

Brett Faultless

5-3-1 Assignment for Hollinger Chapter 7

Questions:

1. Because progressive revelation makes the full intent of God's moral designs more clear, what does Hollinger say is the best principle for interpreting the Old Testament?
2. What is the classical view of the Bible's authority for ethical decisions?
3. What is one the drawbacks of casuistic law?
4. What are biblical paradigms?
5. What guidance does Hollinger offer his readers in reading the moral examples in the narratives of the Bible?

Answers

1. *The Old Testament should be read and interpreted in the light of the New Testament.*
2. *It 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 other times.*
3. *Casuistic law cannot be applied broadly, it can only be applied to a specific situation.*
4. *Biblical paradigms are basic understandings of life and theology that contain within them implied directions for ethics.*
5. *Interpret them in the light of the Bible's "big story", look for moral assessment within the text or in a nearby text, examine the outcome of the story, give priority to the narratives of Jesus.*

Terms

Casuistic law: laws that mandate explicit behavior for specific situations, often using an "if... then" form.

Apodictic law: straightforward regulations in the form of divine commands.

Progressive revelation: the continual unfolding of God's plans and designs that reach their apex in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Summary:

In chapter seven, Hollinger discusses the best ways to handle Scripture in seeking its guidance in ethical decisions on topics Scripture sometimes does not specifically address. Hollinger explains how the Bible includes various forms of law and moral instruction: casuistic and apodictic laws, principles, biblical paradigms, and moral narratives. He argues that the Bible is "not primarily a book of moral codes, nor is an ethics textbook", and cautions that using Scripture in this way dishonors "the process God utilized in...revealing His Word to us." Great hermeneutical care is required in order to navigate the original cultural context Scripture was written in, understanding that Scripture is capable of transcending its ancient context to provide authoritative guidance for our modern circumstances.