

## Introduction to Situation Ethics: 4 Sticky Dilemmas!

Joseph Fletcher, the founder of situation ethics thinks that each of these problems is solvable using his system. Discuss them in pairs thinking about what you think a Christian would suggest and what you think might be the right thing to do. Is there a difference between the two answers?

1. **Altruistic Adultery:** A German mother of two captured by the Russians near the end of World War 2. The rules of her Ukrainian prison camp allowed her release to Germany only in the event of pregnancy, in which case she would be returned as a liability. So the woman asked a friendly camp guard to impregnate her. She was sent back to Germany, was welcomed by her family, gave birth to the baby, and made him part of their reunited family. Was her adultery justified?
2. **Patriotic Prostitution:** A young woman working for a US intelligence agency was asked to lure an enemy spy into blackmail using her sexuality. In disguise as a secretary, she was to become involved with a married man working for a rival power. When she protested that she couldn't compromise her integrity in this way by offering sex for hire, she was told, "It's like your brother risking life and limb on the front line. We are sure this can't be done any other way." She was patriotic and wanted to serve her country. Was this the right thing to do?
3. **Sacrificial Suicide:** A man who is seriously ill has the choice of expensive medicine, which will deplete his family's finances and cause his insurance to lapse, in order to live three more years. Alternatively he could refuse the medicine, die in six months time, thereby leaving financial provision for his family. (There is no NHS in America!) What is the right thing to do?
4. **Acceptable Abortion:** An unmarried schizophrenic patient becomes pregnant after being raped by a fellow patient. Her father requested abortion but this was refused by hospital staff on the grounds that it was illegal to carry out an abortion on non-therapeutic grounds. (America in the 1960s) Was this the right decision?

