

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS - CRE FORM 4 Notes

- [Introduction](#)
- [Basis of Christian Ethics. Sources of Christian's Ethics:](#)
 - [Human Reason](#)
 - [Human Experiences](#)

[Introduction](#)

- Form four work covers contemporary issues in a Christian's life.
- Ethics are moral principles, which influence a person's behavior.
- Ethics are defined as the systematic study of human actions and behavior.
- We use ethics to judge, determine and assess the right and wrong of human behavior.
- Morals refer to human character, which is the inclination to behave in one-way or another.
- Ethics is the study of morals and they determine and influence personal and societal behavior.
- Christian ethics is the study of human conduct or behavior from a Christian point of view.

[Basis of Christian Ethics. Sources of Christian's Ethics: -](#)

1. The bible, teachings of Jesus Christ
2. Human reason and experience
3. Natural law
4. The Christian community - the church
5. Situation ethics
6. Authoritative Christian literature - based on the bible
7. Gods revelation - through prophets

[i. Human Reason](#)

- These are internal thoughts that guide us when we are making decisions and taking actions.
- We use our minds and thoughts when confronted by situations.
- They also rely on internal thoughts in their life experiences.
- Internal guiding thoughts have many parts.
- One is our Conscience.
- This is our inner self that tells us and lets us know what is right and wrong.
- There are four types of consciences; doubtful conscience, sensitive conscience, certain conscience and perplexed conscience.
- For a Christian, rights and wrongs are in the Bible.
- God gave the Law of Moses to Israelites.
- Jesus came and explained the Old Testament and taught new scriptures in the New Testament.
- These teachings, which we have covered from Form one to three, explain very clearly what is right and wrong.
- When doubtful of the morality of an action, Christian consults the Bible to know if a decision is right or wrong.

[ii. Human Experiences:](#)

- these are internal and external guides
- When confronted by situations, Christians use their minds i.e. human reason and their life experiences in making decisions.
- They rely on internal guides, (Human reason) and experience (external guides)

Internal guides

Conscience

- Mind, aspect of knowing right or wrong.
- When right, there's approval when wrong it registers guilt.
- When doubtful of the morality of an action we should not do it if conscience is perplexed then make us decision.
- A decision should be based on a certain conscience.
- Types of conscience
 - Doubtful conscience
 - Sensitive conscience
 - Certain conscience
 - Perplexed conscience

One can also make decisions based on knowledge and free will

- To make a decision one should have facts about the act, its aims, circumstances.
- A decision ought to be thoughtful

Intuition: inner feeling, insight

- It's an internal moral sense to do good or avoid evil.
- Intuition is important in situations that require quick and immediate that requires quick and immediate action.

Feelings

- Feelings are subjective e.g. it feels good to do so this, hence will do..." it can be dangerous to make decisions purely based on feelings especially in marriage, friendship etc.

External guides

Experience

- Guides here include authoritative persons such as parents, teachers, police, civil leaders' philosophers, and religious leaders.
- Rules from secular, religions, and African traditional culture are part of external guides.

The bible

- The bible, quoted in the text but now out of text guides Christian behavior.
- God communicates to his people through the Bible.
- The Bible offers answers to questions in relation to the life of a Christian.
- Today, there are ethical issues not found in the bible e.g. HIV / AIDS, sexual and reproductive health rights, contraceptives, abortion, globalization, cloning, environmental degradation, genetically modified foods, terrorism, international trade etc. this gives reason and other sources / factors are basis of Christian ethics in addition to the bible.

Moral principles in the bible

- They are mostly found in the teachings of Jesus and the Ten Commandments, sermon on the mountain
- Christians are also encouraged to have Faith
- The virtues encouraged include generosity, love, kindness, faithfulness, patience, humility, peace,