

DM906 Leading Worship and Discipleship: Forming a People, Communicating the Word
Reflection Paper #3, Week 4
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What are Human Beings according to Smith?

Smith (2009), points to this, “humans are first and fundamentally affective creatures shaped by practices-creatures who love before they think, who imagine before they theorize.”¹ He refers to humans using an analogy describing humans as thinkers and believers. Yet, on the other hand he refers to humans as people who love others and material things. Not only that, but Smith reference humans as believers who thinks first by faith and trust what is seen from a worldview perspective.

Why does it matter? God created humans to worship Him in spirit and in truth. They were created in the image of God and have important roles in His kingdom of promoting the gospel of Jesus. Humans are the called-out ones to go forth and fulfil the mandate of Jesus to think, believe, and confess Jesus as savior. Regarding practice and belief, humans were created to believe in, and worship Jesus in spirit and in truth. In addition, the call involves becoming “renewed image bearers of God.”

What does it mean to shift from worldview to social imaginary? Smith is known as a force in studies of world religious. He goes well beyond worldview to a more positive and workable practice of soaring in social imaginary. He believes humans are created and called to worship and represent God on earth. Through it all humans were created in the image of God to submit and follow Him. Social imaginary “is carried in images, stories, and legends” Therefore, the

¹ Smith, James K. A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

imaginary “is not how we think about the world” but rather it is how we see the world before the thought patterns are processed in the mind.

Why does love require practice? Love is shaped through symbols and expressions of practices encountered in life. It is seen thru active stories and encounters on life journey. Some view love as a practice of being more than going through the motions of love. It requires one to grow and have a better understanding of love and express it from the heart. From the beginning people were created in the image of God to love one another. Practices enables humans to see through clearer lens that enhances or changes the way someone perceives and react to it. Practices are meant to transform people to higher levels of worship through love, teaching, singing, praying, preaching, eucharist, and other church services.

How are “Christians” being influenced by what Smith calls “secular liturgies?” Considering liturgies under the format of worship, it is used to shape identities through a process that forms thoughts of a worldview pattern. Cultural practices of rituals forms identities and adjusts one’s basic relationships to the world. Smith argues this point, “liturgies trains our hearts, teach us to be certain kinds of people and develop our worldviews.”² More views on cultural practices unfolds in his demonstrations of worldview through the lens of public worship.” An example is given in the metaphors of a mall focus on what remains. Then his focus shifts to information that draws attention to a set of ideas in attempt to explain more views and beliefs. toward a more “enlightenment slant of learning.”

² Ibid., 90.