

Topic	Content	Key Knowledge
Situation Ethics*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fletcher’s situation ethics, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>agape</i> ◦ the six propositions ◦ the four working principles ◦ conscience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • origins of <i>agape</i> in the New Testament and its religious development in the writing of Fletcher • what they are and how they give rise to the theory of situation ethics and its approach to moral decision-making: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Love is the only thing that is intrinsically good 2. Love is the ruling norm in ethical decision-making and replaces all laws 3. Love and justice are the same thing—justice is love that is distributed 4. Love wills the neighbour’s good regardless of whether the neighbour is liked or not 5. Love is the goal or end of the act and that justifies any means to achieve that goal 6. Love decides on each situation as it arises without a set of laws to guide it • what they are and how they are intended to be applied: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. pragmatism: it is based on experience rather than on theory 2. relativism: it is based on making the absolute laws of Christian ethics relative 3. positivism: it begins with belief in the reality and importance of love 4. personalism: persons, not laws or anything else, are at the centre of situation ethics • what conscience is and what it is not according to Fletcher, i.e. a verb not a noun; a term that describes attempts to make decisions creatively <p>Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues raised by Fletcher’s theory of situation ethics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether or not situation ethics provides a helpful method of moral decision-making • whether or not an ethical judgement about something being good, bad, right or wrong can be based on the extent to which, in any given situation, <i>agape</i> is best served • whether Fletcher’s understanding of <i>agape</i> is really religious or whether it means nothing more than wanting the best for the person involved in a given situation • whether or not the rejection of absolute rules by situation ethics makes moral decision-making entirely individualistic and subjective