modern life, why is it important to account for the goals associated with a given biblical text? Why is it also important to account for the goals of the modern situation?

12. When it comes to applying Scripture to modern life, why is it important to account for the means associated with a given biblical text? Why is it also important to account for the means available in the modern situation?

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LESSON
SIX

THE SITUATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE: PURSUING
OUR GOAL



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3. Outline the historical development of the kingdom of God through its three major periods.

4. Why and how are we to glorify God?

5. Why and how are we to enjoy God?

6. What is the relationship between God's glory and our enjoyment of him? How can it be said that they comprise a single goal?

7. What is the Cultural Mandate? How does it's modern application compare to its original application?

8. What is the Great Commission? How are we to apply it in modern life?

9. What is the relationship between the Cultural Mandate and the Great Commission?
What should we do when they seem to be in tension?

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LESSON
SEVEN

THE SITUATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE:
UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS



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3. Describe God's presence within creation.

4. What do God's authority, control and presence imply about our ethical responsibilities?

5. Describe the preternatural realm and its inhabitants, including the nature of their interactions with each other.
6. Describe the natural realm and its inhabitants. How has the situation of the natural realm changed throughout time?

7. Compare and contrast the preternatural and the natural realms. List three examples how they can influence each other.
8. Explain the importance of human society to ethical decisions in terms of solidarity, commonality and community.

9. Explain the importance of human individuality to ethical decisions in terms of character, experiences, body, and roles.

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LESSON
EIGHT

THE EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE: BEING GOOD



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3. How and in what way has human nature been affected by the Fall?

4. In what ways has the human will been effected by the Fall?

5. How has the Fall prevented unredeemed human beings from obtaining a proper knowledge of God's commands?

6. What happens to the nature of a fallen human after he is redeemed in Christ?

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LESSON
NINE

THE EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE: INTENDING
GOOD



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3. How does saving faith serve as a motive?
4. Discuss repentance as a primary expression of faith.

5. Describe hope as faith directed toward the future.

6. Describe loving allegiance to God in terms of loyalty, orientation, and responsibility?

7. How do God's actions of atoning grace and common grace serve as models for our own behavior?

8. How do affections like gratefulness and fear relate to the biblical concept of love?

Making Biblical Decisions

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LESSON
TEN

THE EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE: CHOOSING
GOOD



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Essay Questions

1. What is experience? How does it contribute to acquiring knowledge?
2. What is imagination? How are our imaginative abilities vital to learning and thinking about God, the world, and ourselves?

3. Why is acquiring knowledge important to the process of making ethical decisions?

4. What is reason? Why and how should we use reason in ethics?

5. What is the conscience and how should it be used?

6. What are emotions? How do they help us make ethical decisions?

9. What is the will? What role does it play in the decision-making process?
10. Why is applying knowledge important to the process of making ethical decisions?