

5 Questions

1. ***What can be problematic about one's approach to authority of the Bible as a moral code or ethics textbook?***

Hollinger explains that this kind of approach to the Bible tends to overlook the contextual nature of biblical teaching and the hermeneutical processing that always needs to take place in our use of the Bible for theology and ethics

2. ***What is one hermeneutical issue one faces when linking the Bible to ethical decisions?***

One issue stated by Hollinger is that many of the pressing issues of our time are not addressed in the Bible.

3. ***What solutions does Hollinger provide in dealing with the Old Testament for moral framework?***

Hollinger explains that we must first recognize that many of the troubling incidents of the Old Testament are reported, not necessarily condoned, and we must understand the progressive revelation relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

4. ***What is an example of apodictic law in the Bible?***

One of the best examples are the Ten Commandments, which were given in the context of the exodus and God's initiative to establish a covenant relationship with the Hebrew people.

5. ***How should one approach the moral narratives of the Bible?***

According to Hollinger, the primary approach is to interpret the narratives in light of the overarching story of the Bible, then find clues to its moral assessment in the text itself or in a nearby text.

3 Definitions

1. **Casuistic law**- the most specific form of direction in the Bible that are typically in an "if...then" form
2. **Apodictic law**- straightforward regulations in the form of divine commands, which contain specificity of action
3. **Biblical paradigm**- basic understanding of life and theology that contain within them implied directions for ethics

Summary

In Chapter 7 of *Choosing the Good*, Hollinger discusses the concept of ethical decisions made based on the Bible, beginning with the various approaches that people take when regarding the Bible as authority. Hollinger then discusses five crucial hermeneutical issues that we face today when it comes to connecting the Bible with ethical decision making. Hollinger then provides steps on how to approach the Bible in ethical decision making, which includes looking at the different forms of ethical guidance (e.g. casuistic law). Lastly, Hollinger provides steps to approaching moral narratives in the Bible, which gives one a holistic view of ethical decision making from the Bible.