

532 Case Study Procedures

Prior to the class period in which we discuss the case:

1. Read the case carefully to become thoroughly acquainted with all of the details under consideration. Be sure to identify the theological issue(s) in the case.
2. Construct a rough time line of the events that led to the situation being considered (simply draw or write it out in your book).
3. Using a high lighter, identify all of the significant characters in the case.

On your worksheet . . .

. . . list the major sets of factors involved in choosing a course of action.

4. Decision(s) faced (front of worksheet): what decision does is the person being asked to make? Include any contextual specifics of relevance (i.e., important factors in the immediate context of the case study such as deadlines, impending dangers, etc.);
5. Phenomenological analysis (front of worksheet):
 - a. From the various perspectives (when relevant), how might insights from each of the dimensions of religion (see Case Studies Supplement) help in the decision-making process for the case? Highlight what you consider to be the two to three most significant issues.
 - b. Especially in the social dimension, what *cultural* and *institutional pressures* are present in the social institutions? For the institutional pressures, refer to the Case Studies Supplement.
6. Root(s) of the problem (back of worksheet): Based on your phenomenological analysis, what would you say are the root(s) of the problem at hand?
7. Relevant Scriptural guidelines:
 - a. What are the most significant and *relevant* scriptural texts, principles, case studies, and guidelines which must be weighed in the decision-making process? List ideas together with appropriate biblical references. You should have at least five references, with at least 2 from the Old Testament.
 - b. Are there non-Scriptural principles which are being promoted as Scriptural? What are they, and why are they inappropriate?
8. Identify what you consider to be the one best solution. For that solution, propose
 - a. What the solution is and
 - b. How that solution may be implemented, involving a specific course of action (how the main character in the case study would implement the proposed solution). This course of action should accord with scriptural principles, be culturally sensitive, and focus on the central issue(s) of the case.

During class time . . .

I will use a variety of methods to split you into groups and discuss the case. You may write corrections, clarifications, new thoughts, etc. on your Worksheet, but write them in a different color from your pre-class work.