

Joseph Fletcher on Situation Ethics

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

1. **Who** was Joseph Fletcher and what are his key ideas on situation ethics?

Joseph Fletcher (1905-1991) was an American ethicist and Episcopal priest until he lapsed into atheism during the 1960s. Today, he is best known for pioneering the field of bioethics and writing the bestseller, Situation Ethics: The New Morality, which was received with a mixture of adulation and criticism at its publication in 1966. Over his career, he wrote 10 books and hundreds of academic articles, attended dozens of conferences, and taught prolifically. Make a note about who he was and what he did.

Joseph Fletcher (1905-1991)

Joseph Fletcher introduced three key ideas about situation ethics in his book, Situation Ethics: The New Morality. Make a note about these three key ideas.

Key Ideas of Joseph Fletcher on Situation Ethics

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2. **How** do Joseph Fletcher's key ideas on situation ethics work?

Joseph Fletcher's key ideas on situation ethics are primarily concerned with providing a compromise position between legalism and antinomianism, which he outlined in Situation Ethics: The New Morality. This led to the idea that ethical decision-making should be situational. Explain how each of Joseph Fletcher's key ideas works.

How the Key Ideas of Joseph Fletcher on Situation Ethics Work		
Legalism and antinomianism are extremist approaches to ethics.	Moral actions take their contexts into account.	Moral actions aim for their outcomes to maximise neighbourly love.

3. **Why** are Joseph Fletcher's key ideas on situation ethics important?

The key ideas of Joseph Fletcher 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 Joseph Fletcher on Situation Ethics Are Important	
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