



UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2011

TITLE OF PAPER : CHRISTIAN ETHICS 1

COURSE CODE : TRS 202/IDE-TRS 202

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. CHOOSE AND ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS.**
- 2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 25 MARKS.**
- 3. BEGIN EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE.**
- 4. 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

What do you think complicates people's efforts to make sound ethical judgments in contemporary society?

[25]

QUESTION TWO

Select any one of the alternative theories to Christian ethics which best illustrates ethical egoism.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

To what extent did Timothy O'Connell refine the Pre-Vatican Roman Catholic position on ethics?

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

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. After the christening, they met up with their local pastor and discussed the morality of the situation.

What do you think would be Joseph Fletcher's reaction to this scenario and why?

[25]



QUESTION FIVE

"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 SIX

Discuss the defining features of Old Testament morality. How did Jesus' approach to ethics differ from that of the Old Testament?

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