

TH604: Christian Ethics: OA

Spring 2023

Choosing the Good, Chapter 11

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Questions

1. How does Hollinger define pluralism?
2. How would you describe the pluralism dilemma of truth?
3. True or false, Hollinger believes Christianity can address the pluralistic social dilemma?
4. How does John Rawls advance the privatization of religion?
5. Why isn't privatization of religion appropriate for the Believer?

Answers

1. He defines it as a society in which humans live, work, and attempt civic responsibilities with people whose fundamental outlooks or worldview are at odds with their own.
2. Due to modernity and postmodernity, truth is nearly obsolete for many in currency culture.
3. True, it can be done, but in a nuanced way.
4. He shares that no one doctrine can unify humanity or define the foundation upon which moral and ethical decisions are made.
5. Believers are called to be integrated beings whose thoughts and motivations are the same in any sphere they inhabit. Also, in the Sermon on the Mount, Believers are called salt and light by Jesus. They are called to shape and disrupt the culture in which they inhabit.

Terms

- **Hard theocrat** - Theonomy (God's law) movement which seeks to build a society on God's law in the OT and reaffirmed in the NT. (246)
- **Soft theocrat** - Believe that the foundation of public life must be guided by moral biblical principles and are found in other religious traditions to reconstruct a failing society. (247)
- **Constantinianism** - the favoring of one religion and its traditions over others by political leaders.

Summary

Christians can influence the culture by advocating that Christianity be given a voice within the society. As Believers raise their voice he asserts, all others must be granted the same right. Being heard is not the same as truthfulness. While not all polity can be guided by Christian morality which flows from a transformed heart, they can seek to influence policy, systems, and structures.