

TH604 - Dr. Louis A. Decaro
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Chapter 11 5-3-1

5 Quiz Questions:

- 1) What is the primary ethical issue with regard to pluralism?
- 2) How does sociocultural pluralism handle claims to truth?
- 3) What does the social dilemma involve?
- 4) Describe Christian privatization.
- 5) What is one approach to relating Christian ethics to pluralism?

Answers:

- 1) It raises two dilemmas, truth and social, making it difficult for Christians who seek to be faithful to their calling as followers of Christ (239).
- 2) In a climate where people are suspicious of assertions about the truthfulness of one religion or ethical system, claims to truth are called into question and deemed to be mere preferences (239).
- 3) It involves how a religiously informed ethic can relate to a pluralistic milieu, and how society itself can exist given the broad mix of worldviews and moral outlooks (240).
- 4) Faith is privatized primarily because the world is too evil for Christian engagement (242).
- 5) To seek to mandate religiously based ethics for the entire society since biblical faith is universal and true (244).

3 Terms:

- 1) Pluralism: “a condition or system in which two or more states, groups, principles, sources of authority, etc., coexist (Oxford Dictionary).”
- 2) Fundamentalism: “a form of a religion, especially Islam or Protestant Christianity, that upholds belief in the strict, literal interpretation of scripture (Oxford Dictionary).”
- 3) Theocrat: a person who rules, governs as a representative of God or a deity, or is a member of the ruling group in a theocracy, as a divine king or a high priest.

1 Summary Paragraph:

In a pluralistic culture, a “sociocultural reality of discrepant worldviews, ideologies, and moral frameworks exist side by side (239).” This can cause many issues when it comes to determining the correct course of action when it comes to Christian ethics. However, while varying perspectives can seem to cause more division than unity, it is possible to be committed to the truth as a Christian while at the same time affirming a sociocultural pattern (239). Though seemingly in a minor place of thinking, it is important for Christians to remain consistent with that which glorifies God and treat those with opposing views with love without compromising beliefs.