

# Understanding Ethics

**Introducing the Course**

**A Christian Ethical Perspective**

# Why ethics?

- 1) As humans, we are ethical beings
- 2) As media people, we make ethical decisions.
- 3) As fellow humans and as reflective media practitioners, we need to appreciate and understand ethics.

# What is ethics?

## *I. Ethics is a discipline of philosophy*

- Logic
- Epistemology
- Ontology
- Metaphysics
- Rhetorics
- Ethics

# What is ethics? (cont'd)

***II. The whole area of ethics raises many questions. Here are six ...***

Ethical...

- norms / principles?
- consequences?
- persons?
- dilemmas?
- foundations?
- motivations?

# What is ethics? (cont'd)

III. Our focus and our perspective:

## ***A Christian ethical perspective***

- *Everyone has a worldview*
  - *The worldview pyramid*
- *A classical Christian perspective*
  - *Mere Christianity*
  - *Evangelical tradition*
  - *Ethics as a discipline of systematic theology*
- *Provide with ethical / worldview resources*
  - *UCU motto and Foundation course*

# Introducing *A Christian Ethical Perspective*

1. This perspective has an *invitational* character
2. This perspective is introduced in a *pluralistic* context
3. This perspective is *rooted* in the fundamental biblical story
4. This perspective *starts* with God, His Authority, and His Revelation
5. This perspective is both '*inclusive*' and '*exclusive*'

# Discussion / Reflection

What are the most pressing ethical issues?

- 1) Society / culture at large?
- 2) News media / journalism profession?
- 3) Churches?
- 4) Families?
- 5) Individuals / persons?