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Integration of Psychology and Theology

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Unit Three Essay Responses

1. At least twice I can find clashes between the worldviews from the author's story and my own. Specifically, the censorship of women's clothing is something I don't agree with. Culturally I can understand that women are seen by some as naturally provocative. And any time a woman wears something that reveals any portion of their body men see that as disrespectful or "sinful nature". Personally, I think that this moderation of what women can and cannot wear is just another way that men have found to can control women. I see the author's story as extremely dated and sexist but in that culture, there are women that abide by that rule, and it's normal. It's confusing to me that countries don't see similarly, because in my eyes women are equal to men. But that is not the case in other parts of the world. The other worldview that clashed with my own was the punishment of children. In the book, there is a story told of a little boy who stole from a store. As punishment, the mother tied his hands together, poured gasoline on them, and lit it ablaze. To me, that sounds completely and utterly stupid. Not only is the punishment overkill, but I don't even think it passes the correct message across to the child. The child may just fear their mother rather than comprehend that stealing is morally wrong. I think if I was exposed to a culture that had differing worldviews from my own I would do my best to understand

and assimilate. I've traveled to many countries that had very opposite worldviews and during my time I just tried to understand. It's not in my interest to change people's minds. I just want to see how they arrived at their conclusions.

2. To be a person is to have a heartbeat and the ability to perceive the things around you. The nature of the world is pure. All living things kill, give birth, and eat in some form. Life continues in a cycle for as long as it allowed that freedom. What's wrong with the world most often is a lack of empathy. The ability to feel what another person is feeling at any given moment. I think if there was simply more compassion for others the world would be such an easier place to be. I think things go wrong because where there is good there must be evil. It's a necessity for everything. I don't know how what is wrong in the world and my life can be fixed. I don't think there is a "fix" that exists. Human nature is at times impossible to work with. As there will always be people who seek to harm and take rather than heal and give. Most of my answers to the prompt are assumptive. They are based on my own personal interactions and experiences which are certainly biased. But I don't think it completely invalidates my beliefs either.

3. After reflecting on my answers to the previous two questions I agree with James Sire that our presuppositions are not always correct. I also agree that we are not always aware that we have presuppositions about certain topics. I see evidence of this in my first response about the way that women dress. I didn't agree that women should have any restrictions on what they can wear. I saw that as a violation of human rights. I based all of that on my worldview that women and men are equals. The country that had the clothing regulations does not operate on that same worldview and therefore shouldn't be held to the same standards. I can see how I and a person from that culture would disagree because the basis of our arguments comes from completely different foundations.

5. I think the idea that worldviews are chosen rather than inherited is true. In my own life, I was raised Christian and more leaning liberal. If I was raised in any other home I believe I could have turned out atheist and conservative. I am very convinced that most of the time a person's environment is the main factor in what they believe. The things happening in the area to the jokes made inside of your home can affect what you truly believe. I think for most parents it's very hard to raise a child without putting your worldview on them. Most times children do adopt their parent's worldviews. I think the right person can be deeply introspective and evaluate their own perspective just fine. But I'm sure there are individuals that either lack the intelligence or self-awareness to successfully evaluate their own worldview. For those people finding a counselor or therapist may be the most effective way to do so.

7. Individual sin can be seen as a source of suffering that might be relevant to psychology in how people perceive their sin. Many times individuals can become depressed because of how they perceive themselves through the worldview (or lens) that is Christianity. For example, a person who can't afford their next meal may steal food from a grocery store. The Bible clearly states that stealing is a sin. Although objectively stealing the food was wrong I don't think that individuals should beat themselves up over it simply because life goes on and a person's mental health is more important than attacking them with their faults. This is where sin is relevant to psychology. A counselor should be able to identify whether a person's individual sins are becoming more of a burden than the helpful guidelines that they were meant to be. Corporate sin can be seen in the church with the way transgender and homosexuals are treated. The Bible says to love all as your brother. But the way people who are a part of the LGBT+ community are treated is not reflective of that. Regardless of whether or not one believes that being LGBT+ is a sin, those who are a part of that group should be treated with respect and love.

9. There are Christians who view consummation as going to heaven and there are Christians who view consummation as participation in the renewal of the here and now. The difference is one is referring to life after our life on earth and the other is active in fixing the world we live in now. Personally, I was raised on the belief that life truly begins when we get to heaven. But as I've grown my view has shifted. I think we have to make the most of where we are. The idea that we just need to be decent till we get to heaven is damaging. As it basically calls for complacency. The latter is effective in calling Christians to action.

