

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER
MAY 2016

TITLE OF PAPER : CHRISTIAN ETHICS II

COURSE CODE : TRS 203/IDE-TRS 203

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 NEW 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

"Abortion is wrong because it encourages sin. The first argument that always arises against the Christian stance on abortion is 'what about cases of rape and incest?' As horrible as it would be to become pregnant as a result of rape or incest, is the murder of the baby an answer? Two wrongs do not make a right..."

(Pastor Makuni, published in # WOMEN: The Empowerment of Women in Swaziland – MINERVA, 2016).

To what extent do you agree with the above assertion with regards to the morality of abortion?

[25]

QUESTION TWO

'God created life, so God should be the one to take it away.'

Comment on this statement, making reference to whether or not you believe that euthanasia should be legalised in Swaziland.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

'Genetic engineering is morally acceptable, as it may eventually bring a solution to infertile couples.'

Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer.

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

"The lives of members of minority groups are profoundly affected by their membership in those groups. The chief instruments by which society exerts pressure upon them are stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination" (Roger Crook, 2007:180).

Select any minority group in your community, and defend or refute Crook's assertion, drawing on Christian morality.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

A Case study

Anglican Church says yes to gays and lesbians: Decision divides Anglican Bishops*- Sunday Observer, February 20, 2016***Source A**

....Anglican Churches have 'betrayed' God over LGBT rights... the Ugandan church will boycott global Anglican events once again because Western Archbishops have 'betrayed' Biblical principles... (Archbishop of Uganda Stanley Ntagali).

Source B

....we reaffirm our assurance to them (gay people) that they are loved by God and that all baptized, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the body of Christ...we are of one mind that gay, lesbian and transgender members of our church share in full membership as baptized members of the body of Christ... (Southern Africa Anglican Church leader, the Archbishop of Cape Town Thabo Makgoba).

Source C (*Swazi Observer* March 2, 2016)

Local Anglican Church Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya has come out to state that her church has not deviated from the Bible teaching on marriage, stating that it was still one man married to one woman. This newspaper wanted Bishop Wamukoya to shed some light on a stand that was taken by the Anglican Church in the country. This was after our sister newspaper, the Sunday Observer, reported that the Anglican Church from across Southern Africa have resolved that gays and lesbians were welcome to become full members of their churches. Responding to questions sent to her by this newspaper, Bishop Wamukoya said their church still stood by the principles of the Bible which required a man to be married to a woman. "This, therefore, means that our ministers cannot solemnise a marriage between two people of the same sex," the bishop said.

Read the above three sources, and with your acquired knowledge on the morality of sex orientations defend any of the ideas expressed by the Anglican Bishops on embracing gays and lesbians in the church.

QUESTION SIX

"Does the proposed use of force manifest a morally acceptable intention to bring about justice, or is it designed to satisfy desires for revenge and feelings of hatred?" (Professor of Social Ethics, John Langan, S.J. Georgetown University).

With reference to the traditions on ethics of war and peace that you have studied, what would be your response to Langan's question? Cite examples to support your argument.

[25]

THE END
