

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS
STUDIES
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, NOVEMBER 2017

TITLE OF PAPER : CHRISTIAN ETHICS 1

COURSE CODE : TRS 202

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

MARKS : 75

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. 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**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.

Explain how a teleologist and a deontologist of your choice would address the question of breaking moral standards posed in the above case study, and why.

[25]

QUESTION TWO

Discuss the convergences and divergences between the pre-Vatican and the post-Vatican approaches on sources of guidance in making moral decisions.

[25]

QUESTION THREE

Explain the reasons why Ayn Rand would define ethical altruism as 'moral cannibalism'. To what extent do you agree with her observation?

[25]

QUESTION FOUR

Define conscience and evaluate its effectiveness as a source of guidance in making moral judgments.

[25]

QUESTION FIVE

Discuss the key defining features of Jesus' approach to ethics. To what extent did Jesus differ from mainstream Judaism?

[25]

QUESTION SIX

"...The second is this, '...you shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-30)

Discuss love as the central imperative in Christian morality.

[25]
