

## **BS3020W Use of the Bible in Ethics (BS3720W – Online)**

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**Offered:** 2018: Semester 2 (Also available online Semester 2 as BS3720W)  
[Unit offered alternatively as DT3020W/DT3720W]

The unit will examine a broad range of approaches to the use of the Bible in ethics. A number of case studies will illustrate the diversity of biblical material as it relates to particular ethical topics (such as war, reconciliation, human rights, wealth and poverty, abortion, ecology, and sexuality). In exploring hermeneutical analogies, consideration will be given to the similarities and differences between biblical cultures and our own multicultural contexts. Attention will also be paid to the ways in which Biblical models and interpretation may play a role in public life.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Articulate the differences between a range of hermeneutical approaches;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of biblical ethics;
3. Reflect critically on the cultural dimensions of hermeneutics;
4. Analyse the key issues at stake in a particular ethical case study;
5. Assess approaches to ethical questions for the local church and other ministry contexts.

**Prerequisites:** 30 points in Field B; 15 Points in Systematic Theology

**Class Time:** Three hours per week

### **Assessment:**

<b>Classroom:</b>	One 2,000 word exegetical essay	(40%)
	One 2,000 word hermeneutical essay	(40%)
	Critical reflections on set readings – 1,000 words	(20%)
<b>Online:</b>	One 2,000 word exegetical essay	(40%)
	One 2,000 word hermeneutical essay	(40%)
	Online tutorial participation – not fewer than 5 entries of approx. 200 words each	(20%)

**Faculty:** Mark Brett, Keith Dyer

### **Recommended Reading:**

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Barton, J. *Ethics and the Old Testament*. London: SCM, 2nd edn 2010.

Barton, S.C. *Life Together: Family, Sexuality and Community in the New Testament and Today*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2001.

Burridge, R. *Imitating Jesus: An Inclusive Approach to New Testament Ethics Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Carroll, M.D. and J.E. Lapsley (eds), *Character Ethics and the Old Testament*. Louisville: WJKP, 2007.

Cosgrove, C.H. *Appealing to Scripture in Moral Debate: Five Hermeneutical Rules*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Hays, R. *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1996.

Horrell, D. *Solidarity and Difference: A Contemporary Reading of Paul's Ethics*. London: T & T Clark, 2005.

Horrell, D. et al. (eds), *Ecological Hermeneutics: Biblical, Historical and Theological Perspectives*. London: T & T Clark, 2010.

Janzen, W. *Old Testament ethics: A Paradigmatic Approach*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1994.

Wolterstorff, N. *Justice: Rights and Wrongs*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

Wright, C.J.H. *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God*. Leicester: IVP, 2nd edn 2013.