

Neil Messer on Situation Ethics

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

1. **Who** is Neil Messer and what are his key ideas on situation ethics?

Neil Messer (b. 1965) is a British philosopher and theologian. In the 1990s, he completed a diploma in theology and began an ordained ministry in the United Reformed Church. Thereafter, he received a MA in Christian ethics from King's College London, became a lecturer at the University of Wales, and, in 2005, published his popular textbook, Christian Ethics. Since his forties, he has worked at the University of Winchester, formerly as a head of department and reader and latterly as a professor. Make a note about who he was and what he does.

Neil Messer (b. 1965)

Neil Messer introduced three key ideas about situation ethics in his book, Christian Ethics, although he sometimes communicated them implicitly. Make a note about these three key ideas.

Key Ideas of Neil Messer on Situation Ethics

1	
2	
3	

2. **How** do Neil Messer's key ideas on situation ethics work?

Neil Messer's key ideas on situation ethics suggest that it is irrelevant to Christian ethics and unimportant to the wider field. He did not always make these claims explicitly in Christian Ethics; however, he repeatedly implied that situation ethics is a highly unsatisfactory ethical theory. Explain how each of Neil Messer's key ideas works.

How the Key Ideas of Neil Messer on Situation Ethics Work		
Situation ethics no longer inspires academic interest.	Christian sources of authority do not support situation ethics.	Situation ethics sometimes rejects specific Christian ethical teachings.

3. **Why** are Neil Messer's key ideas on situation ethics important?

The key ideas of Neil Messer 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 Neil Messer on Situation Ethics Are Important	
1	
2	
3	