**Describe Christian Ethics**

Christian ethics are the set of moral principles which a Christian (a follower of Jesus of Nazareth) develops in order to make educated decisions regarding the ‘wrongs and rights’ within their daily life. Using the resources available, such as scripture, their own conscience, natural law, revealed law, eternal law and Church law, a Christian is able to determine their own personal set of ethics.

Christianity is fundamentally based upon a relationship between God and man. Christian ethics are determined through the interactions between God and his creations and are influenced greatly by the presence of God. They are also based on the belief that salvation through Christ will be found through the resurrection. Below is a table summarizing how each source of guidance influences how a Christian makes an informed ethical decision.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source of guidance** | **Elements of the source** |
| Conscience | This is the final decision maker for an individual and is informed by Church law and scripture |
| Natural law | Implanted in nature by the creator (God |
| Revealed law | Laws revealed throughout scripture and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as well as the Paul’s pastoral theology and the fundamental idea that life is sacred and teachings on love. |
| Eternal law | The human instinct to discern between moral rights and wrongs). This is the difference between humans and animals as this is also known as human reasoning |
| Church law | Church documents such as Vatican documents (Catholics), synods (Protestants) and also through the community (Orthodox) |