

## 5-3-1 Assignment Chapter 2

### Questions

1. How is morality viewed from the theory of character ethics?
2. What is Aristotle's golden mean?
3. Why can Christian ethics never be divorced from theology?
4. What is one positive and one negative aspect of character/virtue ethics?
5. Why have some people claimed that character/virtue ethics is relativistic?

### Answers

1. Essentially, morality is a unique way of seeing the world which is influenced by narratives that sustain people living in community with one another.
2. It reveals that virtue should be an equal balance between an excess and a defect.
3. According to Hauerwas, theology provides the praxis for how Christian doctrine and praxis inform Christian's understanding of self and the world around them.
4. A positive aspect is that Christians affirm that ethics is more than just doing the right thing, but a negative aspect is that it overemphasizes the necessity of narrative instead of including other resources.
5. When strictly focused on the narrative of a community, there is a postmodern assumption that all claims for truth are moot or inherited.

### Terms

1. Character – the inner and distinctive core of a person from which moral discernment, decisions, and actions are determined
2. *telos* – the ultimate goal or end of something
3. *eudaimonia* – the state of being well and doing well

### Summary

In this chapter, Hollinger introduces and provides critiques on character or virtue ethics; which view ethics more so on *who* a person is versus *what* a person has done. In this theory, narratives and communities play a heavy role deciding what is morally ethical and what is not. Thus, this view of ethics affirms that there is more than just doing the right thing because everything fits into the larger narrative of reality. However, while there are positive aspects of this theory, character ethics is still limited in its ability to establish a proper foundation for the moral life.