

C. S. Lewis on Situation Ethics

- 1. **Who** was C. S. Lewis and what are his key ideas on situation ethics?
- 2. **How** do C. S. Lewis's key ideas on situation ethics work?
- 3. **Why** are C. S. Lewis's key ideas on situation ethics important?

1. **Who** was C. S. Lewis and what are his key ideas on situation ethics?

C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) was a British academic, author, and theologian who is most famous for writing The Chronicles of Narnia. He grew up in the United Kingdom, fought in World War I, and graduated from the University of Oxford in 1923 before teaching philosophy and English there. In 1931, he converted from atheism to Christianity, which inspired much of his theological writing for lay Christians. In 1954, he accepted the professorship of Medieval and Renaissance English at the University of Cambridge. Make a note about who he was and what he did.

C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)

C. S. Lewis introduced three key ideas about situation ethics (or, more specifically, the divine love (i.e. charity)) in his book, The Four Loves. Make a note about these three key ideas.

Key Ideas of C. S. Lewis on Situation Ethics

1

2

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2. **How** do C. S. Lewis's key ideas on situation ethics work?

C. S. Lewis's key ideas on situation ethics are not really about situation ethics at all; they are about love. However, even though Joseph Fletcher had not fully formulated situation ethics by the time *The Four Loves* was published, C. S. Lewis's key ideas about love dovetail with it. Explain how each of C. S. Lewis's key ideas works.

How the Key Ideas of C. S. Lewis on Situation Ethics Work		
Charity is the type of love that is embodied by God.	Charity motivates people to be good and do good.	Charity changes the natural loves into types fit for heaven.

3. **Why** are C. S. Lewis's key ideas on situation ethics important?

The key ideas of C. S. Lewis are important for three reasons in particular (although there are several others). Make a note about why his key ideas are important.

Why the Key Ideas of C. S. Lewis on Situation Ethics Are Important	
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3	