

Alliance Theological Seminary
People as Social And Cultural Beings
Spring 2023 CS501 OA

Rynkiewich Interaction

Chapter 5

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Submitted To: Dr. Stanley John

This is an interaction paper from the fifth chapter of the book: *Soul, Self, And Society: A Postmodern Anthropology for Mission in a Postcolonial World*.

The book was published by Cascade Books; and the publishing date is 2011 in Eugene, Oregon. The author of the book is Michael Rynkiewich.

This paper addresses four specific areas in the above mentioned chapter of the book. These areas are: a one sentence thesis statement, a one paragraph summary, personal interaction with specific themes in the readings, and two questions for further engaging the topic.

THESIS STATEMENT

“Marriage, kinship, and descent continue to function to structure relationships, form groups, and define society even in the face of urbanization and globalization.”¹

SUMMARY- PAGES 64-99 According to the author in the introduction to this chapter, titled Marriage, Family, and

Kinship, he shares that “people in different cultures,” seems to structure themselves in designed ways that gives their “social life” a look and feel unlike any other.² In addition, the author further shares that instead, most of the time people are merely trying to gain their goals, as well as their group goals. He continues to support his argument by stating that people apply strategies and rules that are ‘given’ to alter or ‘extend’ certain relationships.³

KINSHIP SYSTEMS - PAGES 79- 86

The author speaks of the several types of kinship systems, the different generations, and their concepts of what kinship means to them.⁴ What resonates well with me in this sub-title of the chapter, is the documentation of the Apostle Paul’s “use of Kinship terminology for

¹ Pg. 99

² Pg. 78

³ Pg. 78

⁴ Pg. 81-87

Non-Biological Others.”⁵ When the author states that, “the use of Kinship terminology implies certain behavior that is expected of good brothers and sisters.” I totally agree with this statement because I do believe that this terminology sets boundaries in the relationships between the brethren within the Christian community. I certainly agree with this statement by the author, because I myself rather to be addressed as sister by my brethren, even outside of the church building.

Jesus Himself, commands us, His “Church”; to love one another. However, He adds,” as I have loved you.”⁶ This clearly tells me that we, the “ Church”, must function in a loving relationship with one another. I guess that the Apostle Paul was reiterating this holy relationship among the brethren, when he encourages the Church to “greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.”⁷ So, this tells me that we must, at all times, as children of God, create, and maintain an atmosphere that is always of cleanness among ourselves, and I do believe that when we address our brethren, as sisters, and brothers, we are reminding ourselves, as well as our fellow brothers, and sisters, of who we are to one another.

ity?⁸

2. Should missionaries address inbreeding practices in the mission field?⁹

⁵ Pg. 80

⁶ See John 13:34-35

⁷ See 2nd. Cor. 13:12

⁸ Pg. 80

⁹ pg.92