



"Investing in Africa's Future"

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY,
HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

NTCS 504 MAJOR THEMES IN THE STUDY OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER 2021

LECTURER: DR. M. MUTAMBARA & DR. G. MUFANEBADZA

DURATION: 5 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do not write your name on the answer sheet.
2. Choose One Case Study and answer the questions under the Case Study of your choice.
3. Each Case Study has questions that carry a total of 100 marks
4. Credit is given for neat, well written and lucid work.

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1. CASE STUDY NUMBER ONE

Assume that you are part of a Christian delegation invited by the mayor of your city to speak on 'Christian Ethics and Environment' at a workshop organized for the residents of the city in the capital city. The majority of the residents are Christian and the majority of the members of your church live in this city. The mayor is concerned about many issues that include deforestation resulting from the sale of firewood, soil erosion, water pollution, and flooding among others that are human induced and are undermining the health of the people in the city. The situation has been exacerbated by climate change. In addition, residents have different views and attitude towards the environment in general. Some residents believe that nature is there to be exploited by human beings as stated in Genesis 1:26, while others are of the view that the same biblical text gives human beings a mandate to take care of the environment. The purpose of the workshop is to raise awareness of Christians' responsibility in that context of environmental degradation and to motivate residents of the city to practice good environmental stewardship that is grounded in their Christian faith. Prepare a presentation in which you do the following:

- a) Referring to relevant biblical texts, examine biblical and theological reasons that should motivate Christians to take good care of the environment. [40]
- b) Propose at least four practical ethical ways/measures that will help your church and its members to align its teaching and actions with the Christian based teaching on the environment [60]

2 CASE STUDY TWO

In Zimbabwe, COVID -19 lockdown induced poverty strained the resources of Christian Aid organisations whose mandate is to help the needy and vulnerable members of society. Assuming that you are the country coordinator of these organizations:

- a) Recommend to the government at least five practical ways of responding ethically to the situation of the needy in the country who are facing life-threatening challenges resulting from the COVID -19 lockdown measures. [50]
- b) Demonstrate how insights from Christian ethics of social justice can be used to motivate the government to respond to the allegations of corruption and misuse of COVID 19 relief funds. [50]

3. CASE STUDY THREE

Assume that you are the bishop of a large denomination in an African country that is struggling to contain the second wave of COVID -19. A year ago, a local newspaper in your county carried a story with the headlines *Churches close because of COVID-19 pandemic*. A year later the same paper carried a story in which it was reported that the government had lifted the ban on gathering to include church gathering. The paper went on to report that the government's directive only allowed church gathering for people who had received the COVID-19 vaccination. Churches that allowed unvaccinated people in their gathering were going to be prosecuted. A week or so after the passing of the rule, you read in the papers that several churches including some of your congregations were prosecuted for violating the new rule.

Your investigation reveals that Pastor John's congregation is one of the churches that was meeting in violation of government rules despite the fact that several church members had succumbed to COVID-19. Pastor John's explanation is that the majority of the members do not have appropriate gadgets that will enable them to connect with the pastor. In addition, some church members also believe that they do not need to be vaccinated because they are covered and protected by the blood of Jesus Christ and in the event that they die, they hope to resurrect with Christ in his second coming.

- a) Clearly articulate why COVID-19 vaccination is a moral issue and proceed to explore the ethical issues (at least three) that are raised by the government's directive on church gathering and COVID -19 vaccination in the country. **[40]**
- b) With reference to relevant biblical texts and theological resources, formulate a Christian ethical response to Pastor John's situation, and to the government directive on church gathering and COVID -19 vaccination in the country. **[60]**

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