“Decision Cases for Christians in Social Work”

Thank you for taking part in this home study text-based course. The purpose of this course is to help practitioners, particularly social work educators, gain a better understanding of the benefits and drawbacks of utilizing case methods of teaching matters of religion, spirituality, and faith.

There is debate regarding the justification of integrating open-ended case methods in order to teach ethical practice to social work students. While these cases allow students to discuss and apply theory and problem solving techniques to practice, they also allow for the potential legitimization of issues that are relative. The articles chosen for this course address the place of the case discussion in the classroom, and its’ purpose in the instruction of Christian social workers, in particular.

The following text-based course contains two separate readings pertaining to the use of decision cases in teaching Christian social work in the classroom. The first article you will read is *Is the Case Method bad for your Ethics? Exploring Ethical, Theoretical, and Factual Justifications for Practice* by David Sherwood. The second article presented is *Preparing Social Work Students for Practice with Religious Congregations Within the Context of Charitable Choice: The Grace House Ministry (A)* by Michael E. Sherr and Terry A. Wolfer. Contact information for each author can be provided upon request.

At the conclusion of each article, you can find a complete reference section to support the readings.

After completing this course, you will be able to:

1. List at least three benefits of utilizing decision cases in general social work instruction.
2. Explain one way in which social work education can utilize decision cases in a Christian context.