

Questions

1. What is the central message of postmodernity?
 - a. The main theme of postmodernity is that there practically no meaning in anything and knowledge handed down to us is irrelevant as we the selves should discover it on our own.
2. What has caused fragmentation according to Hollinger?
 - a. The methods of deconstructionism, questioning of narratives, and subjectivity have made way for thinking to become fragmented.
3. How does the virtue of tolerance collide with Christian ethics?
 - a. Tolerance has become the ultimate virtue in postmodernity, but it is a wavering virtue which does not reflect the fixed stance behind Christian ethics.
4. How does Hollinger define the triumph of the therapeutic?
 - a. The triumph of the therapeutic symbolizes the shift to a school of thought regarding the important of the self, self-actualization, and internal values.
5. What is one concern with taking postmodernity seriously as a Christian?
 - a. One of the biggest concerns for Christians is that postmodernity questions the metanarrative; whereas, Christians hold the metanarrative of creation and the Bible as the forming of all of their ethics.

Terms

deconstructionism: a method of thinking relating to context and its meaning or lack thereof.

metanarrative: an overarching narrative about stories of history, knowledge, human experiences, and overall meaning

fragmentation: the intake of fragments into the world and basing perceptions and realities based off of these fragments.

Summary

The fifth chapter speaks on Christian ethics in the context of postmodernity. Hollinger discusses intellectual thinking behind the ideas of postmodernity and morality. These ideas include deconstructionism, the questioning of metanarratives, the questioning of social constructs of reality, and the power of the self. These core ideas lead to trends in a postmodern world including fragmentation, tolerance, and the importance of the individual. Hollinger summarizes how Christian ethics and the church have to be wary of the postmodern context without any stable foundation. Whereas postmodernity values no one manner of thinking or being, Christianity places its entire value on the Bible, the church, and morality.