



UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2012

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.**

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QUESTION ONE

Times of Swaziland, 26 August 2012.

MBABANE – Cabinet has accused Mduzuzi Simelane, who is popularly known as ‘Magawugawu’ of abusing Swazi TV to promote his aspirations for a seat in parliament.

By Mduzuzi Magagula.

Cabinet, which is a team of ministers chaired by Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini, alleged that Mduzuzi used the station to ‘launch’ his campaign for the 2013 elections. As a result, he has been banned from using Swazi TV facilities. The station was also ordered to stop airing the popular programme ‘*Makhelwane Simbona Ngetento*’ (Actions show how good a neighbour is). The programme helped many individuals and families. It used to be people who were either looking for long-lost relatives or sought help in dealing with strange and serious illnesses. Many elderly people who lived in shacks or even under trees appeared on the programme and got help from viewers who were touched by their plight. The programme host got sponsorship, mainly from Matata Stores, to travel the length and breadth of the country, helping Swazis who were in need.

Informed by duty theories under normative traditions, react to the Cabinet team’s decision to ban ‘*Makhelwane Simbona Ngetento*’ (Actions show how good a neighbor is) programme from being aired on Swazi TV.

[25]

QUESTION TWO

Critically assess the ethical ideals of Ayn Rand’s philosophy of objectivism.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

“A faithful Jew stayed as close as possible to observance of the law even when He had to depart from it. Jesus stayed as close as possible to the fulfillment of human need, no matter how wide the Sabbath law this led Him.” (Ramsey, in Crook, 2002).

Comment on Paul Ramsey’s above claim in relation to Jesus’ approach to ethics.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

A case study

I was reading Gardner's "Biblical Faith and Social Ethics" on a shuttle plane to New York. Next to me sat a young woman of about twenty-eight or so, attractive and well turned out in expensive clothes of good taste. She showed some interest in my book, and I asked if she'd like to look at it. "No", she said, "I'd rather talk." What about? "Me." That was a surprise, and I knew it meant good-bye to the reading I needed to get done. "I have a problem I can't get unconfused about. You might help me to decide", she explained... There was a war going on that her government believed could be stopped by some clever use of espionage and blackmail. However, this meant she had to seduce and sleep with an enemy spy in order to lure him into blackmail. Now this went against her morals, but if it brought the war to an end, saving thousands of lives, would it be worth breaking those moral standards?

Adopted from Joseph Fletcher's four examples on situational ethics.

What advice do you think a Roman Catholic ethicist would give to the young woman? How would that advice differ from that of a situational ethicist?

[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 St. Paul's moral teachings. Did Jesus' approach to ethics differ from that of St. Paul? Explain.

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