

# ST 509--Social Ethics

## Lectures by Dr. Jim Urish

### Lecturer

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### Course Objectives

- To understand the Biblical standards for personal and social behavior.
- To understand the unity of Old and New Testaments in its teaching on the Law of God.
- To understand the ethical dimensions of your confessional standards.
- To be able to analyze contemporary ethical issues in light of Biblical revelation.
- To develop principles from God's law for application to current contemporary ethical issues (casuistry).
- To develop personal ethical behavior in conformity to Scripture.
- To challenge each student to be practicing ethicists, letting their light shine before men.

### Textbooks

#### Required:

- Timothy Keller, *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just* (Riverhead, 2012), 256 pages.
- Jochem Douma, *The Ten Commandments: Manual for the Christian Life*, trans. Nelson Kloosterman (P&R, 1996), 410 pages.
- John Murray, *Principles of Conduct: Aspects of Biblical Ethics* (Eerdmans, 1957), 272 pages.

#### Recommended:

- Philip G. Ryken, *Written in Stone: The Ten Commandments and Today's Moral Crisis* (Crossway, 2010), 240 pages.

### Course Requirements

- Lecture outlines: create outlines with at least two levels of subordination for each of the course lectures (12 outlines; 25% of grade);
- Book reviews: write a 1000-word book review for each of the textbooks above (three reviews; 25% of grade);
- Application paper: write a 2500-word paper on a topic of your choice that shows your understanding of a moral issue you are currently interacting with and the relevancy of God's Decalogue for moral issues in the twenty-first century (25% of grade);
- Ten (or more!) sermon outlines, one on each of the commandments of the decalogue (25% of grade).