



# SPIRIT CHALLENGE

## Situation Ethics®

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# Situation Ethics

## Activity

A Ranger is taking a test and doesn't know the answers. In fact, he may fail the test. Should he cheat?

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## Biblical Insight

Situation ethics proposes that nothing is universally right or wrong and nothing is intrinsically good or bad. What we should do in a given situation depends on the circumstances. The problem with this philosophy is that without God's moral and ethical code, we have only the rationale, experience, and intuition of man's fallen nature for guidance.

How would you interpret the warning of Isaiah 5:20 for a person who subscribes to situation ethics? Does this sound similar to another verse found in the Bible? Consider the discussion of light and darkness in Matthew

6:22-24. Those who call good evil and evil good are in danger of committing the unpardonable sin. To die without coming to understand the goodness of God, and instead calling His goodness evil, would be to commit the unpardonable sin.

Here is an example. The Bible clearly defines the homosexual lifestyle as evil, and against His law, yet those in the homosexual community claim that Christians proclaiming this are evil and propagating a message of hate. They have claimed that the evil lifestyle of homosexuality is good, when in fact God said it is evil.

## Composition

The account of Jesus' trial before Pilate in Luke 23:13-25 depicts the miscarriage of justice and the denial of truth. Read the passage; outline the situation and the accommodation Pilate made rather than insisting on truth. His reaction is an example of situation ethics.

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## Discussion

A situation ethicist who has knowingly sinned may seek the approval of others. Agreeing with him to avoid controversy may seem harmless, but what does Malachi 2:17 tell us about agreeing with someone who is in sin? Discuss this with the group. Think of situations you have had to face similar to the one described above.

## Evaluation

Romans 1:25 implies that human beings are creatures of worship. If we refuse to worship God and respect His laws, we will worship and serve created things. Have you done this in your own life? Are there things that are more important to you than your relationship with Christ?

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**Lesson 110**

- A: No. Cheating violates God’s law in the Bible. Cheating also violates the Ranger Code and Ranger Pledge. To not be prepared for the test violates the Ranger Motto.
- C: Pilate found no basis for charges against Jesus. He knew Herod also found nothing. He informed the chief priests of Jesus’ innocence, but Pilate was still the one responsible. He succumbed to pressure, pride, and fear; denied what he knew was truth; and condemned Jesus to death.
- D: Our agreement with those who do evil and want to call it good wearies or disgusts the Lord. Our words are important, and someday we’ll give an accounting for our words. To deny our principles in order to escape controversy or ridicule is itself an application of situation ethics.

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