

### 5-3-1 Assignment on Hollinger Chapter 8

#### Questions

1. What are empirical judgments on ethical decisions?
2. What is an example of an empirical judgment on ethical decisions?
3. What are some factors influencing empirical judgments?
4. What are social mores?
5. What is an ideology?

#### Answers

1. Empirical judgments on ethical decisions are ethics that involve facts or empirical realities of the issues faced.
2. One example of empirical judgment on ethical decisions is just war. Christians have had different stances on war, and what constitutes as a “just war”. Such that concepts of proportionality, the consideration of negative effects vs. positive effects, and the exhaustion of other means of dealing with conflict become ways to evaluate whether a war is just or not.
3. Some factors that influence empirical judgments are social more, ideologies, vested interests, and personal dispositions.
4. Social more are social traditions that typically serve as unwritten rules not usually included in the laws of that society, or in ethical writings.
5. An ideology is defined as an empirical belief system held in common by the members of any collective; a system of ideas used to interpret the social realities in which people find themselves and to provide goals and actions for the particular collective.

#### Terms

*Marxist Ideology*- ideas based upon the philosophies and writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in which society is looked upon within a framework of economic determinism. This ideology simplifies all social problems to economic realities.

*Vested Interests*- defined as benefits received from existing arrangements in society or within an institution. Hollinger clarifies that vested interests are not necessarily ideologies, or that they always involve ideologies.

*Personal Dispositions*- perceptions of reality influenced by personalities, temperaments, or dispositions. These may include personality types as well as sociocultural factors.

#### Summary

Chapter 8 in Hollinger's book *Choosing the Good* looks into other factors that influence Christians when it comes to making ethical decisions. Empirical judgments on ethical decisions form part of decisions where Christians evaluate issues beyond simply Biblical doctrine, theology, or philosophy. Hollinger presents some examples of how Christians decide when it comes to social ills like poverty and war. Empirical judgments require facts and empirical realities. However, the author is keen to explain that these empirical judgments are influenced by factors such as ideologies, personal interests, social traditions, and even personal temperaments. Such that ethical decisions are not so clear cut even in the use of empirical facts.