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5-3-1 Assignment for Hollinger Chapter 8

Questions:

1. In addition to the application of principles, virtues, and theological understandings to issues of everyday life, what other judgements are necessary according to chapter 8?
2. What are the three primary ways Christians have responded to the issue of war over the centuries?
3. Differences in ethical judgements regarding issues such as the environment or the cause of poverty are partly the result of what cause?
4. What are the several characteristics of social mores noted in the chapter?
5. What is a likely reason people differ in their empirical judgements about an issue?

Answers

1. *Ethics involves judgements about the facts or empirical realities surrounding issues.*
2. *Pacifism, Holy War, and Just War.*
3. *Divergent sets of data put forward by experts and arguments surrounding the interpretation of the data.*
4. *They are non rational, always right, never challenged, and maintain status quo.*
5. *Often particular ideologies have provide the lens through which they understand both the nature of the issue and its solution.*

Terms

**Vested Interest:** benefits received from existing arrangements in society or within an institution.

**Social Mores:** traditions in a culture that are rarely spelled out in textbooks or law codes but nonetheless convey a sense of authority.

**Jus ad bellum:** Latin phrase referring to the conditions under which a country may go to war.

Summary:

In chapter eight, Hollinger discusses the importance of empirical judgements about the facts that surrounding issues faced in society. He provides the examples of the ethics surrounding war, environmental issues, and poverty and shows how disagreements arise amongst people, even amongst Christians who have so much on which they agree in their world view. Hollinger examines the factors that influence empirical judgements, such as social mores, ideologies, vested interests, and personal dispositions. Hollinger concludes that constant disagreement among experts and the moral cynicism of the day should not dissuade Christians from approaching ethical issues with a moral obligation "to discern the empirical situation with unbiased integrity".