

# Social Responsibility



Christians make moral decision by:

<p><b>BIBLE</b> – Is accepted as important and should be believed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspired by God</li> <li>- Use Jesus’ teachings and 10 Commandments</li> <li>- Different approach among Christians because some say it is word of God, others say we should interpret it, others say it is written by humans.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CHURCH</b> – Churches explain the meaning of the Bible and its moral teachings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Church of England has an assembly for deciding their rules</li> <li>- Roman Catholic Church has Pope and Bishops to make decisions.</li> <li>- Believed that God speaks through the Church.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conscience</b> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tells you what is right and wrong</li> <li>- Feelings of guilt</li> <li>- Said to be voice of God</li> <li>- Should not do anything against your conscience.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Situation Ethics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joseph Fletcher</li> <li>- Do whatever is the most loving to do for all people, even if it means breaking rules/ laws</li> <li>- Based on Jesus’ command to love your neighbour.</li> </ul>

## Separation of Religion and Politics

Some Christians say **separate** because:

- Religion should be concerned with spiritual development and not with society.
- \* New Testament teaches how we are judged by love of God and not love of politics
- Jesus said that there was a religious part of life and a political part – which should be separate.
- \* St Paul said God will look after politics and Christians should look after souls

Some Christians say should be **linked** because:

- \* Christianity is a whole way of life and so it is impossible to separate religion and politics
- \* Jesus shows religion was more important than politics when he threw money lenders out of the Temple.
- \* The Sermon on the Mount implies that religion should control politics
- \* The Churches have all made statements about how Christians should be involved in ending suffering – this requires being in politics.

## Welfare State

**Provides:** free education to under 18s, free health care, unemployment benefits, minimum wage, pensions etc.

Set up in 1944 to tackle problems of WANT (people living in poverty), DISEASE, IGNORANCE (not having access to education), SQUALOR, IDLENESS (unemployment)

### **Christian Basis:**

**10 commandments** – Make people think about the needs of others e.g. not steal, honour parents.

**Golden Rule** – Jesus told people to do unto others as they would wish done to them

**Parable of Sheep and Goats** – Duty of Christians to feed hungry, clothe naked, give drink to the thirsty – only way to do this is through the welfare state.