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Integration of Psychology and Theology PSY253

6 Essay Questions

Question#6

In the article that Rebecca used to conclude that Jimmy was demonically possessed that makes the elements of the argument and potential flaws in the premises and whether the argument itself is valid is that the premises of Rebecca's diagnosis is not accurate. Jimmy's delusional concepts were brought on by a long history of him utilizing hallucinogenic drugs that even after discontinued use can still cause a delusional episode or reaction. This could have been brought on by the longevity of the drug's use that can possibly cause permanent aftereffects or permanent damage to his brain that may coincide why he's having these delusional thought patterns.

Rebecca did not conclude with an evaluation of blood test or brain activity test to see if this was chemically inflated using hallucinogenic drugs, nor did she acknowledge that there was drug use by Jimmy to determine if this was spiritual. She could, however, determine the use of the drugs could have been through demonic effects in the sober head to make him want to utilize the drugs in the first place. That would have been a process to say yes Jimmy was under the influence of demonic spirits that lead him drugs.

Even through Rebecca's in her worldview opinion claiming demonic spirits in Jimmy it would not have come into alignment of Jimmy using hallucinogenic drugs. Like I mentioned in the previous paragraph it could have been in the consumption of her worldview of the demonic spirit leading Jimmy to the use of the drugs.

## Question #8

The kind of hermeneutics you use when you've read Scripture is mentioned into two stages and they are to first discern the original meaning of the text by what it reads, secondly, then apply the text to how it might apply to your life or the current situation you are going through. The first part you have to see if the historical context is related to whatever the problem may be during the moment you feel that it needs to be addressed through scripture or biblical standards. In the second part is how can you interpret the process and how can it be applied to the case. In knowingly there is no exact equal between the text from the scripture and what the problem you're trying to apply the scripture to your problem or the situation you are going to try to solve.

The specific hermeneutical principles that the author noted that you want to adopt is to identify the concerns at the time it needs to be addressed. Also being able to interpret the scripture and how it will play an important role in deciphering the issue at hand or helping to bring a resolution to the problem.

The specific hermeneutical principles that the author noted with which I disagree with are the necessity of knowing "Who wrote the book?", "To whom was it written" I feel are not relevant in solving the issue or using scripture as a reference to the problem. The reason I feel this is irrelevant is because the two are not necessary to know, nor will it help to further facilitate what is needed to help the issue or the concern of other.

## Question #9

The author described four methodologies for seeking knowledge in authority, logic, empiricism, and hermeneutics as strategies that we can acknowledge claims carefully, so that we won't draw the wrong conclusion of making a mistake in the evaluation during delusional stages like Jimmy's circumstances described in the beginning of this chapter. In *logic* strategy we would have to separate the facts of realization from what we believe in our own view. In the *authority* strategy we must see what has been founded or based on by those in authority such as parents, teachers, doctors, etc. In the *empiricism* strategy that includes the knowledge of experience to evaluate the claims. In this area the belief is either validated or invalidated by proof of the experience. In the area of *hermeneutics* strategy are regarding how we interpret the claims to be evaluated through scriptures and what they have in common or comparison.

One example of how someone might make use of each of these methods to attain knowledge is by learning each of these strategies so that we won't look foolish in evaluating the claims. Also using these methods will also allow clarity and understanding, therefore, opening the opportunity for a fair diagnosis of the claim.

#### Question #4

Human finitude, human frailty, and human fallenness (the individual and corporate effects of sin) affect and limit the quest for knowledge by being a distraction due to low ability to function as a whole. These are all different ways that can mislead a person that's trying to reach their purpose or their destiny for their lives. The word of God says my people perish for lack of knowledge, therefore, knowledge is essential for us to accomplish those things of God that he has designed for our lives. Knowledge can come in several forms and not necessarily in book knowledge. It can also come by wisdom that's given to us by God or as we age we become wiser. Human finitude can be brought on through the mindset which can cause us to limit ourselves and not allowing us to excel on a goal or a life plan. The bible says so as a man think he become that; this is why it's imperative that we must be transformed in our thoughts. Human frailty is also a hinderance because it reference the weakness or the inability to achieve a goal that maybe the person has set for themselves. The scripture says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, let me know that if we trust and believe we can do anything that we set our mind or heart to do because of our Savior. Human fallenness can also be a hinderance to achieving knowledge. Because if we don't have the ability to pick ourselves up it become impossible to persevere through life. However, through Christ with prayer, fasting, and supplication we as children of the most High God can do everything and anything that we desire to do especially if its fitting to God. He will open doors that no man shut, if we put our faith and trust in Him.

### Question #3

The author discussed several intellectual virtues studiositas, intellectual humility, intellectual caution, intellectual courage, intellectual integrity, and intellectual perseverance out of these characteristics the one that is most difficult for me is intellectual caution. The reason I've chose this characteristic is because it best represents my current issues as of now. I find a lot of times because of my beliefs that it interferes with some of the open conversations that can seep in. Things such as same sex relationship would be to describe the intellectual caution I would need for myself as far as boundaries are concern. When those conversations arise, I can be one way because I know it's an abomination towards God's way of creation and I can really go in without consideration of the person I am conversing with.

What I can do to develop and strengthen this capacity is to tread with careful consideration to invite the other person's views and really investigate their concept of what they are trying to portray to me. To be honest I don't know if I can find it in my heart to convey their concept because it is so wrong. However, when I am face to face with many people that live their lives in this way I really try to avoid the conversation on this subject or because of what they know about me they don't bring up this conversation. I'm not sure how I can develop and strengthen myself in these areas. One option I can really put my finger on is prayer for God to help me to develop and strengthen in this area.

## Question #1

Some of the assumptions that I have acquired from my culture and subculture which shape the way I view the world are that as an African American woman I feel that I'm not treated fairly as my white counterparts when it comes to job opportunities.

To what degree I think I can become aware of these assumptions are based on when I've applied for two different positions at my last job and both were based on the qualifications of supervising other workers, that I had previous experience in along with the educational background and was denied the position. I applied for the position and a Caucasian women was giving the position with no educational background or on the job experience of supervising other workers. And what really bothered me was she bragged about how I wasn't going to get the position over her because she was white. I don't know if it is easy to challenge assumptions that are deeply embedded in a culture because it what you know to be your truth at that point. But if you're looking for change then anything is possible if that's what you truly want in order to better yourself. Therefore, you have to pull yourself from those deeply embedded assumptions and find how can you be a better person and what are the benefits for you to change. I know that some of those assumptions can hold you back from endless possibilities and make you feel less than your potentials. If you're continuing to do things that's not in your best interest then there is no growth and that will cause hinderance in you persevering in your destiny.

If I had been born into an overly racist family in a culture permeated by racism, I think I would more likely reject these racist values of the culture. The reason I would reject it is because mainly of my spiritual values and beliefs. I know that God has created all people whether good or bad and it is not his will for us to hate someone regardless of what anyone has done. There is a feeling of liberty when you don't carry all that hatred on you. It can become very heavy,

confusing, and burdensome on your health physically and spiritually and would be too much for me, especially as a child of God.