RC.7377215

CHOSEN SEMINARY

COLLEGE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, RESEARCH & CHAPLAINCY

Formally Known As: Chosen Christian Theological Seminary

(AN AFFILIATE OF TRIUMPHANT CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA & LPMV

Contact address: +2348149039396/ +2347017325091, Email: info.chosenseminary@gmail.com

TREMENDOUS ACADEMY, ALAFIA STREET, OFF BAWA ROAD, BEHIND UNIQUE HOSPITAL/OLD DANKE, SIMILOLUWA, ADO-EKITI, EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

COURSE: CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND MORAL THEOLOGY - BTP105

COURSE OUTLINE

MODULE 0: WHAT ARE WE EVEN DOING HERE?

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MODULE 8: LIVING IT OUT

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENTS

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL HANDOUT PRODUCED BY CHOSEN SEMINARY

MOBILE PHONE: ***08149039396, 0903627195, 07017325091***

E-MAIL: info.chosenseminary@gmail.com

This Copy of Handout belongs to:

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WELCOME, FELLOW TRAVELERS!

This is not just another class. This is a journey. A journey into the heart of God's desire for how we should live. The world shouts at us with many voices, telling us what is right, what is smart, what is profitable. But what does our Lord say? How do we, as people saved by grace, walk through the complex jungle of modern life? How do we make choices that honour God, love our neighbour, and bring true peace to our own spirit?

This handbook is your guide. We will dig into the Bible, listen to the wisdom of the church through the ages, and use the good mind God gave us. We will talk about life, money, sex, power, and even technology. We will build a strong foundation so that when the storms of difficult decisions come, you will not collapse.

Get ready to think. Get ready to be challenged. Get ready to have your heart and mind shaped by the Spirit of God. Let's begin.

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MODULE 0: WHAT ARE WE EVEN DOING HERE?

THE MAP FOR THE JOURNEY

Imagine this: You are driving from Lagos to Abuja. You have a destination – Abuja. That is your goal. Ethics is simply asking: "What is the right road to take to get to our goal?" For us, our goal is not a city. It is a life. A full, beautiful, God-honouring life. The Bible calls it Shalom – perfect peace, wholeness, everything as it should be.

· Ethics vs. Moral Theology: Think of it like this:

· Ethics is the general study of right and wrong. Anyone can do it.

· Moral Theology is Christian Ethics. It starts with a powerful fact: GOD HAS SPOKEN. We are not guessing in the dark. We have revelation. We have Jesus. We are asking: "Now that God has saved us in Christ, how then shall we live?"

Key Words for Your Toolbox:

· **Sin:** Not just "bad things." It is missing the mark, rebellion, a sickness that twists our hearts and our societies.

· **Virtue:** A good habit of the heart. Like a muscle made strong by exercise. Courage, honesty, kindness.

· **Conscience:** That inner voice God gave you to judge right and wrong. But it must be trained!

· **Natural Law:** The basic sense of right and wrong God has written into all human hearts (e.g., murder is wrong, care for children is good).

WHY THIS MATTERS: Because a faith that stays only in the head and never touches your choices at work, in your home, or in politics is a dead faith. We are called to be light. Light is meant to shine on something, to show the way.

MODULE 1: WHERE DO WE GET OUR INSTRUCTIONS?

THE FOUR LAMPS

In a dark room, you need light. For our moral journey, God has given us not one, but four lamps. We need all of them to see clearly.

1. THE BIBLE (SCRIPTURE) – OUR PRIMARY LAMP

This is our main light,our supreme authority. But we must use it wisely.

· Don't just pick single verses! Read the whole story. The law (Exodus, Deuteronomy), the prophets crying for justice (Amos, Isaiah), the wisdom for daily life (Proverbs), the life of Jesus (Gospels), and the early church letters.

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· **Ask:** What is the principle behind the rule? (e.g., The Sabbath rule is about rest and trust in God, not just avoiding work on Saturday).

2. TRADITION (THE CHURCH'S WISDOM) – THE LAMP PASSED DOWN

You are not the first Christian to face problems!For 2000 years, wise saints (Augustine, Aquinas, the early church fathers, our own African ancestors in faith) have wrestled with these issues. Listen to them. They are our family elders.

3. REASON (THE GOOD MIND GOD GAVE YOU) – THE LAMP IN YOUR HAND

God gave you a brain.Use it! Think logically. Study science. Understand how the world works. Ask "what are the consequences?" Reason helps us apply God's eternal truth to new situations (like bio-technology).

4. EXPERIENCE (LIVED LIFE) – THE LAMP OF REALITY

Your personal journey with God and the shared life of your church community matter.The Holy Spirit guides us in experience. But be careful! Experience must always be tested by the Bible, not the other way around.

HOW THEY WORK TOGETHER: The Bible is the bright sun. Tradition, Reason, and Experience are like mirrors that reflect the sunlight into the corners of our lives. If your "experience" says something the Bible clearly calls sin, trust the Bible. Let the other lamps be guided by the main one.

MODULE 2: HOW DO WE MAKE A TOUGH DECISION?

GOD'S PLAYBOOK: FOUR POWERFUL STRATEGIES

When you face a hard choice, which of these questions feels most natural?

STRATEGY 1: BECOMING THE RIGHT PERSON (VIRTUE ETHICS)

· **Key Question:** "What kind of person should I be?"

· **Focus:** Character, habits, the heart. It's not just "What should I do?" but "Who am I becoming?"

· **The Goal:** To develop virtues like courage, justice, temperance (self-control), and wisdom. And supremely, the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love.

· **Think:** A good tree naturally produces good fruit. Work on the roots (your character).

STRATEGY 2: FOLLOWING THE RIGHT RULES (DEONTOLOGY)

· **Key Question:** "What is my duty? What is the rule?"

· **Focus:** Principles, commands, laws. Some things are always right or wrong, no matter the outcome.

CORRECTION

· **Includes:** Divine Command Theory (God says it, that settles it) and Natural Law (God's moral order built into creation).

· **Think:** "You shall not murder." It's a rule. Period. Your feelings or the situation don't change it.

STRATEGY 3: AIMING FOR THE BEST RESULT (CONSEQUENTIALISM)

· **Key Question:** "What action will lead to the best outcome for the most people?"

· **Focus:** Results, consequences, "the greater good."

· **Christian Check:** We must ask, "Who defines 'good'?" Only God's definition lasts. We cannot do an evil thing (break God's rule) hoping for a good result. But thinking about consequences is wise!

STRATEGY 4: LIVING OUR COMMUNITY'S STORY (NARRATIVE ETHICS)

· **Key Question:** "What does it mean for our people, the Church, to be faithful to Jesus' story in this situation?"

· **Focus:** We are not isolated individuals. We are part of a big, God-sized story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. Our choices should make sense in that story.

· **Think:** "How can my choice help my church community look more like the Kingdom of God right now?"

YOU NEED THEM ALL! A wise Christian uses all four. Is this action faithful to God's rules (Strategy 2)? What will it lead to (Strategy 3)? Does it fit the story of God's people (Strategy 4)? And most deeply, will doing this make me more like Christ (Strategy 1)?

MODULE 3: THE BATTLE INSIDE YOU

YOU, SIN, GRACE, AND YOUR INNER VOICE

This is where it gets personal. Before we judge the world, we must look in the mirror. Your greatest ethical challenge is not "out there." It is inside your own heart.

1. YOU ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE (IMAGO DEI)

This is your starting point.You are not a mistake. You are not an animal. You carry the very stamp of God's likeness. This means:

· You have supreme dignity and worth. So does every other human being, no matter how small, poor, or different.

· You were made for relationship – with God and with others.

· You were given responsibility to care for God's world.

· This is the foundation of ALL human rights. We oppose evil because it destroys God's image in people.

2. BUT THERE IS A CRACK IN THE IMAGE: SIN

Sin is the poison in the system.It is not just "bad things I do." It is:

· **A Power:** A spiritual force that twists our desires.

· **Personal:** The selfish choices we make ("I want my way").

· **Social:** The broken systems we create (corruption, tribalism, oppressive structures). This is called ***STRUCTURAL SIN***. It's like polluted air everyone breathes.

3. YOUR CONSCIENCE: GOD'S WHISPER OR A BROKEN SPEAKER?

Your conscience is that inner judge.But it is not God's direct voice. It is a faculty – a tool. And like any tool, it can be broken or trained wrong.

· A seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:2) is one burned numb by repeated sin. It stops feeling guilt.

· A misinformed conscience is one trained by a bad culture or false teaching.

· Your duty is to ***FORM YOUR CONSCIENCE*** with God's Word and the wisdom of the church. Do not just follow your feelings!

4. THE VICTORY: GRACE UPON GRACE

Here is the hope!We are not left in the battle alone.

· **Justification:** God declares you righteous in Christ. Your past is forgiven.

· **Sanctification:** God's Spirit makes you righteous, day by day, changing your character. This is the power to live ethically!

· The Church is your gymnasium, where you practice love, forgiveness, and truth with other struggling saints.

MODULE 4: BIG TRUTHS THAT CHANGE HOW WE ACT
CREATION, JESUS, FORGIVENESS, AND THE FUTURE

Our doctrine is not just for exams. It is fuel for action. What you believe changes how you behave.

1. THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION

· **Belief:** God made everything and called it "very good."

· **Ethical Action:** We must respect and care for creation. Environmental destruction is a sin against God's property. We are stewards, not exploiters. Don't dump poison in the river. Plant a tree. Value the material world—it is God's handiwork.

2. THE DOCTRINE OF THE INCARNATION

· **Belief:** God became flesh in Jesus Christ. He had a real body.

· **Ethical Action:** We must honour the human body. Sexuality is sacred. Poverty that crushes bodies is an insult to God who took on a body. Medicine that heals is holy work. We cannot say we love God while neglecting people's physical needs.

3. THE DOCTRINE OF THE ATONEMENT

· **Belief:** Jesus died to reconcile us to God and to each other.

· **Ethical Action:** We must be agents of reconciliation. We forgive because we are forgiven. We break down walls of tribe, class, and ethnicity. In a country divided, the church must model a new community where Christ is our primary identity.

4. THE DOCTRINE OF ESCHATOLOGY (THE LAST THINGS)

· **Belief**: Jesus is coming back to make all things new. There will be a final judgment.

· **Ethical Action:** We work with hope and urgency. We don't give up on a broken world; we invest in it knowing God will redeem it. We act with integrity, knowing we will give account. We live not for temporary gain but for eternal reward.

MODULE 5: BODY MATTERS

LIFE, DEATH, SEX, AND FAMILY

These are the most personal ethics. They touch our flesh, our family, our most intimate choices.

SECTION A: THE BEGINNING AND END OF LIFE

· **The Unborn Child:** If every person is made in God's image, that image is present from conception. The womb is a place of God's creative work. Abortion is the taking of an innocent human life. Our response must be compassion, supporting women in crisis, not just condemnation.

· **The Dying Person:** Life is a gift from God, but it is not an absolute to be clung to at all costs. ***Euthanasia*** (actively killing to end suffering) is wrong. But allowing a natural death when treatment is futile is not. Our duty is to provide palliative care – love, pain relief, and spiritual comfort until God calls the person home.

SECTION B: SEXUALITY, MARRIAGE, AND FAMILY

· **God's Design:** The Bible sets a pattern: sexual intimacy is for the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman, a lifelong union that reflects Christ and the Church. This is for our good—for commitment, security, and the raising of children.

· **The Challenge of Our Culture:** We live in a time of great confusion. Pornography, fornication, adultery, and homosexual practice are presented as normal. As Christians, we must:

· Hold to the biblical standard with conviction.

· Show extraordinary grace and friendship to those who struggle, remembering we are all sinners saved by grace.

· Honour singleness as a holy calling for some, a time of gift to God and the church.

· **Family as a School of Virtue:** The family is where we first learn loyalty, sacrifice, forgiveness, and love. It is under attack. We must fight for strong, Christ-centred homes.

MODULE 6: SOCIETY MATTERS

MONEY, POWER, JUSTICE, AND OUR NATION

Your faith must enter the public square. God is Lord of all, not just the church.

1. JUSTICE AND THE POOR

· The Bible shouts: God has a special care for the poor, the widow, the orphan, the foreigner.

· Justice is not just punishing criminals. It is creating a society where everyone has a fair chance and where systems protect the vulnerable.

· Corruption is a demonic sin. It steals from the poor, breaks trust, and makes a mockery of justice. A Christian must be fiercely honest, even when it costs.

2. POLITICS AND POWER

· Should a Christian be in politics? ABSOLUTELY! We need salt and light in every sphere.

· How to engage:

· Pray for leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

· Obey just laws, but be ready to disobey civilly if the government commands you to sin (like the apostles in Acts 5:29).

· Vote wisely for leaders of character.

· Reject tribalism. Your identity in Christ is deeper than your ethnicity.

· War and Peace: The church has debated: Just War Theory (war is sometimes a tragic necessity to stop great evil, under strict conditions) vs. Christian Pacifism (following Jesus' non-violent example absolutely). Both are serious Christian positions.

3. ECONOMICS AND WORK

· Wealth is a gift from God, but a dangerous one. The love of money is a root of all evil.

· We are to work diligently (Proverbs), provide for our families, and create value.

· We are to be generous, sharing with those in need. The early church held possessions loosely (Acts 2:44-45).

· We must pay fair wages and treat employees justly. Exploiting workers is a sin that cries out to God.

MODULE 7: TODAY'S NEW FIGHTS

INTERNET, CLIMATE, AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Our grandparents did not face these. But we must. How does ancient truth speak to these new frontiers?

1. DIGITAL ETHICS

· **Truth**: Do not spread lies, fake news, or gossip online. Your keyboard is not a weapon.

· **Purity**: The internet is a sewer of pornography. Guard your heart and your eyes fiercely. Use accountability software.

· **Kindness**: Do not be a keyboard warrior. Speak with grace. Cyberbullying is evil.

· **Time**: Do not let social media steal your life, your prayer time, or your real relationships.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

· This is not a "white people's issue." It is a God's creation issue. When our rivers are polluted and our air is dirty, the poor suffer most.

· Creation Care is a Christian Duty. We are stewards. Simple acts matter: don't litter, manage waste, conserve resources, advocate for good policies.

3. THE FRONTIER OF TECHNOLOGY (AI, BIOTECH)

· Principle: Technology is a tool, not a saviour. It can be used for great good (medical advances) or great evil (surveillance, deepfakes).

· Key Question: Does this technology enhance human dignity or diminish it? Does it help us love God and neighbour, or replace them?

· Be hopeful but careful. We must shape technology with Christian wisdom before it shapes us.

MODULE 8: LIVING IT OUT
YOUR PERSONAL GAME PLAN

Theory is useless without practice. This is where you make it your own.

1. HOW TO MAKE A TOUGH DECISION: A PRACTICAL GUIDE

1. PRAY. Invite the Holy Spirit first. Don't think first, pray first.
2. GET THE FACTS. What is really happening? Use your reason.
3. CONSULT THE BIBLE. Are there clear principles or commands?
4. SEEK WISE COUNSEL. Talk to a mature pastor or Christian friend.
5. EXAMINE YOUR MOTIVES. Why do I really want this? Is it pride, fear, or love?
6. CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES. For me, my family, my church, the vulnerable.
7. DECIDE AND ACT IN FAITH. Then trust God with the outcome.

2. CULTIVATE YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

· You cannot give what you don't have. You need a daily connection to the Vine (John 15:5).

· Read Scripture. Let it wash your mind.

· Pray honestly. Confess your struggles.

· Worship in community. You can't do this alone.

· Practice a Sabbath. Rest is an act of trust in God.

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3. BE THE CHURCH

· We are called to be a contrast community – a city on a hill that shows the world a better way to live: honest, loving, generous, and just.

· Your most powerful ethical statement is not a tweet. It is a faithful life, lived in loving community, for the glory of God and the good of your neighbour.

FINAL CHARGE: The world is waiting, hungry for people of integrity, courage, and sacrificial love. It is waiting for you to live out your faith with both conviction and grace. Go, and be that person. The journey starts now.

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENTS

ASSESSMENT 1: THE CONSCIENCE INTERVIEW (For Personal Reflection or Small Group)

1. Think of a time your conscience strongly told you something was wrong, but you did it anyway. What was the result in your spirit?

2. Think of a belief you hold about right and wrong (e.g., "bribery is always wrong"). Where did that belief come from? Your parents? The Bible? Culture? How have you tested it?

3. In what one area do you feel your conscience is most "seared" or numb? What one step can you take this week to re-sensitize it (e.g., avoid a certain media, confess to a friend)?

ASSESSMENT 2: CASE STUDY – THE CONTRACT

You are a young engineer.Your boss tells you to approve the safety certificate for a new building. You inspect it and find the builder used sub-standard materials. It could collapse in a few years. Your boss says, "Sign it. The big man who owns the building is a friend of the MD. Everyone gets their share. Don't be a fool. Think of your promotion."

· Analyze this case using the FOUR STRATEGIES from Module 2:

· Virtue Ethics: What would an honest, courageous person do?

· Rules/Duty: What is your duty as an engineer? What does the Bible say about truth and protecting life?

· Consequences: What are the possible outcomes if you sign? If you refuse?

· Narrative/Community: What does your action say about the witness of Christians in the workplace?

· What will you do? Write down your step-by-step action plan.

ASSESSMENT 3: PERSONAL "RULE OF LIFE" PROJECT

Create a one-page"Rule of Life" for the next 3 months. This is your game plan for ethical and spiritual growth. It must include:

1. Character Goal: One virtue (e.g., Patience, Integrity) you will focus on developing. How will you practice it? (e.g., "When I feel angry in traffic, I will pray instead of shouting.")

2. Relationship Commitment: One practical way you will love a specific person better (e.g., "I will call my mother every Saturday." "I will not speak gossip about my colleague.").

3. Social Justice Action: One small but concrete way you will engage a social issue (e.g., "I will find out the name of the security guard at my office and learn about his family." "I will stop buying from that shop because I know they exploit their staff.").

4. Digital Fast: One specific change in your digital life (e.g., "No phone for the first hour after I wake up." "I will delete this one app that wastes my time.").

5. Accountability: Name one person you will share this Rule with and ask them to check on you in one month.

Remember: The goal is not perfection, but direction. God's grace is with you on the journey. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

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