

## Five

1. **What is a fundamental problem presented in empirical ethics?** Some of the empirical judgments we face are based on our selection of facts or data. Which set one accepts greatly impacts one's ethical judgment.
2. **What are some examples of empirical judgments in ethics?** Perceptions about life between conception and birth; the probability of a 'just' war'; environmental justice and population science; poverty and economic justice
3. **What factors influence empirical judgments?** Social mores; ideologies; vested interest; personal dispositions
4. **How do vested interests influence ethical judgments?** They influence values and goals but also influence the intended outcomes of groups involved in efforts to preserve the desired benefit of the favored group
5. **How do personal dispositions affect ethical judgment?** Innate temperament will influence personal outlook and understandings of empirical reality

## Three

**Social mores:** a normative structure of rules and regulations that govern the behavior of a society

**Ideologies:** empirical belief system(s) held in common by members of a collective

**Vested interests:** the benefits received from the existing arrangements within society or within an institution

## One

Empirical judgments play heavily into the moral cynicism of our postmodern culture. In many circles, relativism and empirical thought mean that there is no singular source of truth. Christians are tasked with discerning the moral truth with objectivity. To do so well, we must be aware of (and wary of) the social mores, ideologies, vested interests and personal and collective dispositions that may influence our empirical viewpoints and sway our ethical judgements away from the truth. Simply because a judgment is never fully clear does not mean that said judgment is totally misguided either. It is not in the debate of theologies or principles that cause grave differences in judgment but differences in the empirical interpretation of facts behind those common principles which cause most trouble in Christian circles.