

5-3-1 Assignment Week 6: Three Motifs for Making Ethical Decisions**QUESTIONS**

1. Deliberative approaches come in a variety of forms. How should we evaluate them?
2. What are the imperfections and enigmas the deliberative motif contains regarding making ethical decisions?
3. What are the two forms of prescriptive approach identified by Edward L. Long?
4. Thomas Aquinas argued that four kinds of law are intimately related. What are they?
5. What are three touchstones that must be met for a war to be justifiable according to Aquinas?

ANSWERS

1. First, the Bible affirms that nature can reveal God's design. A second benefit of the deliberative approach is that it reflects historical experiences. (pg. 134)
2. This approach overestimates rationality as a guide, which is one of its main criticism. In addition, ethics tends to be separated from broader worldviews. Although being a means of making ethical decisions, appeal to natural law can breed an autonomous ethics that is disconnected from God and the Biblical drama of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation. Lastly, Natural law lacks clear consensus on its content. (pg.135)
3. Adherence to principles and adherence to codes. (pg.135)
4. Eternal Law, Natural Law, Human or Positive Law, and Divine Law. (pg. 130)
5. Firstly, a legitimate authority must declare war. Secondly, cause and effect must be present. Thirdly, there must be honest intentions, specifically the advancement of good and the avoidance of evil. (pg. 131)

TERMS

1. Deliberative Motif- involves an appeal to reason. (pg.128)
2. Prescriptive Motif -relies on explicit statements in Scripture (pg. 128)
3. Relational Motif- involves God's more immediate and direct leading. (pg. 128)

SUMMARY

The notions of what is right, wrong, virtuous, and repugnant differ from person to person. Nowadays, the emphasis has changed from moral transformation to self-actualization, from therapy to discipline, and from self-esteem to moral constraint in ethical decision-making. Postmodernity and modernity continue to challenge Christian worldviews.