



THE 310 - 3 credits

The Bible Speaks to Contemporary Issues

Description:

In this course we will examine the foundation of Christian ethics. We will study the Scriptures to discover the precepts and principles we are given about such subjects as sex, family, honesty, suicide, abortion, the education of children, welfare, inflation, humanism, and gambling. We will then go one step further to discover the character of God which provides the foundation of the commands. We will learn to apply the Test of Truth and the Evidence of Truth in any situation. Finally, and perhaps of greatest importance, we will learn how to pass our moral standards on to the next generation.

Course Objectives

Academic:

As a result of the course, you will:

- State a definition for the following terms:
 - ✓ absolute truth
 - ✓ relativism
 - ✓ precept
 - ✓ principle
 - ✓ family
 - ✓ love
 - ✓ humanism
- Quote the following verses:
 - ✓ Proverbs 2:1-11
 - ✓ John 17:17
 - ✓ John 16:13
 - ✓ John 14:6
 - ✓ Malachi 3:6a
 - ✓ Jeremiah 29:11
 - ✓ Micah 6:8
 - ✓ Luke 6:31
- State three qualities or characteristics of absolute truth.

- State the two purposes for all of God's commands.
- State the three biblical principles of sex.
- State the three biblical reasons for which God designed sex.
- State the two purposes of the Ten Commandments.
- State the Test of Truth.
- State the Evidence of Truth.
- State the two possible models of truth.
- State the principle behind God's commands concerning marriage and family.

Attitudinal:

- You will receive the precepts of Scripture as absolute truth.
- You will honor the person and character of God as the standard against which all truth can be measured.
- You will prefer the long-term, future benefits of right choices over the immediate gratification of counterfeits.
- You will honor God's gift of sex according to the principles He has given for the purposes He has designed it.

Behavioral:

You will simply obey God's commands rather than trusting your own reason to determine right from wrong.

- You will use the Test of Truth and the Evidence of Truth to make ethical decisions.
- You will study the Scriptures to discover the precepts, principles and Person of Truth.

Texts:

Right from Wrong by Josh McDowell

Biblical Solutions to Contemporary Problems: A Handbook by Rus Walton

Course Requirements:

1. Classroom students must regularly attend and participate in classes.
2. Completely read *Right from Wrong* by Josh McDowell, answering all questions included with this syllabus.
3. Complete and correct all Self-Tests. These may be done with open book, if necessary. Their purpose is to reinforce the objectives of the lesson and help you know exactly what you are expected to know as a result of the lesson.
4. Earn at least a “B” on the two tests over the book *Right from Wrong* by McDowell.
5. Completely read *Biblical Solutions to Contemporary Problems: A Handbook* by Rus Walton.
6. Choose five of the issues discussed in *Biblical Solutions...* and write a paper applying the Test of Truth and the Evidence of Truth as described throughout the McDowell text to each issue individually. Specifically, through your Spirit-dependent study of the Scriptures, determine if there is an absolute truth, a command or statute, about each issue. If so, state it. This is the “precept”. Ask the Lord to reveal to you the “principle” upon which the precept is based. Next, discuss how the principle reflects the nature and character of God, how it reflects the “original”. Finally, state what you believe are the evidences of the truth you have discovered concerning the issue. From what is this precept designed to protect us? What is it designed to provide for us? There should be at least three of each of these for each issue.

If you prefer, you may choose an ethical question which is not covered in either of the texts but which you or someone you know is facing or has faced, for one or more of your issues. If you choose to do this, include a brief introduction to the issue, discussing why you chose it and what you have accomplished through your study of it.

The *Biblical Solutions...* text will provide an excellent starting place for your study. There you will find descriptions of the effects on our nation of disobeying the precepts, as well as many related Scriptures. However, you will need to spend time before the Word and the Spirit of God to integrate the teaching of the two main texts into your paper. Be prepared to spend a significant amount of time on this project. Embrace it as an opportunity to clarify your own ethic and prepare an effective answer for any who would question you.

This paper is due in the final lesson.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, CLU is training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.



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Course Schedule

Lesson 1

Assignment to be completed:

Complete the Confidential Survey Questionnaire found at the beginning of the Self-Test section of the syllabus.

Carefully read Part 1, Chapters 1 and 2 of *Right from Wrong* by McDowell. Answer all questions for these chapters included with this syllabus. These answers will be submitted to your instructor for grading at the end of the course. Therefore, complete them in a manner which will be most convenient for you to do so. You may handwrite your answers in the pages provided in this syllabus. Or, you may type your answers and include the typewritten pages in the allotted space in the syllabus. Or, especially if your instructor lives in a different country, it may be easiest to type your answers into a designated file on your computer. Then, at the end of the course, you may simply attach this file to a letter to your instructor and e-mail it to him/her very quickly and easily. (If you are not sure how to do this, please contact the CLU headquarters at clu@cluonline.com for further instructions.)

Memorize John 17:17, and begin working on Proverbs 2:1-11.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored or discussed:

The Crisis of Truth

A Generation in Crisis

Truth Matters

Related objectives:

- You will state a definition of relativism.
- You will state a definition for absolute truth and three qualities or characteristics of absolute truth.
- You will quote Proverbs 2:1-11.
- You will quote John 17:17.
- You will prefer the long-term, future benefits of right choices over the immediate gratification of counterfeits.

Lesson 2

Assignment to be completed:

Carefully read Chapters 3 and 4 of *Right from Wrong*, answering all questions for these chapters included in this syllabus.

Carefully read the Introduction and Chapters 1 - 3 of *Biblical Solutions...* by Walton.

Memorize John 16:13 and continue working on Proverbs 2:1-11.

Complete and correct Self-Test Two.

Subjects to be explored or discussed:

The Seismic Shift

From Generation to Generation

Abortion

AIDS

Capital Punishment

Related objectives:

- You will state a definition of humanism.
- You will quote John 16:13 and Proverbs 2:1-11.
- You will state the two possible models of truth.
- You will simply obey God's commands rather than trusting your own reason to determine right from wrong.