

# youthESource Bible Study

## Alones, but Never Alone

### Part One: Scripture and Christ Alone - Student Guide

by Sara Borgstede

#### What is Truth?

A popular teaching in our world today is Situational Ethics. Situational Ethics is the belief that decision making should be based upon the circumstances of a situation, not an absolute truth. (See <http://cyclopedia.lcms.org/display.asp?f1=s&word=SITUATIONALETHICS>) According to this theory, pioneered by Joseph Fletcher (1901-1991), an Episcopal priest, moral decisions are made based on each situation according to what seems best at the time and what seems to be most loving.

At first it sounds great to base a moral groundwork on love as the standard. After all, we all want to be as loving as possible. Fletcher even used Bible verses (1 John 4:8) to support his ideas.

Do you have ideas for what difficulties could arise with this system of life philosophy?

Perhaps you have seen this popular bumper sticker:



(<http://flickr.com/photos/pbyrne/165212878/>)

What do you think this Coexist slogan means? What are your thoughts about seeing the Christian cross along with the other religious symbols?

In addition to Situational Ethics (choose whatever is right for the current situation), another popular belief in our world today is Religious Tolerance, a belief that "all roads lead to God" or all religions have truth within them and should be equally accepted, such as is symbolized in the bumper sticker above.

What outcomes do you see with Religious Tolerance?

Let's learn about God's view of truth. Read the following passages with a partner and summarize what the verse says about the Bible.

2 Peter 1:20-21: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 3:16-17: \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 2:13: \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 2:8: \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:26: \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 55:11: \_\_\_\_\_

*Sola Scriptura*, by Scripture alone, means the Bible is our only source of ultimate truth. Reading these passages, what is your overall understanding of how the Holy Spirit works through the words of the Bible?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. This passage can be somewhat tricky because Paul talks about becoming "all things to all people" in order to win people for Jesus. Some people have used this Bible verse over the years to justify shady or sinful behaviors in order to try to win people for Christ.

What do you think Paul meant by "being all things to all people"?

Think of people in your life who are not Christians. How can you relate to them so they can understand your faith, yet not compromise your values and beliefs?

The key theme through all of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, is that Christ is our Savior, or *Solus Christus*, through Christ alone.

Read Acts 4:10-13. What do Peter and John proclaim about Jesus as they stand before the rulers and elders?

Note vs. 13. What do the people notice about Peter and John and what impresses them? How can this encourage us?

### **Closing Activity:**

The Word of the Lord will not return void! Find ways to make God's Word part of your everyday life and those moments spent will be invested forever.

\*Choose 2 verses from those we read today to write on index cards. Put them on your bathroom or bedroom mirror, or somewhere you will see them every day.

\*Program an alarm on your phone to remind you to read your Bible for 10 minutes every morning or at night before you go to bed.

\*Check out the You Version Bible App for Bible Reading Plans to read part of the Bible every day.

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