

Society and Ethics

COURSE OVERVIEW

Description

This course analyzes contemporary moral issues from a biblically informed and God-centered perspective.

Expectations and Goals

By the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. See and savor Jesus as Sovereign, Savior, and Satisfier.
2. Think biblically and critically about various truth claims and evaluate them effectively and biblically.
3. Be able to apply a Christian ethic to contemporary issues
4. Be able to communicate Christian ethical and moral truths competently and convincingly

COURSE MATERIALS

Source Materials

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

John M. Frame, *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*.

Michael Hill, *The How and Why of Love*

John Jefferson Davis, *Evangelical Ethics*

Jason Thacker, *The Age of AI*

Andy Crouch, *Tech-Wise Family*

John Piper, *Bloodlines*

Isaac Adams, *Talking about Race*

Jonathan Leeman, *When the Nations Rage*

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/bet-sports/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Class Summary
Week 1	Ethics and Divine Lordship	The class grounds Christian ethics in the character of God. Human ethical responsibility is submitting to God's Lordship, with God's Word as the norm, and imitating our loving God as his image bearers. Love is defined in terms of good and is a commitment to glorify God and do good to others. Knowledge of what is good is essential to love others. This can be found in the schema of creation and how God's original shape and purpose progressively develop in the storyline of Scripture.
Week 2	Abortion and Euthanasia	This class considers the biblical, theological, philosophical, and ethical issues related to Abortion and Euthanasia.
Week 3	Critical Social Justice	Critical Theory is foundational to contemporary challenges to a proper view of justice, gender, marriage and sexuality, race relations, and caring for the poor. This class will critique this challenge and present a Biblical view of justice.
Week 4	Gender Ideology	This class examines vital biblical passages regarding Gender, responds to popular objections, and will equip Christians to live faithfully in a transgender-affirming world.
Week 5	Race and Reconciliation	This class exposes the sin of racism and inadequate ideologies that attempt to address it. It then turns to the good news about Jesus Christ as the solution that ultimately undermines racism and enables a church to have unity in diversity.

Week	Topic	Class Summary
Week 6	Christians and Politics	This class explains how the Church and State possess distinct, God-given authority with particular jurisdictions. It also addresses how Christians should think about political disagreements within the church.
Week 7	Marriage and Sexuality	This class examines key biblical passages regarding Marriage and Sexuality, responds to popular objections, and will equip the Christian in how to live faithfully in a LGBTQ+ affirming world.
Week 8	Caring for the Poor	The class answers these four questions: What does Scripture say about the poor? (Who are they? What causes it?) What Scriptural wisdom has been given regarding the poor? Who does Scripture say is to care for the poor? (Is it the church? The state?) What are practical ways to provide relief to the poor?
Week 9	Gambling	Tune into any sporting event, and you'll probably see ads for sports betting. Sports betting and other forms of online gambling are now legally offered through retail and online sportsbooks. Is this a Christian liberty or a sin? This class will offer a few principles to consider when approaching this topic.
Week 10	Tech-Wise Christian	This class aims to equip the church to engage available technology proactively and use it wisely. We will also discuss the nature of humanity in light of the promises of technology and the hope for the future (Artificial Intelligence, virtual reality, transhumanism, etc.).
Week 11	Genetic and Reproductive Technologies	This class addresses bio-ethics broadly and some reproductive technology case studies in particular (Ethics of contraception, invitro, gestational surrogacy, etc.).

Thoughts for the Future:

1. **Should there be a class on creation care and the claims of climate change?**
2. **What about addressing the growing 'Alien fever' and alleged sightings of Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon?**
3. **We need more about digital technology, AI, virtual reality, etc.**