

5-3-1 Assignment Chapter 12

Questions

1. Why can Christians appeal to the same ethical principles and end up with differing strategies to apply their ethical commitment to societal issues?
2. How are remedial models and preventative models different?
3. Why is evangelism a mode for implementing Christian ethics and change in the world?
4. Why is Christian influence in politics controversial?
5. Why are wisdom and discernment necessary for implementing a Christian ethical model?

Answers

1. Both context and method matter. Thus, the model(s) that Christians employ in ethical issues will be based on one's conviction and view of society.
2. While remedial models address an existing issue, preventative modes seek to prevent issues from forming in the future.
3. Since salvation is central to the biblical narrative, the gospel is the most compelling means of changing people's hearts and will influence their future involvement in society at large.
4. Referencing church and state, some secularists claims that the church limits freedom and some Christians argue that being involved in politics dilutes the Christian message.
5. Without wisdom and discernment it would be very easy for unintended consequences to arise, (and often they do) and could prove to hurt the Christian message rather than promote it.

Terms

1. remedial actions – attempts to address an already existing evil, unethical practice, injustice or social problem.
2. prophetic pronouncements – involves the voice of the church speaking into the world to challenge values, policies, structural arrangements so that better practices take their place
3. lobbying – where various interest groups seek to influence the formation of public policy

Summary

In this chapter, Hollinger introduces and expounds on the implementation of various Christian ethical responses informs or engages society at large. While Christians employ different models in the way they interact with the world, regardless of the method utilized, they must use wisdom and discernment to influence the world in a way that promotes a Christian worldview. This is needed because Christian ethics is ultimately rooted in the nature and actions of God and His story revealed in the Bible. May Christians continue to pursue God as they engage the world as His salt and light.