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PSY-253-Integration of Psychology & Theology

25 July 2020

Essay Questions Unit 3

1. In the author's introduction we see several clashes of worldviews from the very beginning when he states that talking about bowel resections and metastatic cancer over dinner was what he thought everyone talked about. Going from New York to Africa was definitely a clash of worldviews, from the big city to dirt roads, his and sister not being able to show their knees, or they could possibly be shot. In Nyankunde, the worldview was so different they didn't take an epileptic boy to the hospital because they believed he was possessed by a demon. Another mother set her son's hands on fire because he stole something, this was sanctioned in their culture. This was a totally different worldview from the author. My worldview was challenged and or exposed when the other spoke about spending the summer at a medical mission station in a foreign country. I have never been on a mission trip at all, let alone in a foreign country. It would be a major adjustment to see some of things mentioned by the author. Having to change my clothes because of the customs would not be too difficult, however seeing a child burned because of cultural beliefs would be extremely challenging.
2. My answers to these questions are coming strictly from a Christian worldview. To be a person means you are God's creation, made in his image and likeness, created to have dominion. We are to take care of each other in community. The nature of the world is in need of redemption. Christ came to redeem as many as would receive him. The world is living under sin and because we don't turn back to God but instead trust in our own

understanding things will always go wrong. The only way for things to be fixed in this world as well as in my life, is to say yes to the Lord, confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. This is the way to live an abundant life in God's favor. My answers are based on the Word of God not my assumptions. See Genesis 2 and 3, John 10:10, Proverbs 3:5.

3. I can James Sire's points about our presuppositions, when your way is all you know, it is extremely difficult to see someone else's worldview. In my answers to question one I can see how I was raised and the things that I was exposed to as a kid would shape my thoughts and current worldview. However, my answers to question two is based on the Word of God and yes you can consider that as presuppositions too but there is evidence to back up this worldview, which is Christ himself.
4. An animist would say that a person is being that doesn't have free will but is being controlled by spirits and that the world is controlled by spirits. They would probably say things go wrong in the world because people disobey the spirits and things won't be fixed unless people placate the spirits. The polytheist would say that a person is a being made by the gods and the nature of the world is under the control of these different gods to do as they will. The polytheists probably would say that things go wrong in the world and in their lives because the gods in their different hierarchies are playing one against the other to please themselves. The pantheist would say that a person is a part of a whole. They would say that everything wrong on the world or in their lives will have a rebirth. They will get a chance to change things when they are reincarnated. A theist would point everything to God and the principles of creation, redemption and consummation. An atheist materialist believes there is no god therefore anything not tangible or material was

out of the question. Only science could prove what a person is and what is wrong in the world. A postmodernist would say a person is made of atoms, electrons, neutrons, it must be qualitative methodologies. They would say that people could fix the world.

5. I agree with the author that worldviews are less chosen and more inherited. I was raised in the church from a small child. My family went to church on Sunday morning, we had to go to Sunday school. We came home and the entire family had Sunday dinner together. We had church clothes, school clothes, play clothes. My grandmother would feed the less fortunate. When I became an adult, I carried this same worldview with my family. My son was raised in church, we had Sunday dinner together, he had certain clothes for school, church, play. He loves to give to the less fortunate. All the things I was raised doing definitely affected my worldview and what I passed onto my son.
6. It is important for us to affirm our dependence on and our similarity to all the rest of the created realm because it is only in community that we can truly reflect the image of God. He created it all, he just spoke it into existence. Adam was different because he said, "Let us make" and he breathed into Adam. He created the animals, but they were not suitable for Adam. He also said it was not good for man to be alone (this is where we see the dependence). He then created Eve from Adam. To exercise stewardship over creation as the image of God we must remember that it all is God's creation and even though we have been given stewardship, we are still dependent on Christ and not autonomous, we are finite and not infinite. We must use the gifts and talents that have been given to us all to the glory of God.