

## **THEO 204: Study Guide Questions:**

In conjunction with class lectures and your own reading of Kenneth Melchin's book, *Living with Other People*, you are required to answer the following questions (each question corresponds to one chapter as indicated):

### **Chapter 1**

Imagine that you are returning merchandise to a large department store. The value of the merchandise is \$500. As you are returning the goods, you notice what you think is an error on the part of the clerk. Instead of crediting your account the proper \$500 amount, the clerk credits your account with \$1,000.

In order to come to a correct understanding of what has happened in this example which will allow you to decide what it is you should do, identify how the five operations of moral questioning found in Chapter one play out in this example:

What is it?

Is it so?

What am I going to do?

Is that action the right thing to do?

Are you going to do it?

### **Chapter 2**

Describe the characteristics of drunk driving by answering the following questions:

What are the contexts?

What might be some of the intentions of a drunk driver?

What are the larger social structures that are affected by drunk driving?

Explain the moral characteristics of drunk driving in terms of the three meanings of the term good (personal desire, social order, and longer range progress or decline of the social order (social structure) itself).

### **Chapter 3**

Describe a situation, either from your own experience or someone you know, where a moral act led to freedom. Explain why you think the moral act led to freedom. In your explanation, refer to the four 'types' of freedom that Melchin explains in Chapter three.

### **Chapter 4**

Drawing on Melchin's explanation in Chapter four, in what sense is there a distinctive Christian Ethics, or a Christian understanding of responsibility? Be specific in your answer. How has this distinctiveness played itself out in a story from your own life or in someone you know about, whether in fiction or real life?

### **Chapter 5**

Identify an event or cluster of events in which you can see the three historical forces (progress, decline and redemption) actually at work in the event. Explain each of these 'forces' and also how they interact with each other.