

Worldview/culture interview

CS501: People as Social and cultural being, NLS

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Interview with a non-Christians

On October 19 and October 21, 2021, I interviewed a young lady named Claralus Rodriguez. What is fascinating is that I do not consider this to be a requirement for my class, nor to find a grade, it is a means of personal learning for me. I appreciated the experience and today it provides me with a strategic way to become friends with non-Christians and come to know the non-Christian world. The questionnaire that I prepared allows me to discover an evangelical feature. The study of this interview, makes it easier for me to make non-Christian friends, also to study the social, cultural, spiritual concepts, and provides an opportunity to continue a relationship in order to transmit the word of God by friendship. This interview deepens my knowledge of the formulation of questions, the positive interactions between the person and myself, the concept of worldviews in different forms and perceptions. I believe that it is very effective when you try to get in direct connection with people, this is the best way to discover the importance of different cultures especially concerning religious culture. I would like to point out that the interviewee grew up in a Catholic family. After many years, and she entered adult hood, she pursued her own path, passion, and states she lives her life where her heart's desire takes her. She took on another direction and now she has abandoned the Catholic faith, therefore, she does not practice Christendom, nor any other religion.

The first interview we had was on October 19, 2021, from 4 pm to 5 pm. The interview first began on general topics and personal questions about her life and activities. We had the interview online via zoom if not we may not have been able to meet, especially the difficulties we are facing with COVID19. Initially, it was difficult to find a person who would agree to spend this time with me in an interview. Eventually, I found Claralus through a friend in my church.

Description Personal Information

Claralus is an energetic and very simple young person, but complicated in her concepts of biblical philosophy concerning world perceptions. She let me know that she is 30 years old and unmarried, but wishes to get married and have children in life. She lives in Nassau County, Long Island. Claralus was born in the Dominican Republic but moved to the United States as a teenager with her family. After years spent in the United States, she became an American citizen through naturalization. When it comes to her ethnicity, she has a mix between Black and Latino. She works as a physician assistant on Long Island. She is an intelligent and well-educated young woman.

Social and cultural worldviews

In the general framework, I envisioned and then focused on the philosophy of the world. I presented the questions at different levels in order to understand how different the worldview is with the non-Christians view. In the second segment of the interview, I started by asking questions about culture, community, family, and religion. She believes that culture regulates the life, customs, and traditions of a society or a nation. She replied that her culture is mixed. Her culture is mixed with Europeans, Africans, Indians who lived on the island of Hispaniola, and Spain. She explains that the heritage in her country has been influenced by these various cultures and gave birth to the Dominican culture. She describes her upbringing as a rigid, education filled, and highly respected culture. The family relationship is a source of joy and happiness for her. In her native land they practice the Christian religion, as well as non-Christian. But the majority of Christians are Catholics but there is a population who do not practice any religion. Music is

considered the social life of the inhabitants of its cities, and the local dance and music in her country, is Salsa, Bachata, and Merengue music.

Regarding other ideologies, I asked her different questions. First, she established to her understanding the community represents a collection of people living in the same place, same area, but who have different characteristics. They share different cultures, customs, and ideologies. She stated that society is considered a community, but society is governed by human principles according to the needs of society. Also states that society is made up of different social classes. Social hierarchy for her is defined as the basic level of a society that determines roles on different scales, from a superiority to inferiority. To continue, she described her perspective on religion. She confirmed to me that religion is a form of spiritual belief created and ruled by the human that demonstrates a god who can save the world. She explains that she grew up in a Catholic family, but does not practice it, now she is not a Christian and does not practice any religion.

I used this time of learning to pursue and understand how a girl who was born Catholic, now not believe in any religion or Christianity. I believe she had a bad experience during her church life, but she was unwilling to speak about the reason that prompted her to abandon the Catholic faith. In contrary, her knowledge developed, she is seeking the worldviews without consider anymore reality and faith. Now, she is familiar with another concept and personal views on everything in life.

Date: 10/21/2021, time: 9pm – 10pm, Interview via Zoom.

Worldviews on ethics:

The second interview was conducted on October 21, 2021, from 9 pm to 10 pm. We took time to greet each other, and share news of the day. After that, we continued with the question-

and-answer session on worldviews in different aspects. The first part of this interview was focused on the definition of family. She believes that the family is made up of a man, woman, and child. Family relationship is defined for her as an essential aspect of human relationship, she related family is the intimate relationship between siblings, and parents and child. She described problems and pain as related to stresses, difficulties, loss, and grief. Life to her, she considers as something incomprehensible and surprising. In the biological framework, life is the air that we breathe and biological birth. The obvious big bang question she doesn't know the answer to, but she still believes there is a greater power that created something out of nothing. However, she does not mention God. She defined right and wrong, as an observation that allows us to know what is good or bad. Ethics according to Claralus, is the creation of moral principles. So, she thinks that ethics is a personal conscience of all human beings who believe what is moral or immoral under a personal judgment or a set of perceptions according to their society, community, and tradition. What is important to her is a modern life, family, work, and money. Fortunately, I took my time to conclude her response was her personal thought and her particular interpretation.

Spiritual views

As part of continuing with the interview, I asked her about her Christian friends, she said she had different Christian friends. She states that her belief is to live a life in peace, have a family, have solid finances, and be free and independent without worrying about anything. She wants absolute independence. She described religion as being people's belief and human creation. She has shown that she does not believe in religion. She made a remarkable difference between God and money. She believes that God is God, and money is a need and priority in her life. I rephrase the question to see if I understood the answer, how are you sure there is no God?

She said sometimes I believe there is a God, sometimes I believe there isn't a God. Regarding faith, she does not manifest any faith in God and does not believe in the law of God. She did not answer Jesus is God, but she said, I do not know, she believes in Jesus 'history. She believes that Jesus is a prophet or Human. She sees evolution and science as a source of truth, while she does not believe in God's creation nor does she believe in the big band theory.