

COURSE SYLLABUS

Christian Ethics: A Christian Theology of Morality

Course Lecturer: James M. Grier, ThD

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, you should be able to do the following:

- 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



James M. Grier, ThD (1932-2013)

Education:

- Grace Theological Seminary, ThD
- Westminster Theological Seminary, ThM
- Grace Theological Seminary, MDiv
- Baptist Bible College, BTh

Teaching Career:

- Executive Vice President and Academic Dean, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary
- Distinguished Professor of Philosophical Theology, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary (1982-2012)
- Professor of Philosophy, Cedarville College, now Cedarville University (1969-1982)
- Adjunct Professor, Evangelical Baptist Seminary of Quebec (1984-2012)
- Adjunct Professor, Grace Theological Seminary (1978-2012)
- Acting Academic Dean, Grand Rapids Bible College, now Cornerstone University (1985-1986)
- Visiting or adjunct professor at Asia Baptist Theological Seminary, Puritan Reformed Seminary, and London Reformed Baptist Seminary
- Taught and preached extensively in Canada, Hungary, the United Kingdom, and Zambia
- Reputation as one of the finest scholars on a Christian worldview in evangelicalism

Other Career Highlights:

- Chairman of the Evangelical Seminary Dean's Council (1993-1998)
- Pastor on and off for more than 50 years
- Advised numerous hospital boards on medical ethics
- Various professional memberships, including The Evangelical Theological Society and the Evangelical Philosophical Society
- Philanthropic work at Home of Hope and Blodgett Hospital
- Conference speaker on philosophical theology and worldview at churches across the globe

Publications:

- Contributor to books, including *The Relation of the Law to Christ, Demonstrating Truth in Our Lives, Doing Theology in the Context of Church Ministry*, and *Calvinistic Philosophy*

Recommended Reading

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 your local bookstore, various online bookstores, 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.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 23 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.