

When we explain something we try to make clear, with reasons, how some idea connects with other ideas.

For example, consider the following question:

“Explain what is meant by saying that Situation Ethics lies somewhere between antinomianism and legalism”.

What are the key terms here? And how might they be related?

Situationism means deciding case by case according to the circumstances how the one norm (value of goodness) of **agape** love applies. This means we take all circumstances into account and focus on the individuals affected by a decision, rather than looking first at the rule (**legalism**) or arguing that no norm or rule applies at all (**antinomianism**). For example, with **Divine Command Theory**, we follow rules because we think the rules themselves contain the essence of goodness, in the case of divine commands, because the author of the rules is God himself. With **antinomianism**, there are no fixed rules at all, and no moral norms of goodness accepted as absolutely good. But situation ethics is not antinomian: there is one, unconditional, universal norm (value of goodness) – **agape**.

Using the hints in the above paragraph, try writing your own answer to the question.