

Position Paper #1 Personal Perspective on Biblical Anthropology and the Imago Dei

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Who I am, and what I have been created to be is no misery to my creator God. I concur with the Psalmist David's, "I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, marvelous are your works." Psalm 139: 14, (Clinton, 2001). This proclamation and increase awareness have not only penetrate my intrapersonal but also, interpersonal internships, understanding from a secular interpretation that I am an imago Dei have transformed my spiritual interpretation of God's desire for me and how he desires to build a personal relationship with me, and influence my relationship with others. Entwistle & Morone, (2011) discussed the relationship viewpoint of fellowship, emphasize the notion that, "being imago Dei declares unequivocal, humans are social beings to fellowship with each other, authors referenced to Genesis 2:18, it is not good for man to be alone." Having positive relationship is essential after experiencing full awareness and acceptance of being imago Dei subsequently the essence of agape love propel towards humanity in all types of relationships; platonic- (*close friends*), eros (*intimate husband & wife*), philia – (*professional, corporate, team/group*), and storge- (*family*)

Within my life's journey and having the conviction that I am imago Dei, has germinate and spouted seeds thriving for deeper relationship with God, knowing that God created me to have relationship with me, such profound gift, despite of my failures, social, economic, race, culture, academia, lifestyle, weather sick or healthy or religious ideologies, God created me in his image. The Samaritan woman, mentioned in the book of John chapter 4: 1-42 experiencing this revelation change her life and community forever. Jesus the son of God, demonstrates His care for all, regardless of their social standing. This example of relationship despite discouragement from his disciples, traditional and cultural laws, forbidding a Jewish male interacting with a Samaritan, moreover a female prohibited by the Law of Moses. Clinton,

(2001), soul note summarized, Jesus place emphasis on the importance that our God is triune, and that we should worship in spirit and truth, the word *worship* definition comprises multiple verbs naming a few; (praise, adoration, admiring, devout and dutiful appreciative, sincere, respect, and honor) certainly neither of these verbs indicates location or rituals rather it is my soul responding to being imago Dei submitting of myself to God developing the relationship, getting to know Him and His will for my life, socially, physically, mentally, professionally and spiritually (2001, p.1377).

Relationship building requires focus and attention, there are always situations which can impact relationship quality and can manifest fear and doubt weakening the spirit from truth and settling for mediocrity often resulting into rituals. Being a counselor who is fully aware been created imago Die, it is imperative that I avoid been ritualistic or become fundamentally and legalistic. Holeman, (2012) highlights the characteristic of “stereotypes holiness to a kernel of truth, having one hand demonstrating outwardly while the other hand operating with inward legalistic mindset (2012, p.82).” All humans are different from other creatures because of our rational and emotional mind having the capability to make decision, each image bearer thus has the free will to manifest oneself in God’s image or to become estrange from God example of the fall, Adam, and Eve in the garden.

Fundamentally, I am convinced that my relationship with God must be reflective in my relationship in counseling as a representation of God’s love and acceptance, helping each clients in love bringing awareness of selves, promoting truth to self and willingness to reflect and identify their sense of purpose. Being a counselor who knows that all mankind is imago Dei, it is my responsibility to emphasis counseling technique that reflects God’s love to all individuals,

Christians and non-Christian, to be non-judgmental or confronting while providing myself in the present, listening to their concerns, most importantly avoiding sole dependence on therapeutic clinical technique when assessing, engaging with curiosity and give preeminence to the Holy Spirit will enlighten discernment (Holeman, 2012). Liken to the wisest counselor, Jesus listens, and attended to the needs of mankind speaking Truth in love during all engaging encounters. My image is a reflection of God thus, operating in truth and love is mandatory, avoiding addressing injustice to other image bearers and refusing to be honest is rejecting that everyone regardless of race or ethnicity has intrinsic value and worth.

Counseling and advocacy are valuable tools available for use of empowerment and to promote awareness of self-dignity to all image bearers who have experienced oppression in the form of racism, elitism, discrimination, social issues, economic and health disparities, and any form of microaggression. Striving to bring about the imago Dei in my life is my desire for holiness, an essential for my spiritual healthiness guiding me into the teaching of Jesus Christ, Luke 10: 27, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself (Clinton, 2001, p.1334). Just as Adam and Eve fall due to their awareness of freedom of choice, I earnestly prayer and seek to be grounded in Truth, having the awareness that my motives can be led astray promoting self-love and chaos.

References

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