

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2010**

TITLE OF PAPER : CHRISTIAN ETHICS

COURSE CODE : T2P2

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

MARKS : 100

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. CHOOSE AND ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.**
- 3. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE.**
- 4. PARTS OF A QUESTION MAY BE ANSWERED ON THE SAME PAGE, ALLOWING FOR A SPACE OF THREE LINES IN BETWEEN.**
- 5. CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CLARITY, ACCURACY AND GOOD THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT.**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

## QUESTION ONE

Discuss any one alternative to Christian ethics which seems to be compatible with the Christian faith. Clearly illustrate how the selected alternative shares some conclusions with Christian ethics on moral behavior.

[25]

## QUESTION TWO

***“Nato officials said on Thursday that more than 20 countries plan to send more troops following a US decision to deploy an extra 30 000 in Afghanistan.” (BBC in Weekend Observer Saturday – Sunday December 5-6, 2009)***

Is this action morally justifiable? Support your stand, using relevant examples.

[25]

## QUESTION THREE

***“Just as beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, judgment is in the mind of the judge.”***

With reference to the factors involved in making personal judgments, explain the meaning of the above statement.

[25]

## QUESTION FOUR

What are the general characteristics of Old Testament morality? Using relevant examples show the divergences and the convergences between Jesus’ ethical teachings and that of the Old Testament.

[25]

## QUESTION FIVE

***“Marriage is a waste of time when two people can agree to live together happily.”***

Use your enhanced understanding of the Christian interpretation of marriage to react to this assertion.

[25]

## QUESTION SIX

**A case study***Sacrificial adultery*

*As the Russian armies drove westward to meet the Americans and British at the Elbe, a Soviet patrol picked up a Mrs. Bergmeier foraging food for her three children. Unable even to get word to the children, she was taken off to a POW camp in Ukraine. Her husband had been captured in the Battle of the Bulge and taken to a POW camp in Wales. When he was returned to Berlin, he spent months rounding up his children, although they couldn't find their mother. She more than anything else was needed to reknit them as a family in that dire situation of hunger, chaos and fear. Meanwhile, in Ukraine, Mrs. Bergmeier learned through a sympathetic commandant that her husband and family were trying to keep together and find her. But the rules allowed them to release her to Germany only if she was pregnant, in which case she would be returned as a liability. She turned things over in her mind and finally asked a friendly Volga German camp guard to impregnate her, which he did. Her condition being medically verified, she was sent back to Berlin and to her family. They welcomed her with open arms, even when she told them how she had managed it. And when the child was born, they all loved him because of what they had done for them. After the christening, they met up with their local pastor and discussed the morality of the situation.*

*(adopted from Joseph Fletcher's Four Examples)*

With reference to this case study, critically assess Joseph Fletcher's theories on situational ethics.

[25]

## QUESTION SEVEN

Define prejudice and discrimination. Do you have any evidence that there is discrimination against minority people in your community? What is your responsibility as someone who has gained an understanding on Christian ethics?

[25]

## QUESTION EIGHT

Evaluate the impact of Biblical teachings on the status of women in the Church in Swaziland. Quote Biblical references to support your argument.

[25]

THE END

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