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ENG102

21 March 2023

Biblical Literacy in Secular Society: Outline

Introduction

1. What is Biblical literacy?
 - a. Definition is disputed
 - b. How we read the bible affects our understanding of it,
 - c. How we choose to read the Bible will affect how we perceive and apply it, and familiarity with biblical narratives can provide insight into underlying cultural elements and motifs.

Body

1. Biblical worldview vs. biblical literacy
 - a. What is a biblical worldview
 - b. How does it pertain to literacy
 - c. Why need to read the bible in a specific way if you can understand its basic principles
 - d. Different perspectives affect how literacy is viewed
2. Biblical worldview vs. secular worldview
 - a. A biblical worldview is based on biblical morals
 - b. Examples of biblical morals

- c. How do we define a secular worldview?
 - d. Non-religious or other-religious
3. “Secularism”
- a. The idea of the “secular” has been around since the renaissance
 - b. The catholic church began to define it
 - c. Secular art and secular music became secular thinking/living
 - d. What is secularization today?
4. Secularization as a movement
- a. We see ideas change with the desire to be modernized
 - b. Modern america is “secular” now, began very unsecular
 - c. Pilgrims came with intent for free Christian worship
 - d. “In God We Trust”
 - e. We must ask where this way of thinking began to fall off
5. Secular curriculum in schools
- a. (Cite Segal)
 - b. Some pushback against this
 - c. Why is it such a battle?
 - d. Some believe it is a political agenda (Cite Smith)
 - e. Regardless of your thoughts, what is the drawback to secularization
6. How does biblical literacy directly affect us
- a. Whether you understand biblical texts or not you will interact with it
 - b. Biblical themes in media (examples)
 - c. Biblical themes in history (examples)

- d. Vocational Principles (Cite Reber)
 - e. Political events (Cite Dube)
 - f. If one does not maintain some kind of biblical literacy, they will have a diluted understanding of the world around them
 - g. Regardless of belief, cultural norms, arts, political and governmental ideals, and much more relevant elements of life are based upon/have history with biblical values/scripture
7. Textual Objectivity
- a. The biggest pushback against biblical literacy by non-believers is that it is a religious book and they do not believe in this religion
 - b. Being an educated individual would certainly include your ability to look at a text objectively, this includes religious texts like the bible
 - c. Both Secular and Non-Secular perspectives agree that the bible should be approached with objectivity (Cite Morrow)
 - d. While biblical literacy aims to grasp the spiritual understanding of the text, the discipline hinges on the idea that the text must be approached as a book: historical, creative, and informative in nature.
8. Conclusion
- a. What is the verdict?
 - b. Biblical literacy is a necessary discipline
 - c. May need to be redefined in order to encourage others to engage
 - d. There is wisdom in order, processes and systems which does not exclude the study of the bible

- e. “Studying” the bible should not be seen as something purely academic, but also recreation, therapeutic and encouraging.