



# *PC219 Ethics for Ministry*

Australian College of Theology name: *Ethics for Ministry*

## **Learning Outcomes**

1. To introduce you to ethical decision making in the light of Biblical teaching and narrative and of Christian principles;
2. To encourage you to undertake their own ministry responsibly and in accordance with Christian values;
3. To enable you to develop a Christian approach to ethical issues relevant to Christian ministry;

## **Content**

An introduction to ethical decision-making in the context of ministry and on the basis of Christian perspectives.

### **Section A Christian Decision Making (40%)**

1. Ethical teaching of the Bible: using the bible in ethics; themes of creation, sin, covenant, love, freedom and community in the Old and New Testaments
2. Ethical theories: theories of obligation and virtue; absolutism and relativism; relationship between personal and social ethics
3. Making ethical decisions: the role of the conscience; Christian character; the Holy Spirit; Christian community; society and context in making decisions

### **Section B Ethical Issues in Ministry (60%)**

4. Personal ethics in ministry: sexual misconduct; misuse of power; confidentiality; personal integrity including openness, honesty, use of time and finances
5. Any three of the following:
  - (a) Family: Christian marriage (including pre-marital relationships, fidelity in marriage, divorce and remarriage), violence and abuse in the family (including domestic violence, child abuse and incest), homosexuality
  - (b) Discrimination: racism; sexism; the role of women in the home; society and church; the disabled and the socially disadvantaged

- (c) Money: wealth and poverty; debt; work and leisure; gambling
- (d) Value of human life: abortion; fertility (birth control, surrogacy, IVF); genetic engineering; euthanasia; capital punishment
- (e) Environment: technology; pollution; population; conservation
- (f) Exploitation and responsibility: violence and conflict; drugs of addiction; propaganda and advertising; pornography and the depiction of violence in the media; censorship