

The Bible as the only source of authority		
1	What is propositional revelation?	The idea that God reveals Godself through truth statements
2	How is the Bible seen by Christians?	Some see it as the direct word of God, other see it as a collection of works from others who have had it revealed to them by God.
3	What is Theonomous ethics?	God centred and Bible centered for moral teaching
4	What is the 'favoured' approach to analysing the Bible?	Using the Bible as a whole not picking and choosing
5	Give one strength of theonomous ethics.	Gives clear guidance that cannot be questioned
6	Give one weakness of theonomous ethics	It contains many different styles of writing that was written within its context.

Bible, church and reason		
1	What is heteronomous ethics?	Ethics taken from a variety of different sources
2	Why does heteronomous reject only theonomous ethics?	They believe the Bible has been created using reason and church authority so all methods should be used
3	What do protestants say about church authority?	Church brings the Bible into modern context and allows correct interpretation and understanding
4	What do Catholics says about church authority?	Jesus gave the church authority, humans a sinful and need extra guidance to use the Bible correctly
5	How is reason used?	Reasons allows humans and the church to understand Gods revelation
6	What is non-propositional revelation?	God does not reveal through statements so it needs interpretation

Love as the only ethical principle		
1	What is agape?	Self sacrificing unconditional love
2	What does the Bible say about Agape?	The love Jesus has for humanity, directed towards everyone and you must make yourself a servant to it
3	What are autonomous ethics?	Authority is places on the individual
4	What did Jesus say at the sermon on the mount?	Jesus said how to out the 10 commandments into practice using the command of love
5	What did Paul Tillich say?	Love is the central precept that grows in wisdom of the past
6	How is autonomous ethics different from theonomous and heteronomous ethics?	Its person centred and based on the individual. The others are church and bible centered and authority is outward.

Christian Ethics: Distinctive, personal, communal		
1	What does incarnation mean?	God becoming human in Jesus Christ
2	Which ethics takes the deontological approach?	Theonomous ethics
3	What is the personal approach?	Emphasis on the individual and their approach to the bible and church
4	What does distinctive mean?	Christianity calls for people to be counter cultural and challenge the wrongs in society. This is distinctive to the religion
5	What is the communal approach?	The Bible and church should be shared as a community
6	Which scholar explored the communal approach?	Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Key Vocabulary	
Morals	A set of principles linked to doing right actions
Theonomous ethics	God centred ethics, what God commanded is what is important, humans sinned because of the fall
Heteronomous ethics	There are a variety of resources to take authority from, the Bible is important but authority can come from the church and reason
Autonomous ethics	The authority is places on the individual, Christian decisions are ethical decisions made by Christians .
Propositional revelation	The idea that God reveals himself in truth statements.
Conscience	The inner sense of right and wrong in a person, sometimes described as an internal voice
Non-propositional revelation	God does not reveal himself through truth statements, so the revelation might need interpretation
Agape	The unconditional love God has God humans that humans need to try to reflect
Incarnation	God becoming a human being in Jesus Christ
Deontological	Duty-based approaches to ethics



It can be argued that religion is as characterised by its morals as it is by its beliefs. There are many approaches to morals within Christianity, with the differences often being celebrated, however for some these differences cause controversy and confusion.

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Christian Moral principles

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Catholics and Reason

Reason is a way to identify what God has revealed. The most important is natural law and the primary precepts. Catholics also use the conscience to guide their decisions.

Protestants and reason

Many protestants believe reason is needed to interpret the Bible. It is important to understand the context of the Bible and its writers, ultimately reason backs up the Bible which holds ultimate reality.

Distinctive, personal, communal

- Christianity is distinctive in its teachings of the incarnation
- Some believe grace and personal faith is the best way to enter into heaven
- Theonomous ethics has a similar approach to deontological ethics, with an overlap of heteronomous teaching on reason.



Love as the only ethical principles

Jesus says the law is about love. This theme of agape runs throughout the gospels.

The Bible says it is:

- Sacrificial love for others
- Making yourself a servant
- Directed towards everyone
- Eternal

For example the sermon on the mount was not a replacement of the 10 commandments but how to put love into practice.

Consider Tillich and Fletcher



Church authority	
Approach by some protestants	Approach by Roman Catholics
Over 2000 years the church has interpreted the Bible	The authority of the Church was given by Jesus to Peter and the Apostles- the NT was made after
Church are often governed by councils that guide how people live	Tradition is spoken and given to the apostles and handed down over time.
The church is a bridge between the first century and today	Authentic interpretation of the Bible is one of the jobs of the church under the influence of the Holy spirit
Preaching is a valid method of authority	'To the church belongs the right always and everywhere to announce moral principles'
Prayer and worship are ways in which Christians use scripture and learn from it	There are moral absolutes
The Bible was written after Christianity had existed	Humans are weak and sinful and therefore rely on themselves to make moral decisions properly

What the spec says

The diversity of Christian Moral reasoning and practices and sources and ethics:

- The Bible as the only authority for Christian ethical practices
- Bible, Church and reason as the sources of Christian ethical practices
- Love (agape) as the only Christian ethical principle which governs Christian practices

- As the Bible reveals God's will then only biblical ethical commands must be followed
- Christian ethics must be a combination of biblical teaching, Church teaching and human reasons
- Jesus' only command was to love and that human reason must decide how best to apply this

- ❖ Whether or not Christian ethics are distinctive
- ❖ Whether or not Christian ethics are personal or communal
- ❖ Whether or not the principle of love is sufficient to live to good life
- ❖ Whether or not the Bible is a comprehensive moral guide