5-3-1 Assignment Chapter 8

Questions

1. What are differences in ethical decisions often the result of?
2. Why do Christians differ in empirical judgments?
3. How do ideologies influence people's empirical judgments?
4. How can one's personal deposition affect their empirical judgment?
5. Why should Christians not respond to the complexities of empirical judgments with the moral cynicism of postmodernism?

Answers

1. Differences occur because there are differing accounts of what is happening in a situation; the way reality is engaged will determine the ethical outcome someone arrives at.
2. Sometime the social mores, differing ideologies, vested interests or personal disposition heavily affect how Christians determine what is and is not considered ethical.
3. They determine what facts are accepted and how those facts are interpreted.
4. Personality types sometimes have the natural tendency to align with particular values and beliefs which influence a person's understanding of empirical reality.
5. Since moral cynicists argue it is impossible to discern true moral virtues, Christians must reject that notion and remain committed to the pursuit of true truth; the truth of the gospel.

Terms

1. social mores – traditions in a culture that convey a great sense of authority and influence what is morally acceptable
2. ideology – a system of ideas used to interpret the social realities of people and to provide actions and goals for its observers
3. vested interest – benefits received from existing arrangements in society or within an institution

Summary

In this chapter, Hollinger introduces and expounds on how Christian's moral decisions are heavily influenced by empirical judgments. Christians are influenced by social mores, particular ideologies, vested interests or personal dispositions, and their moral outcomes are greatly determined by the way they interact with these various topics. Empirical judgments are never fully truthful, clear or unbiased. However, as people committed to the truth of the gospel, Christians must pursue truth with humility even when they disagree on moral decisions.