OCR H573 | INDEPENDENT REVISION

A* Model Essay

Christian Moral Principles

Christian Thought

Should the Bible be sufficient on its own for Christian moral decision-making?

1,620 response words | Complete annotated PDF | Individual topic edition

What is included

A complete original response, an argument plan, paragraph-level AO1/AO2 annotations and source works for further reading.

A* describes the intended style of this teaching model. This is independently written, not an OCR-marked script or a guaranteed grade.

Use this model to study argument and evaluation, then write your own answer. Do not submit it as your own assessed work.

Individual-use digital edition | 10 November 2026

Argument plan

Should the Bible be sufficient on its own for Christian moral decision-making?

Thesis: The Bible should be a central and normative source of Christian moral formation, but it cannot function as an uninterpreted decision manual. Scripture needs historically informed interpretation, rational judgement, communal criticism and a conscience accountable to the Christian command of love.

1. Scripture gives Christian ethics an identity and authority beyond personal preference.

Counter-argument: Genre, historical distance and internal diversity prevent simple extraction of universal rules.

Interim judgement: Biblical centrality is defensible; interpretation-free sufficiency is not.

2. Reason and natural law help apply moral principles to unfamiliar circumstances.

Counter-argument: They can disguise disputed cultural assumptions as universal nature.

Interim judgement: Reason must remain open to criticism rather than replace biblical authority with another infallible code.

3. Love, Church and conscience enable responsible contextual judgement.

Counter-argument: Love can become subjective and communal tradition can preserve injustice.

Interim judgement: A mutually accountable combination of sources is stronger than reliance on any isolated authority.