

- 1) “[T]he most specific form of _____ law which “mandate explicit behavior for specific situations” (answer – casuistic) (p.162-163)

Hollinger explains that casuistic laws are “case laws used to adjudicate conflicts and problems in the civic life of the Hebrew people. They can also be understood as applications of the primary moral law rather than the heart of God’s moral designs”. (p.163) Exodus 21-23 reportedly has the most well-known casuistic law in the Bible”, however, “similar laws are found in the Holiness Code (Leviticus 17-26) and Deuteronomic Code (Deuteronomy 12-25) (p.163)

- 2) “ _____ laws are straightforward regulations in the form of divine commands”.
(answer – apodictic) (p.164)

According to Hollinger, “these laws contain some specificity of action, but both the setting and the behavior elicited are much broader than casuistic” and “entail some form of human deliberation in application to real life issues”. (p.164) The Ten Commandments are identified as the best known form of apodictic laws. (p.164)

- 3) “ _____ are general foundational perspectives and guidelines for human behavior”.
(answer – principles) (p.166)

Principles are “[d]uties, ideals, responsibilities, and life orientations that are set forth in broad terms”. (p.166) According to Hollinger principles “overlap” with apodictic laws but are less specific. (p.166) “While a principle guides human behavior, the virtue side of a principle focuses on character and internal disposition”. (p.166) The Book of Proverbs is identified as an example of principles. (p.166)

4) “Biblical _____ are basic understandings of life and theology that contain within them implied directions for ethics”. (answer paradigms) (p.169).

According to Hollinger, paradigms “are broad understandings of reality drawn from throughout Scripture or a given text” that are “indicative statements pointing to worldview understandings”. (p.169). The doctrine of the “trinity” is identified as an example of a paradigm. (p.169)

5) _____ have become a focus in biblical interpretation but should be interpreted in the context in the “overarching story of the Bible”. (answer – narratives) (p.171)

Hollinger points out that “stories and narratives contain a richness in their human touch, imaginary appeal, and relevance to life” but notes they should be assessed “in light of other forms of moral guidance such as biblical laws, principles, paradigms and other narratives in which ethical norms are clearly defined”. (p.172)

This is the second chapter in a section regarding the methods of ethical decision making by Christians. To me this chapter is the most significant as it regarding the application and interpretation of the Bible – the word of God to our decisions as Christians. It is significant as it focused on “five forms of moral guidance” based on the Bible. (p.162). Prior to reading this chapter, I did not know all five of these forms by name. I find that when I define something, it helps me to notice it and apply and I know that studying these forms which enrich my reading of the Bible.