

### 5-3-1 Assignment on Hollinger Chapter 11

#### Questions

1. What is pluralism?
2. What are the challenges of a pluralistic society to Christians?
3. What does the truth dilemma mean?
4. What does the social dilemma mean?
5. What is the privatization of Religion?

#### Answers

1. Pluralism is not just a reference to nationalities, ethnicities, or religious differences in a society, but also a difference in ideas and moral practices.
2. Two challenges of a pluralistic society for Christians are the social dilemma, and the truth dilemma.
3. The truth dilemma means that in a pluralistic society claims to the truth are not accepted, but challenged. While the truth is defined as a personal preference.
4. The social dilemma happens at two levels, whereby an ethic is derived from religious beliefs, and the existence of society in the context of plurality. It concerns how an ethic related to religious beliefs is related to a plural society (specifically Christianity).
5. Religious privatization has two aspects to it, a religious one, and a secular one. The religious one pertains to concluding that the world can't be evangelized per se, and so religious beliefs are kept private by the individual. The secular aspect deals with the treatment of religion on a public sphere, whereby the attitude by secular society is that religion should be kept private and away from the public discourse.

#### Terms

Theocratic approach- A political and social approach in which a religious based ethic is mandated to be the base of a society and government.

Civil religion response- A religious approach to a plural society whereby a broad religion is appealed to that transcends all other religions under which society can unite.

Christian influence within pluralism- the approach whereby Christians can influence the society around without compromising the truth of God, and without showing open favor or mandates for Christianity.

#### Summary

In chapter 11, author Hollinger discusses pluralism in society and Christianity. The author tries to answer the question of approaching pluralism in the context of postmodernity by Christian believers and Christian ethics. The writer defines and expands upon several approaches that could be practiced by Christians when it comes to executing Christian ethics in a society full of so many ideas and beliefs. For all of these approaches, whether it be influence, a civil religion response, or a theocratic approach, Hollinger spells out the positives and negatives of all of them. However, Hollinger does seem to support an influential approach of Christian ethics upon the plural society that currently exists.