

Gladys Y. Portillo

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Chapter 2: Allies or Enemies? Historical Views
on Faith and Science

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. If I were Galileo and was asked to renounce to my own opinion and belief, I guess it would depend on how well I know what I believe in. If I am convinced about something then I wouldn't stop believing simply because others are opposed to it. I am sure though, these times were much different. Galileo wasn't punished for challenging the Roman Catholic view about the earth being at the center of the universe. I believe that Galileo recanted because he was practically forced to or he would be penalized. He was asked to practically renounce to his beliefs and all his studies were not allowed to go out into the public. The church was most likely threatened because Galileo believed, according to their belief, in something that was "False and contrary to the divine and Holy Scripture" (p.g 22 Entwistle). Due to His disobedience, Galileo was punished and was accused of a crime which he pleaded guilty to.

3. Draper's view between the relationship of faith and science is that faith and science doesn't work well together. "Religious faith is an impediment to science and progress." In my perspective I agree most with Francis Collins view on science. I do believe that science and faith are compatible as well but also believe that there will obviously be some areas of conflict and disagreements. Faith and science have indeed had some rivalry but also merged together in many cases. In my perspective I believe that they are not enemies, in fact, science and faith can complement one another. There are things that cannot be explained or understood through science alone.

5. I was indeed fascinated by Francis Collins story and gradual formation towards christianity and how he was able to see no conflict between science and

Christianity. His statement about finding God “in the cathedral or in the laboratory” (P.g 35) was amazing, and I am 100% in agreement with this statement. I believe simply, that God created all things, and all things were good but of course things on this earth can be distorted or manipulated into our own way. Science being one of those things. I haven’t studied this profoundly but I have heard in some cases that science is also one of those things that have been created by God. I believe that my studies lead me to a way of awe and worship for this reason, since all things were created by God, as Collins said “by investigating God’s majestic and awesome creation, science can actually be a means of worship”. In my own opinion I also believe this is a form of worshipping God, because we are acknowledging and taking him into consideration in our studies and as we come face to face with His awesomeness, we are struck by it. One experience that I can quickly think of is the moment I gave birth to my little girl. The process was painful but I was in awe of how much the human body is able to handle such pain yet in the moment of holding your child for the first time. You think about how all the pain was worth it. As soon as I saw my little girl, I forgot about all the pain and was astonished by every inch of her body, I counted her little fingers, admired her beauty and Thanked God. Thanking Him lead me towards, a sense of worship.

Chapter 3: The Soul of Psychology and the Psyche of the Soul

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

10. I was able to relate most with Pam and Ray's encounter with people within the church. Not too often though, I have been asked why I decided to study psychology and they treat it as if it's a sin. I don't feel bad though, I believe it is just ignorance. I simply respond by saying "I feel that this is where God is calling me, please pray for me as I learn to merge my faith and helping others through counsel." The majority of people that know about my studies, are very encouraging. They believe that this is something that is very needed especially within the church, and I agree. I was unable to relate to Ian's encounter but in a way I have had questions as well as to what psychology has to do with my faith. In fact I am learning a lot about it now. When in doubt, I believe we should do some research and read about it or ask around.

11. In accordance to my background and my own experiences I have seen different views of psychology but I have to say, I saw a big change after COVID. I remember when I graduated high school, I would always tell people I wanted to study psychology and the response I got actually affected my decision and I preferred not to since it was so controversial. I guess it intimidated me a bit. I would say, around this time, there was a huge division between psychology and Christianity but I believe this was all due to lack of knowledge and awareness of

the world we live in today. I noticed a drastic change and response from the church after COVID. In fact, people were looking and asking about counseling or therapy. I also began to see a lot more conflicts with in the church with marriage, parent and child relationships, issues that the youth were facing, lots of depression and anxiety etc. Not until then, did the church develop the need to seek help. It is seen so much more different I have come to realize, the need there is in the world for this kind of help for families, children and young adults that find themselves in need. Not only have I seen it, but God has woken up the church as well, where they have become open to this kind of support.

17. According to the reading in Chapter 3, I understand that there is an extreme division between evangelicalism and psychology. “They were very critical of Christians who did not share their distrust of psychology.” (P.g 51) I learned that there is some diversity between evangelists and those that are more conservative are usually the ones who reject psychology. Others are more open to it but with much caution. Evangelical interests were in clinical psychology according to Entwistle on page 53. Christian community began to open up tp psychology by reaching out into the community, and offering physiological counsel. Many were with it, others rejected and were against this.