

5-3-1 Assignment / Herve Talom

Chapter 8 EMPIRICAL JUDGMENTS IN ETHICAL DECISIONS

Hollinger, Dennis, March 20th, 2023

QUESTIONS

1. What is the source of ideological thinking?
2. What role does social mores plays in empirical judgement
3. What is Alan Geyer's view on ethic?
4. Example of empirical judgement in ethics.
5. What are the factors influencing empirical judgements?

ANSWERS

1. *Whenever Christians and churches begin to think about social responsibilities and social ethics. (p. 182).*
2. *Social mores play a significant role in making empirical judgments regarding a host of ethical issues. (p. 181).*
3. *Alan Geyer states, "Ethics is not simply an argument about what ought to be; it is an almost uninterrupted argument about what is, what has been, and what will be . . . whose reading of history, . . . which social analysis . . . which intelligence data shall we choose as being empirically sound?" (p. 175).*
4. *Just war, environmental ethic, poverty, and economic justice,*
5. *The fallenness and finiteness of humanity, social mores, Ideologies, vested interests, and personal dispositions. (p. 180).*

TERMS

The empirical judgment: Knowledge based on practical experience rather than scientific proof, or derived from experience rather than by logic from first principles

Christian ethics: the application of principles, virtues, and theological understandings to realities of everyday life, (p. 175)

Social Mores: A normative structure of rules and regulations that govern the behavior of that society. (p. 180).

SUMMARY:

This Chapter focuses on empirical Judgement. In the introduction, he highlights his encounter with the Chinese community in China town New York about visiting the cemetery or performing any memorial service were not acceptable when they had become Christians.

"Some of my Chinese friends were quite convinced that merely showing up at the cemetery was nothing short of pagan idolatry. Burning paper money and placing rice before the tombstone were rituals they had left behind when they had become Christians. They believed even a token appearance at the cemetery was a compromise and morally wrong." (p. 174).

Several factors or scenarios have made this endeavor complex in a world that requires the need to engage in empirical judgments. One such factor is that most people and societies are influenced by their social mores (traditions in a culture rarely spelled out in textbooks or law codes but convey a great sense of authority) when making empirical judgments.

However, the Christian's call is to know how these factors or biases work in himself and others. Whenever Christians and churches have begun to think about social responsibilities and social ethics, they have faced a temptation in the form of ideological thinking.

This awareness would help guide in the path of what is right or God honoring. Christians are to pursue truth continuously regardless of whether it brings loss or gain. This would help counter the postmodern world's cultural tendencies that favor moral cynicism and psycho-facts.