



A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE ETHICS, ST. JOSEPH HEALTH SYSTEM, ORANGE CALIFORNIA

ETHICAL DIMENSIONS

A NEWSLETTER ADDRESSING THE INDIVIDUAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIETAL DIMENSIONS OF ETHICS

Issue #18

Should the Pastor Take Hooters' Money?

Summer 1996

The management of Hooters, a national restaurant chain, encourages its restaurants to donate money to local charities. This wins them applause. They also expect the young women that work at Hooters to wear skimpy clothes, basing their image on this concept. Critics see this as degrading and sexist. Responding to Hooters' critics, a local pastor who receives money for his program for underprivileged kids through Hooters' charitable work, says, "We try not to get into that side of life. We just accept their money. We don't judge. Our role is to be thankful and gracious."

This case can be considered from the perspectives of individual ethics, institutional ethics, and societal ethics. Please answer the following questions in these areas using this scale:

↔ 1 strongly agree ↔ 2 agree ↔ 3 not sure ↔ 4 disagree ↔ 5 strongly disagree

| Individual Issues | Institutional Issues | Societal Issues |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1. If I were the pastor, I would accept the money.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>1. The Lutheran Church should have a policy about such issues.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>1. Whatever it does, the Church will send a strong message to society.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> |
| <p>2. I'd be comfortable if my daughter were a Hooters waitress.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>2. The Church should accept the money and tell the public why.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>2. Accepting the money will deepen societal exploitation of women.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> |
| <p>3. I think that Hooters' approach exploits women.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>3. The Church should reject the money and tell the public why.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>3. Accepting the money would legitimize Hooters in society.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> |
| <p>4. I think that Hooters' critics are prudes.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>4. The Church can find much biblical support for accepting the money.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>4. Accepting the money has no societal impact of importance.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> |
| <p>5. Better to give this money to charity than to stock holders.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>5. The Church can find much biblical support for rejecting the money.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> | <p>5. Accepting the money will deepen public cynicism about religion.</p> <p>↔ 1 ↔ 2 ↔ 3 ↔ 4 ↔ 5</p> |



**OPINIONS AND FEELINGS ARE FREQUENTLY A PERSONAL TRIUMPH OVER GOOD THINKING
YOU DEFINE REALITY BY WHAT YOU KNOW, WHAT YOU BELIEVE, AND WHAT YOU DO ABOUT IT.**