**Course Outline: Christian Ethics 90**

Bethlehem High School

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In the pursuit of advancing our personal faith, most Christians engage in religious practices such as Bible reading, attending church, and prayer. Our Christian culture works very hard to be informed. But information by itself cannot enable us to become more Christ-like.

Information is the beginning, but ***transformation*** is what God desires for us. As you take part in the activities in this class, remember that participation and memorization are not the objectives. The goal is transformation – understanding our Christian story and applying it in our lives to be the best people we can be.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Section 1

**Introductory Unit**

* A starting point: Who is God?
* Understanding the Bible: general overview and interpretations.

**Unit I: Be Faithful**

* Students will learn that faithfulness is a virtue that all of us need to cultivate. It helps us to maintain and develop our relationship with God and with other people. If we develop a habit of faithfulness, we will be more likely to choose what is good and right even when it is hard.

Section 2

**Unit II: Be With Me**

* Students will examine the 8 Beautitudes and how they can be used to lead them to a true and lasting relationship with others and with God.

**Unit III: Be Alive**

* Students will learn that appreciating life is a virtue. If we wish to do God’s will, each of us must develop the habit of appreciating the individuality and uniqueness of all people.

**Unit IV: Be Loving**

* Students will learn that love is the most basic of Christian virtues. Unless we approach every situation with a loving attitude, we cannot hope to make Christ-like choices.

Section 3

**Unit V: Be Forgiving**

* Students will learn that ***forgiveness*** is a virtue we all need to develop. Forgiveness means letting go of the desire for revenge. We will not always “feel” forgiving, but forgiveness is a decision, not an emotion, so we can always choose to forgive.

**Unit VI: Be Obedient**

* Students will learn that ***obedience*** is listening and acting on the wisdom of people who are appropriately exercising their authority. Obedience challenges us to look beyond our own wants, and will lead us to serve the common good.

**Unit VII: Be Just**

* Students will learn that Christians are called to seek true ***justice*** in every situation. If we develop an attitude of justice, we will not sit back as long as any are suffering.

Section 4

**Unit VIII: Be Honest**

* Students will learn that ***honesty*** is a virtue. We have to develop honest habits if we wish to have a strong relationship with God and with people in God’s community.

**Unit IX: Be Generous**

* Students will learn that ***generosity*** is closely linked with love. If we truly love someone, we will want to share with him or her.

**ASSESSMENTS**

Knowledge: 30%

Concepts: 30%

Journal Entries: 15%

Final Exam/Project: 25%

Knowledge:

* Provides accurate and detailed facts and explanations.
* Apply knowledge learned in a variety of situations.

Concepts:

* Demonstrates an understanding of the concepts presented.
* Makes connections between concepts and other situations.

Journal Entries:

* Journal entries will be collected at regular intervals and will be assessed according to the rubric below.
* You are responsible for getting any journal prompts that you miss from a classmate.

**Journal Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Journal Response | Journal response does not answer the prompt or does so minimally with little to no reflection.  | Journal response answers the prompt with few details and shows limited amounts of reflection. | Journal response answers the prompt with some detail and shows a decent amount of reflection. | Journal response answers the prompt in great detail and shows a high level of reflection and insight.  |

**RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

If you have a right to feel safe, then you have the responsibility to make sure that others feel safe. If you do not protect the rights of others, you will lose your own.

What rights do we have in this classroom today?