

## 5-3-1 Assignment Chapter 6

### Questions

1. What are some of the ways students of ethics have responded to engaging ethical decisions?
2. What is the assumption that the deliberative approach makes in ethical decision-making?
3. According to the prescriptive motif, what does one look to in ethical decision-making?
4. How did Karl Barth, employing the relational motif, view ethics in relation to human redemption?
5. How does ethics and a personal relationship with God relate to one another?

### Answers

1. Some employ reason and common sense (deliberative), some appeal to Scripture (prescriptive) and some rely on the direct and immediate leading of God and His Spirit (relational).
2. That reason can be a moral guide because God has implanted a natural law within human consciousness that all can comprehend.
3. A person will look to explicit rules or principles that are derived from divine revelation.
4. Ethics is a gift of divine grace, not a burden, and could never exist apart from God's redemption and direct, gracious command.
5. Ethics in experience ought to be an overflow of justifying grace, the empowerment of the Spirit, the reflection or imitation with Christ within us, and the moral enablement of the Christian community.

### Terms

1. natural law – the portion of eternal law known by all human beings
2. epistemology – a theory of knowledge that reflects on the methods and a distinction between justified belief and opinion
3. paradigm – a typical model or rhythm of something; a pattern

### Summary

In this chapter, Hollinger introduces and expounds on how three different motifs (deliberative, prescriptive and relational) have influenced ethical decision making. In formulating ethical norms and moral decisions, some people have relied on reason and common sense, explicit references to Scripture and the spontaneous work and leading of God. While believers have made ethical decision from these various impulses, due to the complexity of this pluralistic world, the experiential component of Christian living must also be analyzed. These motifs have influenced Christian thought and scholars over the ages.