

5-3-1 Assignment Week 7: The Bible in Ethical Decisions

QUESTIONS

1. When using the bible in ethical decision-making, what are the five hermeneutical issues?
2. In _____, the Bible is the inspired Word of God that though addressed to particular contexts, people, and issues of a given time, nonetheless speaks to contexts, people, and issues of another time.
3. What constitutes the primary law of God?
4. The primary principle found in Exodus 20:8 “*Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy,*” is twofold. What are they?
5. _____ are basic perceptions of life and theology that include subtle guidelines for ethics.

ANSWERS

1. First, The Bible does not resolve many contemporary issues. (pg. 154) Second, The issues addressed in Scripture are not always the same as those we face today. (pg. 156) Third, shifting from the Old Testament to the New Testament. (pg.156) Fourth, An analysis of the relationship between the particularity of the text and its universality. (pg. 160) Finally, the usage of difficult issues with various Biblical Principles and Paradigms. (pg. 161)
2. Classical View (pg.152)
3. The Decalogue/The Ten Commandments (pg.164)
4. First, we should reserve a day to rest and cultivate ourselves in worship with God. Second, we should take a break from work to take care of our bodies, soul, and mind. Scripture also applies the meaning of this commandment to stewardship of the land, care for the disenfranchised, and economic justice. (Exodus 23:10-13). (pg. 165)
5. Biblical Paradigms (pg. 169)

TERMS

1. Casuistic Law- is based on precedents and is usually in the form of ‘if/then’ conditional statements. Moral principles are applied to determine right and wrong in particular situations. Often contrasted with apodictic law (pg. 162)
2. Apodictic Law- encompasses straightforward policy in the form of divine commands. Entails some form of human consideration when applying to real-world issues. The Decalogue is a prime example. (pg. 164)
3. Principles – a fundamental point of view and criterion for human behavior. They are responsibilities, ideals, and life orientations outlined in vast terms. They can be imperative or indicative, and often contain a scope implementation due to their common nature. (pg. 166)

SUMMARY

Ethics is concerned with the ways we ought to lead our lives. Scriptures underscore the universal principles and eternal commandments intended to steer our lives toward what honors God but it is not always easy to match a Bible verse with a problem. Careful attention must be given to discerning the commands, principles, and virtues that apply in a particular context.