**Ethical Response to the Problem of Undocumented Immigrants Today: Christian Ethics**



Undocumented immigrants today are complex and contentious, with ethical implications that demand careful consideration. As Christians, it is essential to approach this issue from the perspective of Christian ethics, which is grounded in biblical teachings and moral principles.

In this essay, we will explore the ethical response to the problem of undocumented immigrants through the lens of Christian ethics, focusing on the theory of conflicting absolutism. We will examine the ethical implications of this theory and discuss how it can guide our understanding and response to the issue. Drawing upon the work of Norman L. Geisler's "Christian Ethics," scriptural references, and additional scholarly sources, we will present a comprehensive ethical analysis of the problem of undocumented immigrants today.

**Ethical Implications of Conflicting Absolutism: Undocumented Immigrants Today and Christian Response**

**Theory of Conflicting Absolutism**

According to the ethical theory of conflicting absolutism, conflicting moral absolutes exist in some circumstances. This idea holds that there are instances when two or more moral obligations or principles conflict, leading to a moral problem. Such situations make it challenging to adhere rigorously to one moral principle without compromising another. The complexity of ethical decision-making is acknowledged by conflicting absolutism, highlighting the value of wisdom and discernment.

**Ethical Implications**

We come into several ethical consequences when we apply contradictory absolutism to the issue of unauthorized immigration. On the one hand, there is the moral requirement to respect the law and defend the ideals of justice. Immigration laws and regulations are in place to uphold law and order and safeguard a country's sovereignty. Justice and the rule of law may be violated by breaking these laws.

On the other hand, there is the moral requirement of generosity and hospitality. Christianity's primary message is that believers should love their neighbors, care for the weak, and provide grace to those in need. Undocumented immigrants frequently escape dangerous situations in search of safety, better prospects, and a shot at a respectable life. Ignoring their predicament might be compared to breaking the moral obligations of compassion and love.

**Scriptural Direction**

Christian ethics must be based on biblical doctrine, and when it comes to how we should treat immigrants, the Bible offers direction and moral standards that guide our conduct. Various passages in the Bible stress the significance of treating strangers with respect, love, and justice.

The foreigner living among you must be to you as one of your own, says the Lord your God, according to Leviticus 19:34. You were outsiders in Egypt; therefore, love them as you love yourself. Christians are called to have sympathy and compassion towards immigrants in light of this passage's reminder of their history as aliens in a strange place. Furthermore, Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan highlights the significance of being merciful and welcoming to those in need, irrespective of their nationality or legal standing.

Useful Application

Christian ethics must be used daily to address societal concerns like illegal immigration rather than remaining a theoretical concept. Given the complex ethical issues, a Christian response should aim for a well-rounded strategy that upholds justice and compassion. This could entail supporting comprehensive immigration reform that attends to the underlying problems of unauthorized immigration and immigrants' immediate needs and vulnerabilities. Providing resources, legal counsel, and assistance to undocumented immigrants today is another possible way to demonstrate the compassion and love that Christ commands us to have for them.

A careful analysis of Christian ethics, based on biblical teachings, moral principles, and academic discoveries, is necessary to address the ethical issue of undocumented immigrants in today's society. A helpful framework for resolving the challenging moral problems in this situation is conflicting absolutism. As Christians, we are responsible for promoting justice while showing kindness and hospitality to those in need. We may work to alleviate the problems caused by unauthorized immigration in a way that shows our dedication to Christian ethics by putting these ideas into practice and taking practical actions.

**Bibliography:**

Bible Study Tools. (2019). *New International Version Bible - Read Free Online*. [online] Available at: [https://www.biblestudytools.com/niv/.](https://www.biblestudytools.com/niv/)

Geisler, N.L. (2010). *Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues and Options*. 2nd edition ed. [online] *Amazon*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic. Available at: <https://www.amazon.com/Christian-Ethics-Contemporary-Issues-Options/dp/0801038790>

**Additional Sources:**

Reference list

MuñozJ.E., Ochieng’ NyongóT.A. and Chambers-Letson, J.T. (2020). *The sense of brown*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Soerens, M., Yang, J. and Anderson, L. (2009). *We welcome the Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate*. First Edition ed. [online] *Amazon*. IVP. Available at: <https://www.amazon.com/Welcoming-Stranger-Justice-Compassion-Immigration/dp/0830833595>

Wiley.com. (n.d.). *Christian Ethics: A Brief History | Wiley*. [online] Available at: [https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Christian+Ethics%3A+A+Brief+History-p-9781405115186](https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Christian%2BEthics%3A%2BA%2BBrief%2BHistory-p-9781405115186)