

Christian Ethics And Contemporary Moral Problems

An intelligent discussion of the foundations and methods in ethics and ways to apply a Christian worldview to our secular culture.

What does the Bible teach about how to live in today's world? Best-selling author and professor Wayne Grudem distills over forty years of teaching experience into a single volume aimed at helping readers apply a biblical worldview to difficult ethical issues, including wealth and poverty, marriage and divorce, birth control, abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, business practices, environmental stewardship, telling the truth, knowing God's will, understanding Old Testament laws, and more.

Schweiker develops a powerful new theory of responsibility articulated in terms of Christian faith.

How can people celebrate the gospel of life in their daily lives? What about cloning? Is euthanasia morally acceptable in certain cases, such as terminal illness? In case of health reasons, mental illness, pregnancy due to rape, etc., is abortion morally acceptable? Are you in favor of the use of contraceptives, both natural and artificial? A Morally Complex World will not answer such complex questions in detail, but it does provide a framework for trying to grapple better with the first question of how we should lead our moral lives in general, as well as some of the concrete ethical issues the other three questions raise. A Morally Complex World is an accessible introduction to moral theology covering the methodology of moral theology; basic concepts such as conscience and moral agency; natural law, moral norms; how the Bible can be used in Christian ethics; how to dialogue on contested ethical issues; how to consider sin and moral failure; and finally, how to mediate moral principles and moral teaching in a pastorally sensitive manner in concrete life situations. Chapters are Mapping a Moral Methodology, The Natural Law and Moral Norms: Moving Along the Rational Claim Axis, Scripture and Ethics: Moving Along the Sacred Claim Axis, The Sanctuary of Conscience: Where the Axes Intersect, Modes of Moral Discourse: Navigating Towards a Common Ground, Navigating in the Morally Complex World: Casuistry with a Human Face, and Sin and Failure in a Morally Complex World. James T. Bretzke, SJ, STD, is associate professor of theology and religious studies at the University of San Francisco, and an adjunct professor of moral theology at the Jesuit School of Theology-at-Berkeley. He has written three books, including Consecrated Phrases: A Latin Theological Dictionary, published by Liturgical Press, which won an award from the Catholic Press Association. He has also authored over fifty articles and scholarly reviews in the areas of Roman Catholic moral theology and cross-cultural ethics. "

An introduction to Christian ethics explores ethics as a path to happiness as opposed to a set of strict rules, addressing the topics of friendship, community, conscience, prudence, virtue, and love.

Lying and Christian Ethics

An Intuitionist Account

An Introduction to Biblical Moral Reasoning

Moral Formation for Twenty-First-Century Leaders

A Morally Complex World

Christian Ethics

This book explores and proposes new avenues for contemporary moral thought. It defines and assesses the significance of the writings of French philosopher Paul Ricoeur for ethics. The book also explores what matters most to persons and how best to sustain just communities.

Whether it's a best-selling author who claims "religion poisons everything" or an atheist comedian whose punch lines aren't necessarily hassled by the burden of proof, foes of the faith continue to declare Christianity morally deficient without much resistance. In *Moral Apologetics for Contemporary Christians*, Mark Coppenger mixes compelling references—from classic philosophers to modern entertainers—to reasonably push back against both harsh critics and less intense cultural relativists, arguing that Christianity is morally superior to its competitors as well as true.

Coppenger doesn't avoid uncomfortable realities like the misbehavior of many Christians and false teachers, but he sets the book's course in defense of his faith with many thoughtful opening statements, including: "It is hard to open a newspaper, walk through a library, or turn on the television without seeing fresh evidence that a Christian approach to life makes people and societies flourish, and that those who turn their backs on genuine Christianity are liable to behave wickedly." The writing is also informed by the evidence that "believers have grown accustomed to... those who wish to defame the Church." Coppenger adds, "I hope to help replenish (our) cultural confidence. We have a great moral story to tell, and it surely points to the Author of Light and Life."

A reference guide on the relationship between scripture and ethics features up-to-date commentary on hundreds of topics including bioethics, homosexuality, and torture.

Here is a single volume that effectively introduces students to the full breadth of the discipline of Christian ethics. Essays deal with both concrete issues and theoretical foundations. Relevant biblical readings and a series of case studies accentuate the text.

This enlightening book steers readers through the challenges and moral issues, providing a clear and decisive history of the main figures and texts in Christian ethics. A short and lively history of Christian ethics, exploring how Christianity has always had to grapple with complex moral problems - from questions about the status of early

Christians who renounced their religion under Roman torture, through to current debates about euthanasia Engages with the main texts and figures in Christian ethics, including Augustine, Benedict, Aquinas, Luther and Barth Considers questions such as human will, the proper form of Christian life, natural law, and whether human nature is at odds with Christian ethics Concludes with a thought-provoking chapter considering the role that Christian ethics can play in contemporary moral debates and ethical dilemmas

Following Jesus in Contemporary Context

Christian Morality

Christian Ethics as Action, Character and Grace

Discerning Ethics

The Moral Quest

Responsibility and Christian Ethics

Renewing Moral Theology

Stanley J. Grenz masterfully leads readers into a theological engagement with moral inquiry that is a first-rate introduction to Christian ethics.

The revised second edition of the accessible guide to contemporary ethical issues that are at the intersection of religion and morality The updated second edition of *Do Morals Matter?* offers an authoritative yet approachable guide to the current ethical issues that bridge the gap between religion and morality. This informed text examines today's key ethical issues that range from making moral decisions in business and medicine, to the uncertainty of war and terrorism and the tenuous condition of our environment. This popular textbook embraces the dramatic changes that have occurred since the first edition was published such as changes in attitude towards the LGBT community as well as emerging ethical areas such as cyber ethics. In consultation with professors, the new edition includes sections at the beginning and end of each chapter that provide clear and succinct summaries of key issues, as well as reflective and discussion questions. This revised text: Sets out all the major ethical options in a balanced way inviting students to make their own mind up Deals with both moral philosophy and applied ethics Starts every chapter with a thought-exercise to provoke discussion Places Brexit and President Trump in an appropriate ethical framework Develops the concept of a Morally Serious Person. Written for students studying ethics in departments of theology and religion, *Do Morals Matter?* is the thoroughly revised and updated edition of the text that explores contemporary ethical issues.

Should society care about Christian morality? Are Christians out of touch with complex moral decision-making? *Christian Morality: An Interdisciplinary Framework for Thinking about Contemporary Moral Issues* provides readers with a framework for identifying and applying Christian moral principles to divisive issues. First, readers learn of the theological and philosophical foundations of Christian ethics. Two additional chapters explain how personal and social factors influence our capacity to think critically and Christianly about morality. Second, readers will learn about forming Christian moral judgments by seeing how different thinkers address six contemporary moral issues: abortion, same-sex relationships, equal treatment of men and women in the workplace, sex education, and racial bias in incarceration policies. "As a rhetorician, I repeat often to students that 'how we talk about things matters.' What Sutton and Schmidly have provided in this text is an admonition to readers that how we think about things matters. Drawing from both the philosophical and psychological study of

morality, the editors and contributors challenge the reader to consider how we think about morality, but also how to apply a moral framework to the issues and situations that we encounter in our homes, churches, and society. How we talk about these issues and moments matters, but if we are to speak in a way that allows us to demonstrate real influence we must first consider the thought with which we engage to formulate our response. This is a book that is both meaningful and accessible to the scholar, pastor, and lay person alike and a must-read for anyone who seeks to speak into the world as a voice of redemption." --Joy E. A. Qualls, Chair, Department of Communication Studies, Biola University ""Books on moral theory and applied ethics abound. They are readily available in bookstores everywhere as well as online. What makes the present volume distinctive is its interdisciplinary approach to moral concerns. Here we have Christian scholars, representing a variety of academic disciplines and professional backgrounds, engaging foundational questions as well as contemporary moral issues. The Christian community is indebted to Drs. Sutton and Schmidly for bringing this volume to us." --Michael D. Palmer, Professor of Philosophy, Regent University School of Divinity ""Christian Morality is a timely and accessible resource that provides the reader with the language, the categories, and the concepts that help us talk responsibly and respectfully to each other about the topics that matter most to us. The cultural and moral climate today begs for resources like this one." --Heather Kelly, Professor of Psychology, Evangel University, Springfield, MO Geoffrey W. Sutton is a psychologist and Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri. He is the author, coauthor, editor, or coeditor of a hundred publications, including *Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Restoration* (2010) and *A House Divided* (2016). Brandon Schmidly is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri. He teaches on a broad range of topics in philosophy. His interests and specializations are in ethics and political philosophy, specifically as they relate to family relationships.

Moral theology, rooted in Thomas Aquinas, has long found its home in the Catholic and Anglican traditions, and in recent years it has become more familiar through the perspective known as virtue ethics. *Renewing Moral Theology* unfolds an ethical perspective that is Thomistic in structure, evangelical in conviction and Anglican in ethos.

Comprehensive update of the leading Christian ethics textbook of the 21st century Ever since its original publication in 2003, Glen Stassen and David Gushee's *Kingdom Ethics* has offered students, pastors, and other readers an outstanding framework for Christian ethical thought, one that is solidly rooted in Scripture, especially Jesus's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. This substantially revised edition of *Kingdom Ethics* features enhanced and updated treatments of all major contemporary ethical issues. David Gushee's revisions include updated data and examples, a more global perspective, more gender-inclusive language, a clearer focus on methodology, discussion questions added

War and Christian Ethics

An Interdisciplinary Framework for Thinking about Contemporary Moral Issues

Classic and Contemporary Readings on the Morality of War

Moral Action and Christian Ethics

Christian Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems

Choosing the Good

A Moral Ontology for a Theistic Ethic

Christian Ethics and Commonsense Morality goes against the grain of various postmodern approaches to morality in contemporary religious ethics. In this book, Jung seeks to provide a new framework in which the nature of common Christian moral beliefs and practices can be given a new meaning. He suggests that, once major philosophical

assumptions behind postmodern theories of morality are called into question, we may look at Christian morality in quite a different light. On his account, Christian morality is a historical morality insofar as it is rooted in the rich historical traditions of the Christian church. Yet this kind of historical dependence does not entail the evidential dependence of all moral beliefs on historical traditions. It is possible to argue for the epistemic autonomy of moral beliefs, according to which Christian and other moral beliefs can be justified independently of their historical sources. The particularity of Christian morality lies not in its particular historical sources that also function as the grounds of justification, but rather in its explanatory and motivational capacity to further articulate the kind of moral knowledge that is readily available to most human beings and to enable people to act upon their moral knowledge.

In this penetrating book J. Kerby Anderson asks just how much we modern Christians can embrace emerging scientific and technological discoveries and still be true to our Lord. Kerby frames biblical answers in the light of Christ's lordship.

What may we say about the significance of particular moral actions for one's relationship with God? In this provocative analysis of contemporary Catholic moral theology Darlene Fozard Weaver shows the person as a moral agent acting in relation to God. Using an overarching theological context of sinful estrangement from and gracious reconciliation in God, Weaver shows how individuals negotiate their relationships with God in and through their involvement with others and the world. Much of current Christian ethics focuses more on persons and their virtues and vices exemplified by the work of virtue ethicists or on sinful social structures illustrated in the work of liberation theologians. These judgments fail to appreciate the reflexive character of human action and neglect the way our actions negotiate our response to God. Weaver develops a theologically robust moral anthropology that advances Christian understanding of persons and moral actions and contends we can better understand the theological import of moral actions by seeing ourselves as creatures who live, move, and have our being in God. The number of ethical issues that demand a response from Christians today is almost dizzying. How can Christians navigate such matters? With an unflinching yet irenic approach, this volume invites engagement with the biggest ethical issues by drawing on real-life experiences and offering a range of responses to some of the most challenging moral questions confronting the church today. This update of a classic text evaluates contemporary ethical options and pressing issues of the day from a biblical perspective.

Hospitality as Holiness

Happiness and the Christian Moral Life

The Acting Person and Christian Moral Life

Moral Apologetics for Contemporary Christians

Contemporary Moral Issues

Christian Ethics: A Very Short Introduction

Do Morals Matter?

Updated for Citizenship and the new GCSE specifications.

This is an introduction to African Christian ethics for Christian colleges and Bible schools. The book is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the theory of ethics, while the second discusses practical issues. The issues are grouped into the following six sections: Socio-Political Issues, Financial Issues, Marriage Issues, Sexual Issues, Medical Issues, and Religious Issues. Each section begins with a brief general introduction, followed by the chapters dealing with specific issues in that area. Each chapter begins with an introduction, discusses traditional African thinking on the issue, presents an analysis of relevant biblical material, and concludes with some recommendations. There are questions at the end of each chapter for discussion or personal reflection, often asking students to reflect on how the discussion in the chapter applies to their ministry situation.

A highly sophisticated account of moral reasoning, developed out of the thought of Thomas Aquinas.

This book provides both a short history of Christian ethics and looks at its basic sources as they arise from Judaism, Greco-Roman ethics, and Christianity

Previously published by Cengage/Wadsworth, this popular anthology for the study of Christian ethics has been a mainstay of undergraduate courses for nearly thirty years. Shannon and Patricia Jung provide an introduction to contemporary moral issues from decidedly, yet diverse, Christian moral perspectives. The anthology intentionally seeks a range of voices to produce a kind of "point/counterpoint" discussion of the ethical issue. Among the classic issues considered are: sexuality and reproductive rights, prejudice, biomedical ethics, the environment, immigration, terrorism, war, and globalization. New issues include: development ethics, personal finance and consumerism, workplace ethics, health care, and citizenship.

An Introduction to Issues and Approaches

Kierkegaard and Issues in Contemporary Ethics

Foundations of Christian Ethics

Engaging Contemporary Moral Theology

African Christian Ethics

From Christ to the World

Christian Witness Amid Moral Diversity

This title was first published in 2003. This book develops a moral ontology for a theistic ethic that engages the work of contemporary moral and political philosophers, and reaffirms the relevance of a theistic tradition of God's relation to the world reflected in the fundamental teachings of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Drawing on recent thought in the non-religious fields of psychology and political and moral philosophy, which build around the concept of human flourishing in community, Kirkpatrick argues that a theistic ethic need not be the captive of parochial or sectarian theological camps. He proposes a common or universal ethic that transcends the fashionable

ethnocentric 'incommensurate differences' in morality alleged by many post-modern deconstructionists. In the wake of ethnic religious strife post September 11th 2001, this book argues for a common morality built on the inclusivity of love, community, and justice that can transcend sectarian and parochial boundaries.

Helping readers look at moral issues seriously, intelligently, and from a Christian perspective, this comprehensive and thought-provoking introduction to the study of Christian ethics emphasizes the use of scripture, tradition, and the Christian community as resources to help formulate a personal approach in ethical living as it describes a variety of contemporary approaches to the consideration of ethical issues; discusses the author's own methods for making ethical decisions; and explores some of the critical issues of our day. Acquaints readers with both the field of ethics in general and varieties of Christian ethical systems in particular, and assists them in the formulation of an approach that they will find valid for themselves. Combines theological, philosophical, historical, and sociological perspectives in examining moral issues. Considers sources of guidance, biblical ethics, faith working through love, Christian ethics and such contemporary issues as human sexuality, marriage relationships, issues in biomedical ethics, and the status of women. Discusses citizenship in a democracy, punishment for crime, war and the quest for peace, ecology and our moral responsibility, and much more. Offers new discussions on the ethics of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, and the moral implications of cloning. For readers interested in ethics, religion and/or philosophy.

Lying and Christian Ethics defends the controversial "absolute view" of lying, which maintains that an assertion contrary to the speaker's mind is always wrong, regardless of the speaker's intentions. Whereas most people believe that a lie told for a good cause, such as protecting Jews from discovery by Nazis, is morally acceptable, Christopher Tollefsen argues that Christians should support the absolute view. He looks back to the writings of Augustine and Aquinas to illustrate that lying violates the basic human goods of integrity and sociality and severely compromises the values of religion and truth. He critiques the comparatively permissive views espoused by Cassian, Bonhoeffer, and Niebuhr and argues that lies often jeopardize the good causes for which they are told. Beyond framing a moral absolute against lying, this book explores the questions of to whom we owe the truth and when, and what steps we may take when we should not give it.

Written by a Catholic priest, this work contains one hundred

questions and answers on such issues as peace, health care, sexuality, and politics

This collection of classic and contemporary writings deals with the morality of war from a variety of Christian perspectives.

Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics

Biblical Perspectives on Contemporary Ethical Issues

Christian Ethics Today

Real Questions, Candid Responses

Christian Ethics and Commonsense Morality

Gathering the Nations in Love and Justice

Contemporary Issues and Options

A comprehensive introduction to Christian ethics addressing today's most challenging moral issues Invitation to Christian Ethics is an indispensable guide for helping pastors, counselors, and everyday Christians navigate today's difficult moral questions. Readers will benefit from Ken Magnuson's survey of ethics from a biblical perspective as well as contemporary theories of moral reasoning. This survey is followed by twelve chapters devoted to some of the thorniest issues Christians encounter today, such as: Sexuality, including homosexuality, sexual identity, and gender Marriage and divorce Infertility and assisted reproductive technologies Abortion Physician-assisted suicide Race relations Creation care Capital punishment Just war, pacifism, and the use of lethal force Magnuson provides biblical insight into each topic and presents key moral considerations. He also answers specific, practical questions that arise and concludes with a summary of his recommended approach to each issue. Readers will learn how to grapple with difficult moral questions and will receive guidance for some of life's most challenging ethical conundrums. "Ethics will continue to be a line in the sand that separates Christians. In this volume, Magnuson gives us a biblically-based, logically-sound, historically-rooted, and future-aware guide that the church so desperately needs in the face of sexual revolution, moral relativism, and advancing technology." --Brian Arnold, President of Phoenix Seminary

This one-of-a-kind resource in professional ethics helps today's Christian leaders maintain a high moral character and lifestyle and sharpen their personal and professional decision-making skills. Two experienced teachers and pastors address both current and perennial ethical issues and offer guidance for developing a personal code of ethics to maintain integrity in the work of ministry. The authors address the nature of ethical decision making as well as practical areas where integrity can be compromised, including issues raised by the use of smartphones and social media. Appendixes include codes of ethics from various denominations.

Christian Morality An Interdisciplinary Framework for Thinking about Contemporary Moral Issues Wipf and Stock Publishers

Patrick Nullens and Ronald T. Michener seek to revitalize Christian ethics through an integrative approach to classical ethics. Their matrix of consequential, principle, virtue and value ethics provides an alternative to postmodern situation ethics and brings the framework of biblical wisdom to bear on contemporary ethical questions.

We live amid increasing ethical plurality and fragmentation while at the same time more and more questions of moral gravity confront us. Some of these questions are new, such as those around human cloning and genetics. Other questions that were previously settled have re-emerged, such as those around the place of religion in politics. Responses to such questions are diverse, numerous and often vehemently contested. Hospitality as Holiness seeks to address the underlying question facing the church within contemporary moral

debates: how should Christians relate to their neighbours when ethical disputes arise? The problems the book examines centre on what the nature and basis of Christian moral thought and action is, and in the contemporary context, whether moral disputes may be resolved with those who do not share the same framework as Christians. Bretherton establishes a model - that of hospitality - for how Christians and non-Christians can relate to each other amid moral diversity. This book will appeal to those interested in the broad question of the relationship between reason, tradition, natural law and revelation in theology, and more specifically to those engaged with questions about plurality, tolerance and ethical conflict in Christian ethics and medical ethics.

Integrating Philosophy and Moral Theology in a Postmodern Context

Pushing Back Against Cultural and Religious Critics

A Journal of Christian Ethics

Contemporary Christian Morality

Ethics for Christian Ministry

Kingdom Ethics, 2nd ed.

A Brief History

"This survey text for Christian ethics through a Catholic lens traces the sources and traditions of contemporary ethical principles, rules, and norms. It uses narrative in reaching out to students who seek to understand themselves as they face ethical decisions. Stories are employed to reflect one's own life and its meaning, as well as to prompt moral decision-making. The book gives full treatment to criteria needed for ethical decision-making that students use in evaluating a series of contemporary issues, including abortion, end of life, torture, and others. The book includes numerous pedagogic features, including boxes, questions, key terms, suggested readings, and a glossary." -- Publisher description.

This introductory textbook presents Christian philosophical and theological approaches to ethics. Combining their expertise in philosophy and theology, the authors explain the beliefs, values, and practices of various Christian ethical viewpoints, addressing biblical teachings as well as traditional ethical theories that contribute to informed moral decision-making. Each chapter begins with Words to Watch and includes a relevant case study on a vexing ethical issue, such as caring for the environment, human sexuality, abortion, capital punishment, war, and euthanasia. End-of-chapter reflection questions, illustrations, and additional information tables are also included.

Explores the significance of Christian belief for a range of contemporary and controversial ethical issues.

While Kierkegaard's philosophy focuses on concrete human existence, his thought has rarely been challenged regarding concrete and contemporary moral issues. This volume offers an overview of contemporary ethical issues from a Kierkegaardian perspective, deliberately taking him out of the sphere of Theology and Christian Ethics, and examining the ways in which his works can provide fruitful insight into questions which Kierkegaard certainly never himself envisaged, such as accepting refugees into our communities, understanding how we relate to social media, issues of identity with regard to bioengineering or

transgender identity, or problems of interreligious dialogue. The contributions in this volume, by international scholars, seek to address both the challenges and insights of Kierkegaard's existential ethics for our contemporary societies, and its relation to topics of current interest in the field of moral philosophy. The volume is organized into three major sections: the first focusing on the relation between ethics and religion, a topic of primary importance with regard to the development of religious foundationalism and the challenges of dealing with diverse belief systems within our communities; the second on our understandings of ourselves and our relations to others with regard to issues of media and community; and the third targeting more specifically questions of identity, and the ways in which the developments of modern science impact identity construction. This work offers new paths for critically engaging with the moral issues of our times from an existential perspective.

We need now to recover the prophethood of all believers, matching our zeal for the priesthood of all believers with a passion for the prophethood of all believers. Foy Valentine, Founding Editor

MISSION The Christian Ethics Today Foundation publishes Christian Ethics Today in order to provide laypersons, educators, and ministers with a resource for understanding and responding in a faithful Christian manner to moral and ethical issues that are of concern to contemporary Christians, to the church, and to society.

PURPOSES? Maintain an independent prophetic voice for Christian social ethics? Interpret and apply Christian experience, biblical truth, theological insights, historical understanding, and current research to contemporary moral issues? Support Christian ecumenism by seeking contributors and readers from various denominations and churches? Work from the deep, broad center of the Christian church? Address readers at the personal and emotional as well as the intellectual level by including in the Journal narratives, poetry, and cartoons as well as essays? Strengthen and support the cause of Christian ethics

Christian Ethics Today was born in the mind and heart of Foy Valentine in 1995, as an integral part of his dream for a Center for Christian Ethics. In his words, the purpose of the Journal was "to inform, inspire, and unify a lively company of individuals and organizations interested in working for personal morality and public righteousness." When the Center was transferred to Baylor University in June 2000, the disbanding Board voted to continue the publication of Christian Ethics Today, appointing a new editor and a new Board. The Journal will continue to be published four times annually. From the beginning Christian Ethics Today has been sent without charge to anyone requesting it, "as money and energy permit." More than ever before, your financial support is "greatly needed, urgently solicited, and genuinely appreciated." The Christian Ethics Today Foundation is a non-profit organization and has received a 501 (c) (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service. Gifts are tax deductible.

Christian Ethics and Moral Philosophy
Invitation to Christian Ethics

Christian Ethics in a Complex World

Paul Ricoeur and Contemporary Moral Thought

Moral Dilemmas

The Matrix of Christian Ethics

Moral Choice

Should society care about Christian morality? Are Christians out of touch with complex moral decision-making? *Christian Morality: An Interdisciplinary Framework for Thinking about Contemporary Moral Issues* provides readers with a framework for identifying and applying Christian moral principles to divisive issues. First, readers learn of the theological and philosophical foundations of Christian ethics. Two additional chapters explain how personal and social factors influence our capacity to think critically and Christianly about morality. Second, readers will learn about forming Christian moral judgments by seeing how different thinkers address six contemporary moral issues: abortion, same-sex relationships, equal treatment of men and women in the workplace, sex education, and racial bias in incarceration policies.

Diverse Christian Responses to Divisive Moral Issues

Moral Issues and Christian Responses

Introductory Readings in Christian Ethics

A Christian View of Ethics

An Introduction to Christian Ethics

A Textbook Guide to Contemporary Religious Ethics