

**5-3-1 Assignment / Herve Talom
Hollinger, Dennis P, Ch. 2, Feb 1st, 2023**

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one benefit of Historical Theology as a discipline?
2. What is the synchronic approach in Historical Theology?
3. Besides inspiring the writing of scripture, what is another work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers that also involves scripture?
4. What is one of the other forms of theology to which Historical Theology relates?
5. What does Historical Theology offer theologians engaged in doing theology today?

ANSWERS:

1. The foundation of ethics in this approach resides within the community and its narratives; the essence of ethics is character and the virtues that form it.
2. Moral life is not about decisions but involves a kind of imaginative ordering of our metaphors and narratives about God, ourselves, and the world.
3. As Christians, we must assert that there is a transcendent reality beyond the community's self-understanding and that reality can be known and experienced through God's self-disclosure in the written and incarnate Word.
4. Character or virtue ethics argues that the traditional approaches of consequentialism and principal ethics are wrong in their foundations and methodologies and ask the wrong question about ethics and moral life.
5. The critical issue is not. What ought we do? However, rather What ought we to be? Ethics, therefore, can never be autonomous and can never be done outside a real-life history of a community that carries on the moral tradition.

TERMS:

Virtue Ethics: Theories that emphasize the role of character and virtue in moral philosophy rather than doing one's duty or acting to bring about good consequences.

Moral virtues: are exemplified by courage, temperance, and liberality; the essential intellectual virtues are wisdom, which governs ethical behavior, and understanding.

Deontological ethics holds that at least some acts are morally obligatory regardless of their consequences for human welfare.

SUMMARY:

In the previous chapter, Hollinger laid the foundation and definition of ethics from the Christian perspective. In the current chapter, he addresses the Character or virtue ethics. Hollinger states that character or virtue ethics comes much closer to a good approach and foundation than consequentialism or deontological ethics. In addition, he provides a set of questions to foster understanding -Why be moral at all? What is the basis for saying that one virtue, disposition, or action is more laudable than another? How do we respond, as a people shaped in Christian character, to the challenging, complex moral issues that call for a decision?