

Social Analysis for the 21st Century: How Faith Become Action

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While reading the book *Social Analysis for the 21st Century: How faith becomes action* by Maria Cimperman is a little different from the other book but it's very informative. She gives great data information on how we see the world. Maria gives great social analysis on religion, politics, culture, and economics just to name a few but this is important because we need to see the needs of the people and the social demography of an area and whom can we speak to get help for our community. When trying to help a community we must have some resources to help accomplish the mission. In this essay be talking about the main point of the author's purpose. And I will also speak about how urban theological reflection and formation, including biblical themes and principles. But I will also give the author's arguments in the book and how this book can help be better people for the urban community.

While reading this book what stood out to me was when the author said, " An authentic faith- which is never comfortable or completely personal- always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better found it"¹. We have to have the heart of a servant like Jesus did because He came into a broken world but didn't leave it the same when He left. We must lead by Jesus' example and serve the community as Jesus would. We sometimes get caught up, in doing things the old way but we must adapt and make a connection with our young people. Most young won't come to our church because they feel like they can't relate to us. We the leaders of the church must go into the community and make a connection with them and see some of the needs of our youth and help make a difference in their life and community.

¹ Maria Cimperman, *Social Analysis for the 21st Century: How Faith Becomes Action*, 2015, pp582

Maria Cimperman did an amazing job in writing this book she tells us why we do social analysis is important. “ Social analysis helps us get underneath a problem and find out systemically why the problem exists, historically and structurally. Major structures include economics, politics, culture, the environment, and religion. Analysis also helps us unearth our blind spots or biases so that we see clearly what is happening, why it is happening, and how it relates to our deepest values and beliefs”². We must gather information to see where the weakest and strongest areas are and fix them. Without proper research, we can’t get better and grow to where God wants us to be. Sometimes we fear change but if we don’t change growth won’t happen and we will remain like stale bread. We must become revived and get into our community and preach and help our community. When we want to help our community, we must do this research with reliable resources for data. Talk to a specialist with expertise on your topic. Then find information from more than one perspective and then ask questions until you get a solid answer. But also get created visuals for the information that you are gathering if we do this will help us get great data so we can be better equipped to help our community.

We also must trust in God because in some things trying to help the community some politicians won’t help us but if we remember that we serve a great God who is the ultimate ruler we know in prayer He will take care of all our needs. Prayer changes all things and depending on God is faith something that we can’t see but I am rooted in the word of God and that keeps me grounded.

² Maria Cimperman, *Social Analysis for the 21st Century: How Faith Becomes Action*, 2015, pp.1411-1412

In doing a social analysis can help us be a better leaders for our church. We should be doing evaluations every three to five years so we can stay connected to what is going on around us. “ The process of the pastoral spiral can and does help many groups engage in positive change. At the same time, certain dynamics need to be considered if we are to be effective leaders for change”³. We must challenge ourselves and go the extra mile like Jesus would have done we have to get help from others and be adaptable to change. The church and community deserve our very best so let be that light for the world that is dark. Let us challenge ourselves and get involved in our environment and politics and schools and make a difference. When Maria Cimperman wrote this book, she is calling us to wake up and make a difference she gave us the tools let’s use and be better leaders for the kingdom of God.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

³ Maria Cimerman, Social Analysis for the 21st Century: How Faith Becomes Action,2015,pp2630

Cimperman, Maria. 2015. *Social Analysis for the 21st Century: How Faith Becomes Action*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books