

CHRISTIAN ETHICS, PH202-M
Philosophy [3 credits]
(*Independent Study*)
Christian Life College-Madison

I. INSTRUCTORS

This course will utilize the recorded lectures of Dr. Van Den Toren, Dr. R.C. Sproul and Paul S. Helm. Dr. Benno Van Den Toren studied theology at Utrecht, Oxford and Kampen (Ph.D.) and is currently a professor of doctrine, ethics and apologetics in the Bengui Evangelical Graduate School in the Central African Republic.

Robert C. Sproul has degrees from Westminster College, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, the Free University of Amsterdam, and Whitefield Theological Seminary. He has had a distinguished academic teaching career at various colleges and seminaries, including Reformed Theological Seminary.

Paul S. Helm is Teaching Fellow at Regent College. He has served as President of the British Society of the Philosophy of Religion and authored numerous books including *Eternal God: A Study of God without Time* and *Faith Understanding*.

The lead instructor for the course will be Elliott Pollasch (epollasch@gmail.com). Further information about this course is available through email at CLCM@citychurchonline.org or by phone at 608-221-1528, ext. 302. Complete information about CLCM is available at: <http://www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college>.

II. SCHEDULE

This is a self-directed course which students can take up to 3 months to complete. For those utilizing this class for summer session, the course must be completed by the last day in August.

III. DESCRIPTION

This course aims to provide instruction in the basic principles of Christian Ethics and their application to the Christian life. The first part of the course will be concerned with general ethical concepts and issues. The second part will be concerned with the sources of Christian ethics, and the distinctive character of those ethics. Attention will also be paid to degenerate forms of Christian ethics, the relation between conversion and grace to Christian ethics, and the application of ethical principles to particular situations.

IV. OBJECTIVES – Students will:

1. Describe, compare, contrast, and apply the various ethical theories and concepts used in grounding and making ethical decisions and developing Christian character
2. Develop a style of moral decision-making that enables one to respond to the issues of life with moral consistency, ethical accountability, and personal integrity.
3. Recognize the contemporary contexts in which Christians make ethical decisions and assess how those contexts can shape our thought and response for good or ill.
4. Cultivate a Christian model for moral decision-making and character development that is biblically and theologically sound, ethically credible, and logically consistent.
5. Further develop critical thinking skills in the search for truth about the good life.

6. Develop an understanding of the Christian faith as the true philosophy for our world and life views.
7. Execute creative, sympathetic, and faithful applications of Christian moral theology to a wide range of ethical quandaries.

V. TEXTBOOKS

1. Required: (Students are responsible for obtaining their own books)
 - a. Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.
 - b. Baggett, David and Walls, Jerry L., *Good God: The Theistic Foundations of Morality 1st Edition* Oxford University Press; 2011
 - c. Hollinger, Dennis P. *The Meaning of Sex: Christian Ethics and the Moral Life*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.
2. Recommended:
 - a. Bell, Daniel M. Jr. *Just War as Christian Discipleship: Recentering the Tradition in the Church rather than the State*. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009.
 - b. Blomberg, Craig L. *Christians in an Age of Wealth: A Biblical Theology of Stewardship*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
 - c. Feinberg, John and Paul, *Ethics For A Brave New World, 2nd Edition*.
 - d. Gagnon, Robert A. J. *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.
 - e. Hollinger, Dennis. *Choosing the Good: Christian Ethics in a Complex World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002.
 - f. Kilner, John F, ed. *Why the Church Need Bioethics: A Guide to Wise Engagement with Life's Challenges*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
 - g. Kostenberger, Andreas J., with David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation, 2nd ed*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.
 - h. Satinover, Jeffrey. *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*. Grand Rapids: BakerBooks, 1996.
 - i. Stassen, Glen Harold, and David P. Gushee. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
 - j. Struthers, William M. *Wired for Intimacy: How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.
 - k. Wright, N. T. *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.

VI. REQUIREMENTS

1. Lecture Notes – Students are required to take notes on each of the lectures in the following order: Sproul, Van Den Toren and Helm. These notes should only include the lecturer's main points, sub-points and sub-sub-points. There is no need for any greater detail. All assignments must be double spaced and completed in 12 point, Times New Roman font. A recorded library copy of the lectures can be obtained by contacting the Lead Instructor at the address above. All assignments should be electronically sent to the lead instructor for grading.
2. Reading – Each of the required texts must be read carefully and completely in the order listed above (e.g. *Rae, Baggett, and Hollinger*). Students will be required to report on the quantity and quality of their reading.

3. Book Report - Students will write a book report on 2 of the required textbooks (i.e. Baggett and Hollinger). These reports should adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. The book report should be a thoughtful, informed response, taking into account biblical, theological, and ethical principles and sound reasoning.
 - b. Each report should be 6-8 double spaced, typed pages and should include a brief statement introducing the author and title of the book and communicating that the book has not only been read in its entirety, but also read carefully and thoughtfully. If the book has not been read in this manner, communicate the true quantity and quality read.
 - c. Include the primary thesis, purpose, and/or description of the book, the major ethical insights communicated by the book. What points are particularly helpful for applying Christian ethics?
 - d. Include ideas that changed or challenged your thinking. How and Why? What ideas are interesting, novel, or problematic?
 - e. In the conclusion, state major strengths and weaknesses of the book; give a brief statement of recommendation and state why you would or would not recommend the book.
 - f. Generous interaction with the author and scripture is required for a satisfactory grade. Be sure to use citations when referring to both the textbook and scripture. All papers should be written in APA style, double spaced, in 12 point, Times New Roman font. For writing and citing help see the APA cheat sheet at: www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college.

4. Chapter Questions – Students will answer the Review Questions at the end of each chapter in the main text book, *Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*. Please be as brief as possible in your responses. One sentence responses are preferable. One word responses are not. Additionally, students will thoughtfully answer one (1) Discussion Questions in each of the case studies found at the end of each chapter. Responses should be no longer than one paragraph. Please include the complete question and question number from the textbook in your response. All assignments must be double spaced and completed in 12 point, Times New Roman font.

5. Ethics Position Paper - Each student will choose a current ethical issue on which to write an 8-10 page position paper. The recommended reading list above can be used to help determine and research a topic. Your paper should include: (1) the history of the issue and the state of the issue today (include a clear statement describing why this is a moral issue) and (2) a description of--and response to--opposing views. Finally, your paper should (3) include a clear and well-reasoned biblical responses to the issue. All papers should be written in APA style, double spaced, in 12 point, Times New Roman font. For writing and citing help see the APA cheat sheet at: www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college.

VII. GRADING

	Percentage
Lecture and Notes	20%
Reading	15%
Book Reports	15%
Chapter Questions	25%
Ethics Position Paper	25%

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Scores</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>GPA</i>
A	93-100	Excellent	4.00
A-	90-92		3.67
B+	88-89	Very Good	3.33
B	83-87	Good	3.00
B-	80-82	Above Average	2.67
C+	78-79		2.33
C	73-77	Average	2.00
C-	70-72		1.67
D+	68-69	Below Average	1.33
D	63-67	Passing	1.00
D-	60-62		.67
F	0-59	Failure	.00
I		Incomplete	

VIII. EXTENSIONS: There will be no extensions in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. Incompletes occur when class work is not completed during the semester. Incompletes automatically become “F” thirty days after the semester ends.

IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at CLCM and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from school. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of research, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and depriving others of research materials.

X. REGISTRATION

1. There is a one-time Registration and Application fee of \$25. This one-time fee must accompany every first-time application for enrollment or audit.
2. The current cost of 3 credits is \$375. Students who pay in full when registering will receive a \$50 discount. Other arrangements may be made if done with prior approval. Successful completion of this course will result in 3 earned credits from Christian Life College, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.
3. Students may register for this course by contacting the CLCM Registrar, Nancy Van Maren at nvanmaren@citychurchonline.org. New Students must first submit an enrollment application which can be found at: <http://citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college>. Once your application is approved, you will be contacted via email. Please feel free to contact the CLCM Registrar at any time by phone (608-221-1528) with questions or concerns regarding registration and tuition payments.