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5-3-1 Quiz – Three Motifs for Making Ethical Decisions
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Fill in the blanks:

1. _____ motif speaks to all people, not just Christians who accept divine revelation.
2. The best examples of the deliberative motif are _____ as he believed humans can be guided by reason because God is ultimate or pure reason, and as beings made in his image, we reflect something of that pure rationality.
3. Human behavior has habits that are good called _____ and other habits considered bad are called _____.
4. Thomas Aquinas believed there are four kinds of laws that have an intimate relation to one another _____, _____, _____, and _____.
5. Two forms of the prescriptive approach are _____ and _____.

Answers:

1. Deliberative
2. Thomas Aquinas
3. Virtue/ Vices
4. Eternal, natural, human or positive, and divine laws.
5. Adherence to principles and adherence to codes.

Definitions:

1. **Deliberative motif:** rests on the assumption that reason can be a moral guide because God has implanted a natural law within human consciousness that all can comprehend.
2. **Habit:** Implies a disposition in relation to a thing's nature, and to its operation or end, by reason of which disposition a thing is well or ill-disposed thereto.
3. **Prescriptive motif:** Appeals to the statements of Scripture or the life and teachings of Jesus as concrete guidance in prescribing ethical behavior.

Summary:

Chapter 6 in Hollinger's book discusses the three motifs for making ethical decisions as deliberative, prescriptive, and relational. He highlights historical and contemporary theologians, like St. Thomas Aquinas, C.S. Lewis, John Calvin, Carl Henry, Richard Mouw, John Yoder, Karl Barth, and Rosemary Ruether, to name a few. Hollinger argues that throughout History all Christians believers have made moral decisions through these three motifs. He further argues that although they all have a place, it is with the priority of modified prescriptivism as it defines moral life is rooted in the nature and actions of the triune God through experience of divine grace and broader than just moral law and principle.