

COURSE SYLLABUS

WE503: Christian Ethics: A Christian Theology of Morality

Course Lecturer: James M. Grier, Th.D.

Former Distinguished Professor of Philosophical Theology at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary

Course Description

In a self-centered culture, how do we demonstrate a God-centered ethic? This course presents a biblical model for ethics in a postmodern world, examining the ethical theories of obligation and value from a philosophical perspective. The lectures survey various ethical systems, identify unstated assumptions in ethical theories, and evaluate those theories for legitimacy, relevancy, and cogency. The goal of the course is to provide learners with a Christian framework of values and ethics, leading them to make God-honoring decisions in a truth-relative world.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Understand the concepts and principles of ethical theories and how they cohere with their theoretical assumptions.
- Understand the concepts and principles of Christian ethics and their relationship to biblical revelation and our *Weltanschauung*.
- Apply the concepts and principles of ethical theories to contemporary problems.
- Evaluate ethical systems by both internal and external criteria.

Course Lecturer



Dr. James M. Grier was Distinguished Professor of Philosophical Theology at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI, and an authority in the area of ethics. At Grand Rapids Theological Seminary (since 1982), Dr. Grier influenced many with his courses in ethics and moral theology gaining a reputation as one of the finest scholars on a Christian worldview in evangelicalism.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Grier served for 15 years as Executive Vice President and Academic Dean at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. He also served two years as the Acting Academic Dean of Grand Rapids Bible College (Cornerstone University) from 1985–1986. He was also the Chairman of the Evangelical Seminary Dean's Council (ESDC) 1993–1998. Moreover, he pastored

on and off for more than 50 years while advising numerous hospital boards on medical ethics. Among his various professional memberships were The Evangelical Theological Society and the Evangelical Philosophical Society. His philanthropic endeavors included work at Home of Hope and Blodgett Hospital. When not teaching in the United States or abroad, he was sought after as a conference speaker on philosophical theology and worldview at churches across the globe.

Education:

- Baptist Bible College, B.Th.
- Grace Theological Seminary, M.Div.
- Westminster Theological Seminary, Th.M.
- Grace Theological Seminary, Th.D.

Other Our Daily Bread Christian University courses by this professor:

- WE504 Christian Worldview

Course Texts

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Davis, John J. *Evangelical Ethics*. 3rd ed., Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2004.

Fletcher, Joseph. *Situation Ethics: The New Morality*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1997.

Geisler, Norman. *Christian Ethics: Options and Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989.

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.