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## Integrative Paper

Personal beliefs might be challenging when discussing social workers since beliefs are personal. Religion shouldn't be discussed with a client unless the client specifically requests it. However, living by Christian principles, such as treating everyone with love and speaking with the attitude of Jesus are appropriate when it comes to social work. A Christian social worker shouldn't attempt to persuade any of their clients to become Christians. They should be led by God. The Bible states "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" Acts 20:25. This Bible verse tells believers with the hard work they do they must help the weak. This is what social workers do, they help the weak, the poor, and those who don't have support in life.

The scripture that goes with the NASW Code of Ethic is 2 Peter 1:10

"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble." Christians need to understand what they are called for and apply that to social work. However, they

need to keep in mind the NASW code of ethics that states that “social workers should not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression” (Social Work Values and Ethics: Page 45). When a Christian is going social work, having certain topics can cause them to have a negative reaction or cause them to discriminate against a group of people because of what they believe. This is why it’s important to have compassion and to show Jesus’s love to people. For example, the Bible talks about a woman that was caught in adultery and this woman was going to be stone because of the mosaic laws. John 8:3-11 states “As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”. Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” “No,

Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.” Jesus was the only one capable of stoning her because He was sinless but his compassion for the woman didn’t let Him accuse her but instead He saw a lost daughter that didn’t even know that she needed salvation. When a client comes to a social worker the last thing a social worker should do is accuse them. Christian social workers might accuse or condemn people based on what they believe this is why Ephesians 6:12 is important for Christian to understand. Ephesians 6:12 says “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” Clients are battling with many things whether it is abused, some kind of violence, discrimination, lack of understanding etc. A client is already fighting with “mighty powers in this dark world” ; they don’t need a Christian criticizing and condemning them because of their situation.

The Bible story about the woman caught in adultery helps us understand the values, principles, and standards of the code of ethics. When it comes to the cultural component it is important because social workers should make a decision based on culture if there were social workers in that time period. A social worker should have to decide whether to stone the women based on her decision or to do

what Jesus did and give her a sign of salvation. Since a social worker's main focus is the well being of the client, the social worker should make a decision whether to let the woman die because of her sin or help her. The social worker must think of going by the law that no one at that time was following or to save a soul. In Jesus people can see what true compassion is and what loving our neighbors truly is.

When a client refuses to accept assistance and when privacy and confidentiality are at risk, ethical difficulties in social work can be difficult to resolve. An illustration of this is Case 2, an ethical dilemma involving a pregnant 14-year-old girl who was waiting for the legal abortion limit to be reached. The adolescent was worried that her parents would send her to live with her aunt. In this case the client made it clear that she didn't want to tell her parents but the social worker must think about how she's a minor and about who is going to be responsible for her if her aunt doesn't want to be responsible for her. This case is about confidentiality. The social worker can give her options and solutions to her problems but the most important thing in this case is knowing the relationship between the parents and the daughter and if it's appropriate to tell the minor's parents without her consent. The social worker had to violate an ethical value or respect the minors self-determination.

The discovery of compassion in Christianity is all throughout the old and new testament. In the old testament we can see how God had compassion for the israelites. When the Israelites were in slavery God showed them compassion by hearing their prayers and sending them a liberator named Moses. We can see Moses being competent, compassionate, and a catalyst. When Moses was Egyptian he didn't have competency. However, when he was in the desert he learned to have patience by pastoring sheeps, he learned the israelites culture with his father in law Jethro. God prepared him before sending him to liberate his people. Moses thought he wasn't ready and God sent him because he was more than prepared. When Moses got to Egypt he became more compassionate for his people because he saw the injustice that they were going through. God used Moses and Aaron to bring his people together because slavery made the Israelites divided. With this being said Moses became a catalyst by bringing people together and helped them find God by showing them miracles. In the New Testament Jesus showed competency, compassion, and catalyst with everyone. When He was in the temple He was teaching to those who spend their time studying scriptures which shows his competency. He was compassionate to the poor, the rich, robbers, murders, fishermen, women, and children. Jesus Spirit attracted the multitude which spread his fame across nations. Jesus built a relationship between Him and his followers. Jesus made them understand the importance of serving. He showed this on the

sabbath when he healed a man when it was forbidden. John 5:6-16 states “Jesus saw him lying there and realized he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the disabled man answered, “I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I’m coming, someone goes down ahead of me.” “Get up,” Jesus told him, “pick up your mat and walk.” Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk. Now that day was the Sabbath, and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “This is the Sabbath. The law prohibits you from picking up your mat.” He replied, “The man who made me well told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” “Who is this man who told you, ‘Pick up your mat and walk’?” they asked. But the man who was healed did not know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. After this, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.” The man went and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began persecuting Jesus because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.” To Jesus the most important thing was the well being of people. He said that to see a person well should times you might have to go against ethics. Social workers have to go against ethics when a client is a harm to others or himself. Is important for social workers to know that not everything is step by step but instead some things require going against the steps and thinking more about the

client. Christian social workers learn throughout the years the importance of compassion and how people are important and we need to help them and love them like Jesus did.

Throughout this course I learn that a step by step hand book doesn't teach people to be compassionate about others suffering. Suffering is something that you feel due to one's compassion. Can everyone be helped? Can people convert to Christianity through their social worker? These are important questions to ask yourself as a Christian Social worker.