

Questions

1. What is modernity?
 - a. Modernity is defined as the epoch with the rise of a series of new scientific, philosophical, and technological understandings about the world and humans' capabilities of controlling and impacting the world.
2. What is the difference between rationalism and empiricism?
 - a. Whereas rationalism argues that knowledge comes from reason alone, empiricism argues that knowledge comes from human experiences.
3. What is one common assumption about technology in the modern world?
 - a. A common assumption is that as humans, we can control it; however, technology has a logic and manner of its own and it can be argued that it controls the users—us.
4. What is one way which pluralization affects Christian ethics?
 - a. Pluralization encourages a tolerance and acceptance of various truths which conflicts with Christian ethics and perspectives on truth and morality.
5. How does Hollinger define the privatization of religion?
 - a. Privatization of religion is defined by Hollinger as the complete separation of the public and private religious spheres and generation of conflicting perspectives and experiences due to this division.

Terms

empiricism: perspective that knowledge based on human experiences

technology: modern science and tools and the thought process behind the usage of such science and tools

secularization: the separation of religion as an impact on shaping societal thinking

Summary

The fourth chapter speaks on Christian ethics in the modern world. Hollinger discusses three components of the modern world: intellectual, technological, and sociological, and their impacts onto morality and Christian ethics. As far as the intellectual components, it involves the idea of truth and the human capability to find and define truth. Christian ethics is at odds with secular ethics of truth as it is rooted in religious truth. Technologically speaking, as technology advances, it creates various ethical issues regarding science, nature, and life. Christian ethics wrestles with the modern ideas surrounding technology and how it can and should be used. Lastly, sociologically, as the modern world has become more secular, it becomes more at odds with Christian ethics based on religion.