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PSY258: Integration of Psychology and Theology

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“ Essay 2”

Chapter 2:

5.

Yes indeed God can be found in the cathedral or the laboratory because he is the creator of everything. Therefore, his presence will appear at different events, times, and places. Me studying Psychology has led me to a sense of awe and worship because my friends are always praising God for using me as his vessel I know plenty about the mind, body, and soul which is what one will learn about in psychology, so my degree added on unto my knowledge and talking to someone and praying is almost the same thing because when we pray we are talking to God. Whereas, when we go to each other in hard times then we will face people with flesh who are none like the Almighty God. This is a private Christian school, and I was very surprised when Psychology was even one of the biggest majors. God will always be worshiped in different shapes, forms & environments. Science is a means of worship because God started science when he created everything, then humans kinds added extra worldly knowledge into science, which started to cause some conflicts.

6.

I appreciate him stating the truth through knowing who we are as human beings “ know yourself”. God has put in the human heart a desire to know the truth, which is agreeable because

everyone hates when someone lies to them, so the reasoning is biblical too. He defined philosophy as the “love of wisdom” which seems like something you would read from the Holy Bible. For example, if you read Proverbs 4:6-7 says, “Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.” This sounds like something one of the philosophers might have said because the love of wisdom is well appreciated both in the word and in the world. Also, this was very interesting

“ At the same time, the church considers philosophy an indispensable help for a deeper understanding of faith and for communicating the truth of the gospel to those who do not yet know it,” because those who preach the word of God are people full of wisdom and when they are spreading the gospel it is usually, to tell the truth, and help those who have not heard anything about Jesus Christ to know the truth, which I agree with John Paul’s perspective.

9.

Luke 10:25-37 is a very tricky passage to use in this generation because it seems like many people are not going to have mercy on each other. After all, we live in a world full of prideful people and selfish. The good Samaritan helped the stranger, but in this period I know some Christians who will see a gay or non-binary person getting abused or tortured and they will not bother to help this stranger just because they are confused about their sexuality. I do believe that the word of God said that God hates sin, but not sinners so we are called to love each other because everyone has fallen short in life and sinned against God, so we do not purify like God. I would say that the right belief and the right actions go hand in hand.

Chapter 3:

10.

Since I grew up in a Pentecostal church, if I would have told them today that I am studying Psychology then the whole church would have labeled me as demonic possessed or would have assumed that I am trying to be a psychic, which both have nothing to do with Psychology. In my church, anything that has to do with mental illness can only be cured with prayers and fasting because counseling and other psychopathy are seen as bad spirits. My response would've been that if I can pray to God, then I can talk to someone and God will use me through him. Sometimes the best prayer someone can have is talking to someone.

11.

I would say that my circle is full of people from different backgrounds. For example, believers in science, Jehovah Witness, Pentecostal, Baptist, non-denomination, Catholics, etc.... I would say that since I grew up in a Pentecostal household compared to my friend's beliefs it was very different because it seems like in my church you are not allowed to talk about your emotions and being stressed out and depressed will be seen as evil spirits, so they are going to start praying for you or even remove you from the church because you believe in mental health, which is normal and if you tell them that you are seeking counseling even worst because they believe that the best counsel comes from God, but they tend to forget that God can use his people to counsel each other as well because not everyone knows how to pray. My Uncle is a Priest in Europe, so once I told him that I am studying Psychology he was thrilled, whereas if I had told my Pentecostal

adopted parent that I am studying psychology, then she would have started fasting and praying for me. I think that we are just different people with different beliefs, but aiming to ALL be in heaven one day.

14.

Some Psychologist would consider faith in God as an illusion created to be like a coping mechanism, which can be true for some people because I have seen people going to church so they can just cry with others, so everyone can think that this person is crying out to the Lord, but in reality, the person is crying because they are in pain and they are screaming for help deep down, but they do not know who to talk to because most churches are nothing but a cult, which can become detrimental towards some people and their mental health. I would say that those who need psychotherapy are too prideful to admit that they need help and some religious group might be against talking therapy because then some clients might start to idolize the therapist instead of thanking God for the therapist. I think that it can be many reasons why some people might be against talking therapy, for example, some groups do not believe in talking about one sexuality, emotions, or any personal problems because they believe that all sort of things should be talked about to the Lord in prayers.