

5-3-1 Assignment on Hollinger Chapter 7

Questions

1. What is the position of Jack Sanders on the Bible in ethical decisions?
2. What is the classical view of the Bible in ethical decisions?
3. What is an important realization Hollinger makes about the Bible in ethical decisions?
4. How do we determine which aspects of the OT apply to us, and those that do not?
5. What is the traditional division of the Mosaic Law?

Answers

1. Jack Sanders believes that the Bible is bound to ancient times and therefore foreign to this age. Such that there are no binding ethical positions to Jesus, or the ancient tradition connected to the Bible.
2. The classical view of the Bible in ethical decisions revolves around 2 Tim.3:16, whereby the Bible is inspired by God and useful for correction. As such, this view of the Bible holds that the Bible speaks to different times despite that it has settings for a time and culture.
3. Hollinger sees and asserts that the Bible does not address many contemporary issues.
4. One of the ways in which Hollinger proposes to determine what aspects of the OT apply to us, and which ones don't is to look at the forward movement from the OT to the NT. In other words, to look at the progressive revelation of God, and how many concepts are clarified moving forward from the OT and the NT.
5. The traditional division of the Mosaic Law is ceremonial, moral, and civil. This division of the law in the OT allows to make distinctions as to which laws can be applied in the NT and in our contemporary times.

Terms

Ceremonial law- the division of the Mosaic Law according to traditional Christian ethics which deals with topics such as circumcision, Sabbath observance, diet, sacrifices, and festivals.

Casuistic Law- laws with the formula "if...then" that can offer underlying principles for guidance.

Apodictic law- straightforward regulations (most notably the Decalogue). Beyond what they command, they reveal greater depth and meaning.

Summary

Chapter 7 in Hollinger's book *Choosing the Good* explores the role of the Bible in ethical decisions in contemporary times. The author explains various positions on the matter. Some positions include the idea that the Bible is completely outdated, and therefore inapplicable in today's world. Whereas other positions consider that only certain portions of the Bible are useful in ethical problems, such as the NT only, or the ethical sayings of Jesus, versus the Mosaic laws of the OT. There is also the position that the Bible as an inspired text by God and based upon its internal testimony of what is its purpose of correction, is applicable to today if certain considerations are taken. The OT must be taken for what it is, and at the same time Hollinger cautions his readers that we must not pretend the Bible says something when it doesn't.