

QUESTIONS:

1. *What challenge does the postmodern worldview present towards the notion of biblical authority today?*
2. *What are three of the five key hermeneutical issues which the author points out in applying the biblical text to Christian ethics?*
3. *What is the relationship between the Old and New Testaments?*
4. *How are we to resolve issues with multiple, at times conflicting, biblical principles?*
5. *What are the biblical forms of guidance listed in the chapter?*

ANSWERS:

1. The postmodern worldview presents a challenge towards the notion of biblical authority today by emphasizing a reader-based, rather than text-based, interpretation.
2. Three of the five key hermeneutical issues in applying the biblical text to Christian ethics are the lack of direct guidance regarding various contemporary issues, the relationship between the Old and New Testament, and the relationship between the particularity and universality of the text.
3. The Old and New Testaments are linked by progressive revelation, namely the gradual unfolding of the fullness of God's redemptive plan to save mankind and restore all creation to Himself, culminating in Christ's life, death, resurrection, ascension, and consummation of the new creation.
4. We are to resolve issues with multiple biblical principles with prayer, wisdom, leading of the Holy Spirit and discernment of the Christian community.
5. The biblical forms of guidance listed in the chapter are casuistic and apodictic law, principles, biblical paradigms, and moral examples and narratives.

TERMS

1. **Casuistic law** - laws outlining specific behavior for certain situations, typically in the form of "if...then" statements.
2. **Apodictic law** - laws given in the forms of divine commands, such as "thou shall..." or "thou shall not..." and contain more general guidelines than casuistic law.
3. **Principle** - broad guidelines for human behavior, typically encompassing ideals, general responsibilities, and lifestyles.

SUMMARY

In Chapter 7, Hollinger lays out a framework for using the biblical text as a foundation for Christian ethics. First, he explores the authoritative nature of the text for Christians today. Next, he brings up various hermeneutical issues in applying the biblical text to Christian ethics. Finally, he offers some biblical forms of ethical guidance, and concludes that the reader must grapple with these various forms laid out in the biblical text.