

## **INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS: ETH5100.B-FA2021**

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Time: Thurs. 12:30pm–3:20pm

Class Start Date: Aug. 24, 2021

**Weekly Reading Quizzes Are  
Due Each Week of Semester  
Starting On:  
August 31, 2021**

### **Southeastern's Mission:**

*Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the Church and fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).*

### **Core Competencies:**

To equip students to serve the Church and fulfill the Great Commission, the Southeastern Faculty build curricula and courses, drawing upon the great tradition of Christian orthodoxy and our Baptist heritage, to develop the following core competencies so that Southeastern graduates:

#### **I. Spiritual Formation**

Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue an authentically Christian way of life, manifested by trust in God, obedience to Christ's commands, and love of God and neighbor.

#### **II. Biblical Exposition**

Demonstrate the ability to properly and effectively interpret, apply, and communicate the Scriptures.

#### **III. Theological Integration**

Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the doctrines of Christianity to life and ministry.

#### **IV. Ministry Preparation**

Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and Christian disposition necessary for ministry and leadership in the church and the world.

#### **V. Critical Thinking and Communication**

Demonstrate the ability to think critically, argue persuasively, and communicate clearly.

We strive to do all of this while cultivating in students a delight in God, His Word, and His Church.

### **Course Overview:**

God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is worthy of all the praise, glory, and honor that the entirety of creation can muster both now and forever. Human beings were created with the high purpose of glorifying God and enjoying Him forever (1 Cor. 10:31, Psalm 16:11). Properly understood, the discipline of Christian Ethics is the pursuit of this God-given purpose in and through the context of everyday life. Simply put, *ethics is worship*. It involves the shaping of character, actions, and culture. It includes both the simple and profound situations and choices that face us every day as well as the way we face these situations and choices together as a society.

While any academic course in ethics should involve the study of the foundational concepts and proper applications of ethical theories, a distinctly *Christian* ethic addresses these ideas in and through the context of Christian discipleship. Ultimately, its goal is to see each human individually, and all humans together, maximize their lives as worshippers who worship the Father in Spirit and Truth (John 4:23). Christian Ethics, therefore, ought to always be understood as a journey of both worship and mission. Its purpose is to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to live a life of worship in a manner that effectively engages people from every tribe, tongue, and nation with the wondrous Gospel of Jesus Christ. The ultimate end of Christian Ethics is that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord would cover the earth

as the waters cover the sea (Hab. 2:14) and that the Lordship of Christ would extend throughout the created order as far as the curse is found (Phil. 2:10-11).

In terms of this class there are five components of this journey we will explore:

The examination of personal perspectives and misconceptions regarding the nature of ethics and the practice of Christian holiness.

The examination of the history of ethics and understanding various ethical models.

The development of a biblically and theologically sound foundation for ethical theory.

Application of biblically and theologically sound ethical theory to contemporary issues of life and practice.

The engagement of others (both individuals and society as a whole) for the purpose of redemptive witness and the increase of God honoring worship throughout all creation.

In order to accomplish these goals, the lectures and readings draw on the wisdom of Scripture as the primary and ultimate source of authority for understanding and shaping ethical ideas and practice. Only in this light we will consider insights and ideas from several western religious traditions (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish) as well as broadly humanistic perspectives. These traditions and ideas, however, will be constantly subject to evaluation in light of the authoritative, immutable standard of God's Word.

### **Course Objectives:**

A student who completes this course should:

1. Be able to articulate and understand the biblical and theological differences between moralism and Christian Ethics (*Competency II & III: readings, lectures, exams*).
2. Be able to understand the relationship between worship and ethical life practice as well as how to apply this understanding to personal and ministry life settings (*Competency I-V: readings, lectures, exams*).
3. Be able to identify and explain several distinct systems of ethics (*Competency III & V: readings, lectures, interviews, exams*).
4. Be able to argue for or against the existence of "moral dilemmas" while demonstrating an understanding of opposing positions (*Competency III & V: readings, lectures, exam*).
5. Be able to identify, summarize, and defend a historically orthodox biblical perspective on the ethical issues under scrutiny (*Competency I-V: readings, lectures, interviews, position statements*).
6. Be able to summarize, discuss, and compare opposing ideas about each issue covered (*Competency I & V: readings, lectures, interviews, position statements*).
7. Be able to understand and explain how ethics serves as a doorway to evangelistic engagement of individuals and the culture (*Competency I & V: readings, lectures, interviews*).

### **Course Texts:**

Liederbach, Mark. *Ethics as Worship: The Pursuit of Moral Discipleship*. (P&R, 2021).

ISBN: **9781629952628**

Yuan, Christopher. *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel*. (Multnomah, 2018).

ISBN: **9780735290914**

**Chapters 1–9 (pages 1–72)**

Selected Weekly Reading posted on Moodle

### **(Recommended):**

Allberry, Sam. *Is God anti-gay?* (The Good Book Company, 2013) ISBN-10: **1908762314**

Frame, John. *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*. (P&R, 2008) ISBN: **9780875527963**

Jones, David. *An Introduction to Biblical Ethics*. (B&H, 2013) ISBN: **9781433669699**

Liederbach, Mark. *Chasing Infinity: Discipleship as the Pursuit of Infinite Treasure*. (CruPress, 2017)

\*\*\* <https://crupress.com/products/chasing-infinity/>

\*\*\*Available at The Locker (SEBTS bookstore)

Rae, Scott. *Moral Choices*. 4th Ed. (Zondervan, 2018) ISBN: **9780310536420**

### Use of Technology:

The use of laptops or tablets in class is permitted.

The use of cell phones, text messaging, computer games, internet surfing, etc. are NOT acceptable during class time. Students will be dismissed from the course if they misuse technology during class time.

### Honor Code, Cheating & Plagiarism:

If you cheat on any level you will fail the course automatically, regardless of “level” of cheating. Honor and integrity are high Christian virtues and are a vital part of this classroom environment. Thus, all students are expected to honor class rules which include the use of technology as well as avoidance of all forms of cheating.

The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and The College at Southeastern student honor code assumes that cheating harms not only the self but the values of the community. Thus, it is my expectation of the honor code that students will not tolerate cheating in other students. Therefore, if you see another person cheating or misusing technology you are honor bound to turn them in. If not, you have dishonored the classroom honor code and you are then subject to dismissal from the course.

All cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students Office and the appropriate Academic Dean(s) where further disciplinary action will be considered. At the very least, a permanent record of the infraction will be kept in the student's file. For further information regarding this policy, please refer to the “Plagiarism & Cheating” section of the Student Handbook.

### Disability Statement:

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and The College at Southeastern comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests and submit documentation to the Dean of Students Office.

### Course Requirements:

#### **A. Pre-Class Reading and Reflection Due – beginning of class August 24, 2021**

Read the Preface and Chapter 1 of *Ethics as Worship* by Dr. Liederbach and answer the following 4 questions for both chapters:

1. What is the most important idea you gained from this chapter for your own spiritual growth?
2. What do believe is the most important quote from this chapter (simply include that quote in paper)?
3. How would this chapter shape the way you disciple another person?

Then, for the Preface, also: Summarize in your own words the connection between Ethics and Worship.

And for Chapter 1, also answer the following questions:

1. Central to the discussion and study of ethics is the question “is morality discovered or invented”? Why is this question so foundational? How does the way in which a person answers this question impact the way that he or she will approach any ethical issue?
2. What is a worldview, and how is it related to a person’s ethical decision-making?
3. Distinguish between metaethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics. How are they related? How are they distinct?
4. How is Christian ethics related to discipleship? How is it related to the Great Commission?

#### **B. Weekly Quizzes IMPORTANT: Weekly Reading Quizzes are Due Starting on: August 31, 2021**

Each week, you will have to complete a 2-question reading quiz in Moodle. Each quiz will open on a Wednesday at 12:00 AM and will close the following Tuesday at 11:59 PM. You may not take it earlier or later unless you are given permission in advance to do so. If you missed a quiz because you forgot, even if you completed the assignment, then you missed it. Part of completing the quizzes is taking them within the allotted time (see Course Schedule). There will be a total of twelve (12) quizzes, of which eleven (11) will be recorded and the lowest one (1) will be dropped. Because there is an automatically dropped quiz, there is no need to ask for “extra grace” if you missed the quiz. That “extra grace” is built into the dropped quiz.

The first question of each quiz will always be, “Before God and with a clear conscience I give my word as a worshipper of Jesus Christ that I read the following \_\_\_% of the assigned reading for this week:

- a. 100% (5 pts.) b. 99.9–70% (3 pts.) c. 69–50% (1 pts.) d. Below 50% (0 pts.)

The second question on the quiz will always be, “Before God and with a clear conscience I give my word that I spent at least 15 minutes in personal, uninterrupted Bible reading and/or prayer with the Lord (not including church) that was not in the bathroom or while driving the car the following number of days this past week (including today):

- a. Six or Seven days (5 pts.) b. Five days (4 pts.) c. Three or Four days (3 pts.) d. Two days (2 pts.) e. less than 2 days (0 pts.)

### **C. Exams (2)**

There will be two comprehensive exams given (a mid-term and a final). These consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or short essay case analyses that require some integrative thinking. Make-up exams will be arranged ONLY for genuine emergencies such as serious illness, death in the family or an urgent, unanticipated, unavoidable pastoral responsibility.

### **D. Interviews (2)**

You are required to conduct two interviews over the course of the semester (see Course Schedule for due dates). The interviews are to be conducted with a non-believer (or a person you are unsure about whether or not they are a believer). The interviews must be submitted with a **one-page, double-spaced** summation of the most interesting thing you learned relating to the issues we are covering in the classroom and reading. You cannot use internet chat rooms for this assignment. It must be either face-to-face or over the telephone.

### **Interview Guidelines:**

1. You are responsible for two (2) separate interviews and summation papers (one-page, double-spaced).
2. Your interview MUST be conducted with a non-Christian or someone you have A FIRM belief that he or she is not a Christian.
3. You cannot interview the same person twice.
  - These must be two distinct encounters with two distinct individuals.
4. You may **not** use internet chat rooms for your interview.
  - Must be either face-to-face or over the phone (vocal interaction).
5. An informal questionnaire is provided to facilitate the interview.
  - Note the last questions facilitate evangelism; be ready to lead the interviewee through the Gospel.
  - Be ready to use a Bible to aid in the discussion.
  - A *4 Spiritual Laws* booklet (or something similar) is a great tool to use or give to the interviewee at the conclusion of the interview for them to consider further.
6. Upon Completion of the interview turn in the following:
  - a. A **one-page, double-spaced** summary of your impressions from the interview. Answer all questions below in the summary.
    - i. What was the interviewee’s name & station of life (age, profession, etc)?
    - ii. What have you learned from this process regarding the link between what people say they believe to be true in regard to ethical issues and how that relates to a world view?  
Did his/her lifestyle match stated belief with actual practice?
    - iii. What did you learn about the link between ethics and evangelism?
      - How did you turn the ethical discussion to the Gospel? What was the result?
    - iv. No title page is necessary – put your name and date in upper right hand corner.
  - b. Attach the completed questionnaire (with your name) **behind** the one-page summary.
7. The Interview summary must:
  - a. **Be one-page maximum in length. A deduction of 10 points will be assessed for papers over 1 page.**
  - b. Use 12-point Times New Roman font, 1” margins – **Double-Spaced.**
  - c. Be typewritten. No handwritten papers will be accepted under any circumstances.
8. Due Dates (see Course Schedule).

9. Papers are graded on basis of completion, length, grammar, spelling, and content. If you complete the interview and summary with proper grammar, spelling, and length you will get a minimum 45 points out of a possible 50.

## E. Book Review

This course includes a critical book review. Students are assigned to read one of the books listed below and write a critical book review according to the guidelines below. Critical book reviews are to be 5-7 pages of double-spaced text in length. They are to be submitted via the CampusNet course management system. Please note that all written assignments for this course must be submitted electronically in MS Word compatible format.

### Book Review Options

1. *A Climate Change* co-authored by Katharine Hayhoe and Andrew Farley
2. *Science and the Good: The Tragic Quest for the Foundations of Morality* by James Davidson Hunter
3. *Three Views on Christianity and Science* by Paul Copan

### Guidelines:

1. The reading review must conform to the following format:
  - a. Use double-spaced and 12-point Times New Roman font.
  - b. The book review should use the following headers and identify the appropriate content. Put an extra space between each of the headers listed below.
    - I. **Purpose.** Briefly state the main ideas or purposes of the book.
    - II. **Importance/critique.** This section includes the following:
      - a. A brief statement explaining why the content of the book is important for Christian leaders to know;
      - b. New ideas that are helpful for your personal understanding with a brief explanation of why;
      - c. Critical comments about the nature or form of arguments, use of Scripture, or author's logic. This section should include strengths AND weaknesses of the author's arguments. **KEY:** this section should absolutely NOT give any commentary of the writing style of the authors. The critique needs to be on content, not on style. There are other venues for critiquing writing style.
      - d. Integrative comments on how what is written here may shape your thought. Be sure to include this. Many students miss this part of the review.
    - III. **Key Terms or Ideas.** Two or three terms or ideas that you deem essential for your understanding.
    - IV. **Key Quotes.** One or two key quotes that capture either main ideas within the book or most important thoughts for you as the reader (include page reference).
    - V. **Questions you have about the reading that you would like the class to clarify.**
    - VI. **Questions for class discussion.** You must identify and write out three (3) questions about the readings for each chapter. Your goal here is to create questions that generate discussion among your peers that you can use to lead class discussion in the event I call upon you to do so. Obviously, these should be questions that will engage discussion, not merely require a short factual response.
2. If you quote the book or include a reference to a particular section, please be sure to cite the page number(s) parenthetically at the end of the sentence.
3. You must include a Title Page according to the following standards:
  - Title: Reading Review for Christian Ethics (course number)
  - Name:
  - Date:
  - Print the following statement with the appropriate % included:

*"Before God and with a clear conscience I can honestly say that I have read \_\_\_\_\_% of the assigned reading prior to turning this assignment into my ethics professor. I can also state that I have not copied or used anyone else's reading review or ideas, including my own previous works, but that this assignment is my own work for this particular class."*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_.

**Your signature will be your word. If you do not include and sign this statement on your Title Page, I will assume you did not do the assignment correctly, and thus you will receive a zero on this assignment.**

## **F. Integrative Ethics Position Statements**

1. You are responsible to create a document that contains a two-page max (single-spaced) summary of your position on each of the following 5 (five) issues:

- Social Justice: What is it and what should a Christian think about it?
- “The Pill”: Is “The Pill” an abortifacient?
- Climate Change
- Racism
- Gay Marriage

2. You must follow the following outline or your grade will be docked considerably.

- a. Each topic will be **two page (max) single-spaced 12-point Times New Roman font** (see below for exception).
- b. Each page has your name, date, and class in the header in the upper right-hand side of the paper.
- c. Each page has the page number centered on the bottom of the page in the footer.
- d. Each page has the topic (ex. Alcohol Consumption) as the title of that page. The title is to be centered at the top of the page and printed in **BOLD CAPITALS**.
- e. Each new topic must begin on a new page.

3. The first page will contain the following outline headers:

### **I. The Problem**

This includes a 1-2 paragraph discussion identifying why this is an important issue for Christians to address as well as indicating possible alternative proposals or positions Christians may claim as legitimate.

### **II. What are the Relevant Sources of Authority that Inform Your Position?**

- A. Write out at least 4 (four) passages of Scripture that are relevant to the issue. If the passage is a long one, you can give the reference and summarize why it's important.
- B. Cite 4 (four) of the most influential authors you can find from contemporary ethics sources. These sources must be listed (bibliographic entry) in this section and used in the position statement section with a properly formatted footnote.
- C. To save room you may use **10-point Times New Roman** font on this section of the paper.

### **III. Position Statement**

- A. This section integrates the Scripture, ethics sources, and your prayerful consideration together into an essay expressing why you hold the position you do. Use appropriately formatted footnotes.
- B. Do not go over in length.

4. You will turn in an 11-page document (including the Title Page—see form below) stapled and in the order of issues listed above on the date indicated on the Course Schedule.

5. The Title Page must conform to Turabian style, and must contain the following statement:

*Before God and with a clear conscience I assert that I did all the work for this project myself. Without the help of other students (past or present) or any other person(s) including a friend or spouse. I did not look on or copy from any other student's paper that has been completed in the past or is currently being completed. I can also affirm that this assignment is my own work for this particular class, and not my own previous work.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_.

**If you can affirm with integrity that this statement is true of you in regard to the Integrated Ethics Project for this class, then you must sign your name to receive a grade. If you do not include this statement and sign your name, I will assume that you have cheated and will give you a failing grade for the project.**

### Course Grading:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Grading:</u>	<u>Scale (in %)</u>
1. Pre-Class Reading Reflection	30 pts.	
2. Weekly Reading Quizzes	110 pts. (10 pts. each)	
2. Midterm Exam	100 pts	95-100 = A
3. Final Exam	100 pts.	87-94.99 = B
4. Interviews (2)	100 pts. (50 pts. each)	77-86.99 = C
5. Book Review	50 pts.	70-76.99 = D
6. Integrated Position Statements (5)	100 pts. (20 pts. each)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>590 pts.</b>	

**2 points per day (not class) will be automatically deducted for any assignment (excluding quizzes) turned in after the class period on the day the assignment is due.**

### COVID-19 Statement:

In an effort to care for our seminary community, every on-campus class will follow the precautions required by Southeastern Seminary (wear face coverings around others, wash your hands regularly, and maintain physical distancing). If you experience COVID-19 symptoms, then please contact the Dean of Students Office (919-761-2306) so they can provide assistance on the best course of action. If you feel anxious about attending on-campus classes for health reasons, have a compromised immune system, or live with someone who is a high risk for COVID-19, then you should be your own advocate regarding attendance. Professors will record every on-campus class so that you can remain engaged in your studies, **but you must let your professor know if you will not be attending class in person.**

If students are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition, then they need to contact the Dean of Students Office, and they will provide them with a green wristband that they will be required to wear while they are on campus.

Students who are unable to complete assignments on time, as a direct result of COVID-19, will be given additional time to complete assignments, but they must inform their professor as soon as possible, so he or she can create a new assignment schedule.

We recognize that we are in an ever-changing situation. If our plans for class instruction must be altered at some point in the semester, we will inform you as soon as possible. We remain committed to providing the highest quality of education as you prepare for the high calling that God has placed on your life.

For the latest information regarding COVID-19 policies at SEBTS and CASE click [here](https://www.aroundsoutheastern.com/index.php/covid/).  
<https://www.aroundsoutheastern.com/index.php/covid/>



**Course Schedule:**

WEEK	SCHEDULE/TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
8/24	Foundations for Ethics as Worship	<b>Pre-Class Reading</b> Liederbach, Ethics as Worship (EAW), Preface & Ch. 1 (pp. xiii-xxviii, 1-26)
8/31	Foundations for Ethics as Worship <b>Reading Reflection EAW Preface &amp; Ch. 1</b>	<b>Readings due for 8/31</b> EAW, Ch. 2-3 (pp. 27-92)
9/7	Foundations for Ethics as Worship	<b>Readings due for 9/7</b> EAW, Ch. 4 (pp. 93-126)
9/14	Foundations for Ethics as Worship	<b>Readings due for 9/14</b> EAW, Ch. 5 (pp. 127-170)
9/21	Foundations for Ethics as Worship <b>Interview #1 Due at beginning of class</b>	<b>Readings due for 9/21</b> EAW, Ch. 6-7 (pp. 171-242)
9/28	<b>Mid Term Exam</b>	<b>Readings due for 9/28</b> EAW, Ch. 8 (pp. 243-282)
10/5	<b>Fall Break – NO CLASS</b>	<b>Readings due for 10/5</b> None – Review and Read Ahead
10/12	Foundations for Ethics as Worship	<b>Readings due for 10/12</b> EAW, Ch. 9-10 (pp. 283-348)
10/19	Understanding Justice & Social Issues	<b>Readings due for 10/19</b> <b>EAW, Ch. 11-12 (pp. 349-416)</b> Martin Luther King Jr. – Letter from a Birmingham Jail (highly recommended)
10/26	ISSUES Related to the Legislation of Morality: Crime, Punishment, & War <b>Interview #2 Due at beginning of class</b>	<b>Readings due for 10/26</b> EAW, Ch. 13-14 (pp. 417-484)
11/2	<b>Climate Science and Environmental Ethics</b>	<b>Readings due for 11/2</b> EAW, Ch. 15 (pp. 485-518)
11/9	ISSUES Related to the Edges and End of Life Abortion	<b>Readings due for 11/9</b> EAW, Ch. 16 (pp. 519-560)
11/16	ISSUES Related to Sex, Gender, & Marriage <b>Book Review on Holy Sexuality and the Gospel Due</b>	<b>Readings due for 11/16</b> EAW, Ch. 17-18 (pp. 561-652)
11/24	<b>Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS</b>	<b>Readings due for 11/24</b> None - Review
11/30	ISSUES Related to Sex, Gender, & Marriage	<b>Readings due for 11/30</b> EAW, Ch. 19 (pp. 653-688)
12/7	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>Position Statements Due</b>	

## SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY ETHICS INTERVIEW: TOLERANCE & MORALITY

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a student at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest. I am taking a class with **DR. LIEDERBACH** called "**CHRISTIAN ETHICS**", and one of our course requirements is to conduct a few interviews concerning some course-related issues. I would like to thank you for agreeing to help me with this survey which only takes about 5 to 10 minutes. The survey focuses on questions related to ethical issues and your opinion of Christianity.

1. General:

A. Date & time \_\_\_\_\_

B. Name of interviewee \_\_\_\_\_ (first name is sufficient)

2. Are you now or have you ever been active in a church or religious organization? **YES / NO**

A. If so, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

B. How often do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you think human beings are basically good in nature or basically sinful (evil)? Why?

4. What do you think is the biggest problem of humanity today?

Economics  
Politics  
Terrorism

Sin  
Religion  
None

Intolerance  
Poverty  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Environment  
Lack of Educ.

Racism  
War

A. Why?

5. What, in your opinion, is the biggest ethical (moral) issue facing our country today?

Abortion  
Euthanasia  
Animal Rights  
Drug Abuse  
Other?

Homosexuality  
Suicide  
Organ Donation  
Genetic Engineering

Pornography  
Industrial Waste  
Gambling  
Sexual Promiscuity

International Conflicts  
Human Rights  
Divorce  
Capital Punishment

6. In your opinion, do moral absolutes actually exist (i.e., are there moral laws that apply all the time in all circumstances, in all places)? **YES / NO / UNSURE**

A. If so, then ...

1) Where do they come from? \_\_\_\_\_

2) What will be the reward for keeping such absolutes? \_\_\_\_\_

B. If not, in your opinion what is the moral basis for any morality in society (i.e., if nothing is absolute, on what authority can we justify enforcing laws)?

7. If asked to explain your philosophy of life, would your answer be:

**DEFINITE / VAGUE / NONE**

8. To what extent could you honestly say you live according to your philosophy of life?

**ALL THE TIME / MOST OF THE TIME / SOME OF THE TIME / SELDOM / NONE**

9. Does your philosophy of life include a solution for the problems identified in Questions #4&5?

A. If you have no philosophy of life, then what solution do you have for the problem identified in Question #3?

**“The last 2 questions are a little more in depth and turn more toward Christian ideas about the foundation for morality and ethical living”**

10. According to the Bible, Christianity rests on four central truths that form the foundation for its opinions on matters of morality and ethics. *I'd like you to read through **all four of these truths** together and then go back and get your opinion on each of them individually* (i.e. whether you agree, disagree, or are unsure).

A. God loves you and has created you to have a personal relationship with Him. (John 3:16, John 10:10b)

**AGREE / DISAGREE**

1) Why? \_\_\_\_\_

a) *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).*

b) *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10b).*

B. The Bible asserts that the basis for moral and ethical problems is the reality that human beings are sinful. That is, all of us have made choices to disregard God's perfect rules. The penalty for sin is separation from God and eternal death. On their own efforts humans are unable to overcome this separation. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)

**AGREE / DISAGREE**

1) Why? \_\_\_\_\_

a) *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).*

b) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).*

C. Jesus Christ is God's only solution for each person's sin. Through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead Jesus paid the penalty each of us deserve for our sin. Through faith in Him alone you can have a relationship with God and forgiveness for sin. (Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3-5, John 14:6)

**AGREE / DISAGREE**

1) Why? \_\_\_\_\_

a) *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).*

b) *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).*

c) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me (John 14:6).*

D. Each person must individually make an informed, act-of-the-will decision to place his or her faith in Jesus Christ (receive Him as Savior and Lord). It is only then that a person can know and experience God's love and forgiveness and have a proper basis for moral and ethical living. (John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9)

**AGREE / DISAGREE**

1) Why? \_\_\_\_\_

a) *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (John 1:12).*

b) *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).*

c) *That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).*

11. If you agreed with all of question 10, have you ever made a personal, act-of-the-will decision to place your faith in Christ?

A. If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

B. If not, what holds you back?

C. If you disagreed with any of question 10, what (if anything) would it take to convince you on that point?

## SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY ETHICS INTERVIEW: TOLERANCE & MORALITY

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a student at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest. I am taking a class with **DR. LIEDERBACH** called "**CHRISTIAN ETHICS**", and one of our course requirements is to conduct a few interviews concerning some course-related issues. I would like to thank you for agreeing to help me with this survey which only takes about 5 to 10 minutes. The survey focuses on questions related to ethical issues and your opinion of Christianity.

### 1. General:

D. Date & time \_\_\_\_\_

E. Name of interviewee \_\_\_\_\_ (first name is sufficient)

### 2. Are you now or have you ever been active in a church or religious organization? **YES / NO**

F. If so, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

G. How often do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Do you think human beings are basically good in nature or basically sinful (evil)? Why?

### 4. What do you think is the biggest problem of humanity today? Why?

Economics    Sin    Intolerance    Environment    Racism    Politics    Religion  
Poverty    Lack of education    War    Terrorism  
None    Other? \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. What, in your opinion, is the biggest ethical (moral) issue facing our country today?

Abortion    Homosexuality    Pornography    International conflicts    Euthanasia    Suicide    Industrial  
Waste    Human Rights    Animal Rights    Organ donation    Gambling    Divorce    Drug Abuse  
Genetic Engineering    Sexual Promiscuity    Capital Punishment  
Other? \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. What do you think is the best understanding of the word "tolerance"?

### 7. Could you please articulate your opinion on \_\_\_\_\_? (either abortion or homosexuality)

Why have you come to that conclusion?

What is your opinion of those who take to opposite position you do on this issue?

Does your opinion of those who violently disagree with your opinion on abortion or homosexuality coincide with you definition of tolerance?

### 8. Christianity teaches that tolerance is best understood as giving another the freedom to make a choice even I believe the choice is absolutely wrong and will result in bad consequences.

Do you: Agree    Disagree    Why?

### 9. Please give your response to the following comment. If a person believes that a friend has a terminal disease and does not know it, that person is morally responsible to raise that issue with his friend.

Do you: Agree    Disagree    Why?

**“The last 2 questions are a little more in depth and turn more toward Christian ideas about the foundation for morality and ethical living”**

10. According to the Bible, Christianity rests on four central truths that form the foundation for its opinions on matters of morality and ethics. *I'd like you to read through **all four of these truths** together and then go back and get your opinion on each of them individually* (i.e. whether you agree, disagree, or are unsure).

A. God loves you and has created you to have a personal relationship with Him. (John 3:16, John 10:10b)

**AGREE / DISAGREE**

1. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

- a) *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*
- b) *I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

B. The Bible asserts that the basis for moral and ethical problems is the reality that human beings are sinful. That is, all of us have made choices to disregard God's perfect rules. The penalty for sin is separation from God and eternal death. On their own efforts humans are unable to overcome this separation. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23)

**AGREE / DISAGREE**

1. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

- c) *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- d) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

C. Jesus Christ is God's only solution for each person's sin. Through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead Jesus paid the penalty each of us deserve for our sin. Through faith in Him alone you can have a relationship with God and forgiveness for sin. (Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3-5, John 14:6)

**AGREE / DISAGREE**

1. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

- e) *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
- f) *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*
- g) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

D. Each person must individually make an informed, act-of-the-will decision to place his or her faith in Jesus Christ (receive Him as Savior and Lord). It is only then that a person can know and experience God's love and forgiveness and have a proper basis for moral and ethical living. (John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9)

**AGREE / DISAGREE**

1. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

- h) *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*
- i) *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
- j) *That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

11. If you agreed with all of question 10, have you ever made a personal, act-of-the-will decision to place your faith in Christ?

a. If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

b. If not, what holds you back?

c. If you disagreed with any of question 10, what (if anything) would it take to convince you on that point?