

WORKBOOK: SITUATION ETHICS

Definitions

Situation Ethics

Agape (eros, philia, storge)

Relativism

Love maximisation: the only absolute

Write a short paragraph explaining why love maximising is the only absolute in SE

Four working principles: explain each in your own words

Pragmatism

Relativism

Positivism

Personalism

Is the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke) an example of Situation Ethics?

1. Summarise in your own words the story Jesus told, being careful to bring out the traditional enmity between Jew and Samaritan.

2. To what extent can the final comment of Jesus' "Go and do likewise" be seen as a situational statement?

3. Write down 1 John 5: What is the *paradox* here?

The six fundamental principles

Draw up a table with three columns. Write two words summing up each of the six Propositions in column 1, in column 2 explain the proposition in your own words and in column 3 apply each proposition to the issue of euthanasia.

Film clip: Lawrence of Arabia and the story of Gasim (called Hamed in the Seven Pillars of Wisdom , T.E. Lawrence's account of the Arabian campaign 1916-18).

Sum up in your own words the nature of this dilemma and how a situationist and an absolutist might resolve it.

State three strengths and three weaknesses of Situation Ethics:

1.

2.

3.

1.

2.

3.

In J.E. Packer's chapter (Ethics in a Permissive Society), he gives various objections to Situation Ethics. List three, with quotes.

1.

2.

3.

Further reading

J.E. Packer Ethics in a Permissive Society
Paul Tillich Morality and Beyond