### **Essay Questions**

LESSON ONE

### ETHICS IN SCRIPTURE



1.	How does our definition of Christian ethics focus on God and his blessings?
2.	Why does this approach cover a more issues than other approaches to ethics?

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4. Why is a proper motive significant when it comes to actions, and what motives are proper?

5.	Why must our works be done according the proper standard, and what is the proper standard for ethics?
6.	Why must our works have a proper goal, and what should our goal be?

1.	Summarize the threefold criteria for good works described in this lesson.
8.	What are the three main tendencies that different Christian groups rely upon as
	they make ethical decisions?

9.	Explain the three different perspectives that must be employed when approaching ethics.
10.	What do we mean when we say that the three perspectives interact and depend on one another?

11. Summarize the biblical model for making ethical decisions.

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON TWO THE NORMATIVE
PERSPECTIVE: GOD AND HIS
WORD



1. How is God himself the absolute standard for morality?

2. How does God serve as the absolute judge of morality?

3.	Describe the three	categories of	f revelation tl	hat are part of	God's Word.

4. How does general revelation teach us about God's standard?

5. How does special revelation teach us about God's standard's	5.	How does	special	revelation	teach us	about	God's	standard?
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6. How does existential revelation teach us about God's standard?

7. How are general, special and existential revelation interconnected?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON THREE THE NORMATIVE
PERSPECTIVE: THE
ATTRIBUTES OF SCRIPTURE



1. How does Scripture empower people to believe and to live in ways that please God?

2. What does Scripture say about its own authority? Describe some important implications of these claims.

3.	When it comes to making ethical decisions, how do we benefit from
	understanding the characteristics of Scripture?

4. What do we mean when we say that Scripture is clear? What implications follow from this truth?

5.	Why is Scripture necessary for ethical decision making?
6.	How is Scripture sufficient for ethical decision making?

7. How does Scripture help us conform to God's will and character?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON FOUR

# THE NORMATIVE PERSPECTIVE: PARTS AND ASPECTS OF SCRIPTURE



1. Describe the variety of language found in the Bible, and contrast the extraordinary and ordinary uses of language.

2. Describe the variety of literature included in the Bible. What beneficial purposes does this diversity of genres serve?

3.	In light of the variety we find in Scripture, what are some implications for the way we teach ethics today?

4. In what ways is the primacy of the Ten Commandments both historical and theological?

5.	What are the three traditional categories or types of Law, and how can we use them to help us apply the Law in the modern world?			

6. How does the Law relate to the commandment of love?

7.	What is the relationship between the Law and the gospel of grace?
8.	Describe the Law in relation to redemptive history and the new covenant.

	9.	What harmon	exists among a	Il divine commands?
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10. How is Scripture's unity displayed in regard to the Law?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON FIVE THE SITUATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE: REVELATION
AND SITUATION



1. Identify and define the three types of the situational content of God's revelation that we must know in order to make ethical decisions.

2. What are facts? Why is it important to know facts — especially about God — in order to make ethical decisions?

3.	What are goals? Why is it important to understand biblical goals if we want to make biblical decisions?
4.	What are means? Why is it important to account for biblical means in our ethical decisions?

6.	What types of situational considerations apply to revelation itself?

5. Describe the doctrine of inspiration taught in this lesson.

7.	What characterizes a an overly lax approach to revelation? What dangers does this
	strategy present? How can we avoid falling into this strategy?

8. What characterizes a an overly rigorous approach to revelation? What dangers does this strategy present? How can we avoid falling into this strategy?

9.	What characterizes a an improper reliance on human authority? What dangers does
	this strategy present? How can we avoid falling into this strategy?

10. When it comes to applying Scripture to modern life, why is it important to account for the facts associated with a given biblical text? Why is it also important to account for the facts of the modern situation?

11.	When it comes to applying Scripture to modern life, why is it important to account for
	the goals associated with a given biblical text? Why is it also important to account
	for the goals of the modern situation?

12. When it comes to applying Scripture to modern life, why is it important to account for the means associated with a given biblical text? Why is it also important to account for the means available in the modern situation?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON SIX THE SITUATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE: PURSUING
OUR GOAL



1. Explain how Jesus' emphasized the importance of the Kingdom of God in three different sections of the Sermon on the Mount.

2. What are the three main components of the Kingdom of God? What is the relationship between them?

3. Outline the historical development of the kingdom of God through its three periods.				

4. Why and how are we to glorify God?

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6. What is the relationship between God's glory and our enjoyment of him? How can it be said that they comprise a single goal?

7.	What is the Cultural Mandate? How does it's modern application compare to its original application?
8.	What is the Great Commission? How are we to apply it in modern life?

9. What is the relationship between the Cultural Mandate and the Great Commission? What should we do when they seem to be in tension?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON SEVEN THE SITUATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE:
UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS



1. Describe God's authority over creation.

2. Describe God's control over creation.

3.	Describe God's	presence within	creation.

4. What do God's authority, control and presence imply about our ethical responsibilities?

5.	Describe the preternatural realm and its inhabitants, including the nature of their interactions with each other.				
6.	Describe the natural realm and its inhabitants. How has the situation of the natural realm changed throughout time?				

7.	Compare and contrast the preternatural and the natural realms. List three
	examples how they can influence each other.

8. Explain the importance of human society to ethical decisions in terms of solidarity, commonality and community.

9. Explain the importance of human individuality to ethical decisions in terms of character, experiences, body, and roles.

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON EIGHT THE EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE: BEING GOOD



1. Explain how all true, moral goodness is rooted in God himself.

2. Explain the goodness and role of humanity in terms of the image of God, God's blessing on humanity, and the cultural mandate.

3.	How and in	what way l	has human	nature been	affected b	y the Fall?

4. In what ways has the human will been effected by the Fall?

5.	How has the Fall prevented unredeemed human beings from obtaining a proper knowledge of God's commands?
6.	What happens to the nature of a fallen human after he is redeemed in Christ?

7.	Explain the restoration of our will that takes place when we begin to experience redemption.

8. Explain the impact of redemption on our knowledge.

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON NINE THE EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE: INTENDING
GOOD



1. Explain the basic concept and some of the complexities of motives.

2. Why are good motives necessary?

3. How does saving faith serve as a moti
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4. Discuss repentance as a primary expression of faith.

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6. Describe loving allegiance to God in terms of loyalty, orientation, and responsibility?

7.	How do God's actions of atoning grace and common grace serve as models for our own behavior?
8.	How do affections like gratefulness and fear relate to the biblical concept of love?

### **Essay Questions**

LESSON TEN THE EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE: CHOOSING
GOOD



1. What is experience? How does it contribute to acquiring knowledge?

2. What is imagination? How are our imaginative abilities vital to learning and thinking about God, the world, and ourselves?

3.	Why is acquiring knowledge important to the process of making ethical
	decisions?

4. What is reason? Why and how should we use reason in ethics?

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6. What are emotions? How do they help us make ethical decisions?

7.	Why is assessing knowledge important to the process of making ethical decisions?				
8.	What is the heart? How does it function in the decision-making process?				

9.	What is the will? What role does it play in the decision-making process?
10.	Why is applying knowledge important to the process of making ethical decisions?