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5-3-1 Quiz – Empirical Judgments in Ethical Decisions
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Fill in the blanks:

1. Whether a ____, ____, or ____, empirical judgments play a significant role in moral decisions.
2. Over centuries, Christians have essentially responded in one of three ways to the issue of war: ____, ____, or ____.
3. Many differences in ethical judgments about the environment are not the result of ____ or ____, but of ____ or ____.
4. We normally think of Christian ethics as applying principles, virtues, and theological understandings to realities, but ethics also involves ____ and the way we ____ may in part determine ____.
5. The temptation toward moral cynicism is particularly strong today when the public is bombarded by ____ and ____.

Answers:

1. Selection of data, interpretation of data, or impressionistic rendition of a situation.
2. Pacifism, a rejection of participation in violence, or holy and just war.
3. Varying theology or ethical principles but of divergent sets of data or interpretations of the data.
4. Judgments of another sort; portray the reality may well determine in part the ethical outcome.
5. Conflicting polls and scientific studies

Definitions:

1. **Just War:** a selective participation that attempts to place moral parameters around warfare.
2. **Holy War:** an enthusiastic participation without moral scruples and with divine blessing.
3. **Psycho-facts:** rising crimes, increasing health hazards, falling living standards, and a worsening environment that are constant repetitions and change the way we experience life.

Summary:

Chapter 8 in Hollinger's book discusses empirical judgments when making ethical decisions using examples of Just War, Environmental Ethics, and Poverty and Economic Justice. Hollinger highlights factors influencing empirical judgments as Social Mores, Ideologies, Vested Interests, and Personal Dispositions. Due to these influential factors, he argues that we should not fall prey to moral cynicism or the psycho-facts we are assaulted with in our culture. He concludes by charging us to discern the empirical situation with unbiased integrity by committing to truth in all areas of life in humility.