

QUESTIONS:

1. *What are two examples of prominent issues in which differing empirical judgments result in varying stances on said issues amongst Christians?*
2. *What are the four scenarios the author mentions in regards to Christians' view of poverty?*
3. *What are the four factors contributing to varying empirical judgments?*
4. *According to Parsons, how is objectivity lost in ideological thinking?*
5. *What is an example of a vested interest?*

ANSWERS:

1. Just war and climate change are two prominent issues in which differing empirical judgments result in varying stances amongst Christians.
2. The four scenarios which the author mentions in regards to Christians' view of poverty are as follows: (1) exploitation of the wealthy, (2) lack of development, (3) worldview and lifestyle, and (4) a combination of above factors, depending on context.
3. The four factors contributing to varying empirical judgments are social mores, ideologies, vested interests, and personal dispositions.
4. According to Parsons, objectivity is lost in ideological thinking via selectivity of issues treated and a distortion of said issues.
5. An example of a vested interest is a voter who votes for a particular candidate for the benefits gained for their own economic advantage.

TERMS

1. **Jus ad bellum** - the conditions under which war is considered permissible or just.
2. **Jus in bello** - the criteria determining which actions are concerned just in war.
3. **Proportionality** - a proposition used to support the just war theory, rooted in the notion that the good in a given situation must outweigh the evil that would come out of it.

SUMMARY

In Chapter 8, Hollinger describes the issues surrounding empirical judgments, namely the judgment of facts and data. One such issue that presents itself is the very selection of said facts and data, or lack thereof, as well as the interpretation of this factual information. Ultimately, the author attributes the following factors to influencing empirical judgments: (1) social mores, (2) ideologies, (3) vested interests, and (4) personal dispositions. While the natural response to such varying factors and seemingly inescapable "truth" may be cynicism, Hollinger instead urges the reader to assess the facts with integrity, rooted in the ultimate Truth found in the Triune God, and be aware of the above factors which may influence our own interpretation of such data.