

## Questions

1. What is one way in which the Bible is used for Christian ethics as described by Hollinger?
  - a. Hollinger describes how various Christians interpret the Bible differently as far as ethics and some individuals see the Bible as the ultimate authority as a list of moral codes.
2. How does Hollinger counter the argument that the Bible does not address many contemporary issues?
  - a. While the Bible does not explicitly speak to modern issues, the text can still be interpreted broadly and provide a framework of guidance.
3. Summarize the hermeneutical issue of moving from the Old Testament to the New Testament.
  - a. While the Old Testament contains much of the expectations and laws of God, the New Testament demonstrates an unfolding of the era of grace creating a seeming disconnect in approaching ethical dilemmas.
4. How can biblical paradigms guide Christians in regard to ethics?
  - a. Hollinger states that biblical paradigms are essentially theological teachings which carry ethical significance in nature and help us navigate morality.
5. What is one strength in using moral examples and narratives in the Bible as ethical guidance?
  - a. One strength is the proximity of humanness and being able to insert ourselves into real situations using imagination and humanity.

## Terms

hermeneutical: pertaining to the ideology of interpretation of biblical text.

casuistic law: a type of case law in the Hebrew text which usually is depicted in the form of if/then conditional statements.

apodictic law: a type of law in the Hebrew text surrounding regulations in the form of divine commands such as in the 10 commandments.

## Summary

The seventh chapter discusses the Bible in ethical decision-making including approaches as well as issues. Hollinger describes how some Christians use the Bible as an ultimate set of codes while others see it as irrelevant to modern issues. There are various hermeneutical issues in using the Bible as a moral guide including lack of contemporary issues, lack of identical examples to today's context, dissonance between the Old and New Testament approaches, dissonance between particularity and universality of the text, and the biblical approach to complex issues. Hollinger address each of these issues by basically taking a step back and finding how the overarching themes of the Bible can serve as a guide to morality. He states how the Bible uses casuistic law, apodictic law, principles, biblical paradigms, and biblical narratives can serve not as the ultimate say in making moral decisions but instead as guides to allowing the Spirit to lead Christians to make ethical choices.

