

Situation Ethics

Consider the following scenario with me. John is an outstanding football player and is the star quarterback for the local high school. His team is in the state championship game and has little chance of winning the game without him. His college career is also dependent upon a football scholarship as his parents cannot possibly afford to send him to school in their present financial situation.

It is the week before the big game and a mid-term exam in Algebra is scheduled. The problem is that John is doing poorly in Algebra and is in danger of flunking the course, which would make him ineligible for the game. He now faces a moral dilemma. Does he cheat so that he can remain eligible for the game? Can he cheat and continue his plans for college?

One's moral compass will determine the answer in such a situation. Those promoting the system known as "situation ethics" would loudly declare that it would not be wrong for John to cheat because so many others are depending upon him (teammates, coaches and parents). This is not even to mention that his collegiate plans depend upon the outcome.

How would we answer the question? For the child of God holding to God's standard, such would be seen as cheating and therefore a sin (lying, etc.). The situation cannot be used to offset that which God has declared to be wrong. God's word is the only true and dependable standard to be used to determine one's moral actions. May we be those who uphold that standard, especially when confronted with difficult decisions.

Outline:

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1. The Basis of Moral Decisions
2. The Results and Consequences of the Situation Ethics Model
3. What is the Biblical Answer for Moral Decisions?