TH604: Christian Ethics: OA

Spring 2023

Choosing the Good, Chapter 6

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Questions

1. What are the three motifs for making ethical decisions?
2. What is one biblical support for the Deliberative motif?
3. Which deliberative motif proponent's ethical views have been emerged in ethical discussions?
4. What is Richard Mouw's view of God's command?
5. What is significant about the relational motif?

Answers

1. They are deliberative, relational, and prescriptive motifs.
2. The author asserts that Romans 1:19-20 affirms that humanity has some knowledge of God.
3. James Gustafson's use of the deliberative motif and scientific understanding has been increasingly evident among other ethicists in recent years, i.e., bioethics, sexual ethics (133).
4. That it comes in much broader terms than usually thought.
5. Moral decisions are tied to the leading of God.

Terms

- **Deliberative Motif** - God has implanted a natural law within human consciousness that all can comprehend (128).
- **Natural law** - eternal law known by humans according to Aquinas.
- **Relational Motif** - Ethical decisions based on God's leading.

Summary

The basis of Christian Ethics and moral decision making is Scripture. While prescriptive and relational motifs are appropriate for decision making, as well as sound human reasoning given believers are mature and possess the mind of Christ, the approaches must be balanced and not legalistic or presumptive.