

What is the right thing to do?

Consequentialist

Utilitarianism : outcomes

extrinsic

Situation ethics : love

no absolute  
rights or  
wrongs

deontological - duty-based  
rule-based  
intrinsic - action itself

Divine revelation : laws of God

Natural Law : embedded in  
nature

Categorical Imperative : Immanuel  
Kant

These two modern approaches, although at two ends of the spectrum from each other, are both forms of *universal* ethics (in that they apply to anybody or everybody).

They are also both focused on *quandary* ethics, that is, on issues that interrupt "normal" life, which is by default assumed to be ethically fine.

Challenges to these ethics of modernity:

- Nietzsche: there is no ethics (for there is no God) -- only power, so strong people make the rules
- subversive ethics from the margins (socio-economic margins = Marxism, women = feminism, minority races and ethnicities = antiracism, sexual minorities = LGBTQ)

Postmodern (or critique of modern / post-critical / post-liberal) period but is opportunity for a retrieval of a more traditional Christian approach to ethics = ecclesial ethics / teleological ethics / virtue ethics

Not quandary or issue-based, but ethical vision of the whole of life, grounded in the full story of God, with the imagination to critique everything in the world and the hope to see a way to the peaceable kingdom of God