

Bunnie Smith

Dr. Stephen Maret

Psychology 253 Integration of Psychology & Theology OA

Chapter 2

Question #1 - As I am imagining that I am Galileo and I have been asked to recant my beliefs in a heliocentric universe and promise not to spread this teaching anymore or I would be excommunicated I might have done the same exact thing he ultimately done in recanting his theories in his books. Although the evidence was ordered to be banished of any empirical observation in favor of the canon of Church dogma (pp29) there was still proof that was obtained in today's teaching that his theory exists.

I think Galileo recanted because he didn't want to undermine the Church's theory in scriptures and the comparison to his book, he wrote regarding the sun rotating around the earth, instead of the earth rotating around the sun. He was in prison, and he really could have been put to death by the Church since they were very powerful and had a lot of control of the people in those days. After his trial the Roman Catholic Church convicted him for heresy and owning a doctrine that was false and contrary to their biblical doctrine.

I think the Church was so threatened by Galileo's views because his teaching might have been misleading to the believers and followers of the Gospel. This could have called in contradiction to the word and teachings of God's scriptures that says otherwise. Therefore, the Church had to make what they charged him with look worse than what it was, I believe this action was taken to keep others in line if they attempted to go against the scriptures and what their consequences would be if they tried.

Question #3

The view that comes closer to my own view would be Draper's because his view gravitates towards the Christian's way of thinking how things can be without God's ability to make or allow things to happen that can't be explained through science.

Faith and science allies or enemies can be yes or a no. The reason I feel this can work both ways is because Faith was the initial belief because how could certain things really be explained except to say that God do exist. Science can sometime contradict faith because it gives some validity to explanation on the way certain things are the way they are. Especially in today because man can now prove through science on why certain things are the way they are because it can be explained or visual proof through experiments. However, man can't prove everything through science, therefore, it must be of God.

I think the argument that Christianity laid the groundwork for science has merit because some of the explanations were founded through scriptures and because of what was spoken to man by God. After searching for proof of certain existences man now have to knowledge to build and explore certain factors that are although are spoken biblically and found to be true.

Question # 6

What I find in this argument that I appreciate where it is mentioned that light of reasoning and light of faith are both of God. Like I mentioned in the lower paragraph they don't contradict the other. We know that through God all things are possible to those that believe and they both can balance one another.

The things that I disagree with or am hesitant about is where it mentions on (pp44) "Illumined by faith, reason is set free from the fragility and limitations deriving from the disobedience of sin and finds the strength." The reason I disagree with this is because to me faith and reason can work hand in hand, therefore, one can't be set free from being broken or damaged by the other if they are both working together for clarity.

Chapter 3

Question #10

My encounter with people from church is more like Ray's experience. I have been encouraged to facilitate what I initially told them was a call on my life. I didn't see any skepticism in their faces nor in their conversation. Actually I was feeling a type of way with my age and the experiences I just endured in 2020, I was supposed to originally start school in 2019 is when I initially converse with the advisor at the time. Then the pandemic happened in 2020 and then mid-year my loss and towards the end another loss. However, when I expressed to my Pastor the call I heard and the vision I seen that this was part of my destiny to finish school. I told her I was always enrolled in business practically most of my life, I kept going back but never finishing was a sign that I was going for the wrong academic.

I had announced in church that I was going back to school to study psychology. Everyone was very supportive. Some asked me how they can help me out financially, if anyone was thinking otherwise or had a negative opinion, I was not aware of, nor had anyone express it to me.

The original church I left would have been totally different because they didn't believe in that area of science, they believed in total Holy Ghost healing powers. Their teachings were much stricter. They really didn't believe in socializing outside the church with certain areas like mental health. Therefore, I'm going to end that conversation now.

If my church would have felt differently I don't know if I would have continued to be a part of the ministry. If God put in my heart to return to school and to study psychology I would hope the church would be supportive.

Question #11

In thinking about my own background and my experience with people from various denominations the obvious way that revealed the view of psychology held by the group of people was that the treatment for mental health was not necessary. The original church I used to belong to believed in casting out demons and they believed that mental health was demonic or a family curse that can be healed through fasting, praying. I still believe that it is true because you see so many people under attack by mind altering demons that are causing them to not only take their lives, but family, and complete strangers. I do believe that sickness is a demonized spirit that is sent to oppress the people of God.

My observations fit the patterns discussed in the book and are not like those groups mentioned and their opinion is a different view of what I've learn through my church and teachings in ministry. I am really hoping the reading and studying will allow me to stay with the study of psychology and not deter me in any way away from my Christian beliefs. I was reading about Carl Rogers and his plans to please God because of his deep religious upbringing and later his studies caused him to reject Christianity,

I can articulate historical and logical reasons for the pattern in which some denominations embrace, and others oppose psychology are by in historical times the church had more dominance and ruled over most logical reasoning is not like that today. There seems to be freedom in whatever people choose, is alright and justified today.

Question # 14

As I consider the various reactions of Christians to psychology and psychotherapy, the reaction that are foreign to my way of thinking is that there is conflict between the two. This is foreign to me because the major goal is to help all people to be able to get well in their mental health situation. And that should be the major drive behind coming together. I never want to believe I would have to give up my Christian belief because of the conflict with psychology and psychotherapy. I believe God is the head of all knowledge and he decide who can accomplish what in mankind whether science or faith.

Some of the concerns voiced in some of the reactions that we should take seriously are how some of the early asylums were places of torture and shackling the mentally ill to walls. But thank God for those things have changed with the Christians who came in with humanitarian reform and the love and care has come into play to help people to receive better care. Those ways are currently still enforced in mental hospitals today.