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Integration of Psychology and Theology

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### Unit one Essay Responses

3. As there are seemingly endless psychological and sociological factors that play a role in religious belief it wouldn't make sense to only use the counseling aspect of psychology. The complexity of all the different components of psychology should ideally be combined together to best aid the patient. Most of the text about the integration of psychology and theology have only covered counseling problems. What I believe is the reason for the lack of information is the popular misconception that psychology and theology are opposites. The belief that they cannot coexist has seemingly halted any scholars from researching the duality of the two. In the case of the worshippers at “Spirit Filled Church of Our Lord Jesus” two sub-disciplines of psychology: social and physiological are relevant to the worshipper's experience. Even as a Christian, I can admit that branches of psychology are very useful and if combined with Christianity could be even more useful.

4. McMinn notes in the first chapter that secular thinking naturally holds hostility towards Christian assumptions. So our humanity can lead us to believe that the only way for reconciliation is to completely cut ties between the two. McMinn also shares the idea that if God made everything good what gives humans the right to create a barrier between his creation? I had not seen any concord between the two due to my upbringing. My worldview taught me the false dichotomy that the church and the scientific world were natural enemies. After reading the first chapter of the book and completing this week's class work I've changed that stance. I now see great value in the combination of theology and psychology. As each has areas that can aid in ways the other cannot. They don't tear each other down; when used effectively they complement each other quite well. As my parents raised me as a Christian I've been taught that "Athens" is the proper place for my questions and problems.

8. The distinction between integration as a noun and integration as a verb highlights the difference between the concept of integration and the act of actually integrating. As a noun, integration refers to the state of being merged into one entity. As a verb, integration refers to the process of combining or merging various elements into a unified whole. Understanding the difference between the two shows an understanding of how fluid integration really is as well as how ongoing it is. The distinction also shows that integration is not just a state of being but a progression. An individual denying the difference between integration as a noun and verb also denies the experience of those who integrated. As every single step that they took to mesh with their surroundings is a part of their integration story.

