

Christianity and Social Work Dilemmas

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Abstract

Legalism and subjective relativism are assumed to be a greater danger for both Christian believers and social workers. This is because both Christian and social worker have an extreme influence on society and can produce negative or positive impact on community. It is imperative to understand the motivation and determination it takes to build relationship with compassion and care for community as a whole, which is the primary focus of both Christian and social worker. However, I consider subjective relativism to be more dangerous to the cause. My position in this matter states, to legalize a united front, for the greater good, for all mankind, is less dangerous than assuming different religions, cultures, and genders can lead together for one purpose without any rules. There has to be some kind of rules implemented. Focusing on the greater danger of subjective relativism, we can avoid segregation, prejudice, and violence. This produces positive change for the greater good, with love and compassion for all involved.

Key words: Legalism, Subjective Relativism, Religion, focus

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I assume, without judgement, that legalism and subjective relativism can perhaps be an enemy to both the Christian believer and social worker if not implemented with careful skills.

Therefore, to legalize a united front, for the greater good, for all mankind, is less dangerous than assuming that many different beliefs, religions, and cultures can lead together for one purpose without any rules. There has to be order implemented. It is seemingly impossible to have a religious belief about a specific matter, and not mentally and spiritually utilize your religious values, weather consciously or unconsciously. For the Christian, subjective relativism can be a greater danger in doing good and serving the community as a whole and individually.

Subjective Relativism is the idea that each individual person decides what is right or wrong for themselves. A popular notion attached to subjective relativism is that "What's right for you may not be right for me." (<https://www.google.com/search>) Meaning, it only matters if I believe it. This is an extremely dangerous way of thinking because it doesn't give place for compassion, empathy and love to all mankind, which is the duty of Christianity and the social worker. Totally different from legalism.

The theoretical meaning of legalism is to have a dependence on moral law, rather than personal religion. (<https://www.google.com/search?>) Therefore, to legalize a united front for the greater good, is less dangerous than assuming other beliefs, religions, and cultures can come together, for one purpose, without any rules. There has to be order and rules implemented. Many of us feel that legalism is controlling and abusive, Yet we should understand that we all utilize some form of legalism, one way or another, in our own personal lives. As I address the Christian point of view, there are moral laws that all Christians have an obligation to follow as well.

Christians are to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, show love to all mankind, and give to the poor. However, what can hinder these Christian views from being productive, in any given situation, is the danger of control. How can we tell people that God is love if we continually judge them for not believing in what we believe? We can learn to be skillful, and focus on the broader picture, for the greater good. God is patient with us and so we should be with others.

God doesn't force His love on us, He gives us free will to choose Him, he says in His word, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Math.11:28) In following the foreknowledge of the Arminian view, we see Mathew asking, not telling, the Greco-Jews to come to God during a time of great distress and abuse, which demonstrates that God gives us the free will to come to him.

For example, the Code of Ethics is set up like the ten commandments, enforcing rules for the greater good. Although I am governing my reasoning solely on my logic, I am still willing to learn and examine my views and open up to others. Examining your self doesn't mean you are turning away from God it simply means you are will to grow religiously.

Religion was the driving force historically that gave and continue to give the motivation for many social workers today. I try not to enforce my views on others, and I understand how legalism can be viewed as dangerous for the Christian. I know it's ok to be different. This thought brings me to subjective relativism, and how it also can have a negative impact on social worker as well.

In conclusion, legalism or subjective relativism are assumed to be a danger for both Christian believers and social works. Yet, it is seemingly impossible to have a viewpoint about a specific matter, and not mentally and spiritually utilize your religious values. I also understand that I must keep my mind open to receive different thought and logic from others, as I see the

importance of ethics and morals. For the social worker the Code of Ethics, which seems to function like the ten commandments (for Christians) or the Hittite theory (for paganist), is considered the primary source to use as an example of professional ethics.

References

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