

Unit 4: Epistemology & Sin

#1. Both my parents are Caribbean, but I was born and raised in the US, New York City so I heard many stories such as my mom being a Catholic and my dad being a Pentecostal, but I identify myself as a Christian if a label were to be placed on me. One assumption that was acquired from my parents was that marijuana is a drug and it makes people do crazy things. I did not start smoking until I was 18 years old and it was due to my parents generalizing the idea of drugs and the different types of drugs did not matter because it fell under one category. My mom would tell me that people who do drugs do silly things like go on rooftops and think they can fly, or people who take drugs wander off. Unfortunately living in NYC is a curse at times because of how many drug addicts there are, some are homeless, some are not mentally okay and others define gravity and are stuck no matter where and what is going on. I was not born into a racial family because my mom is a shade darker than I am brown and my dad has a light skinned complexion, on both sides of my family there are different colors and cultural identifications like Indian-like complexion and African American/Caribbean . I would like to classify myself as a mixed individual both literally mixed from my family and I am mixed because I am open to new knowledge, other people's culture, etc.

#2. I do think that I agree with the author about this statement because we are only human and as much as we are confident in what we know and how we do things there is a limit that we are not all knowing and majority of humans do not comprehend or grasp the basics of life itself so imagining if we could hold more knowledge and resources than we have now is a little hard to believe. This also allows those who believe in God that we do need to rely on Him who is All-Knowing and Above all. In my opinion if we knew everything then there would be no research to do or questions to be asked because the knowledge and insight would leave no room for curiosity or of the unknown.

#3. One of the virtues that I think is challenging for me is intellectual integrity. I do like to believe that I am open minded and very diverse, but sometimes I just firmly believe that I have enough research done as well as my own experiences and knowledge to know when certain things are deemed to be, “right” or “correct”. It is difficult to a certain extent to challenge beliefs. For example, on the religious aspect everyone has their own identification, but the mutual common is God, but I would not change my religious beliefs to someone else’s just because they tried to persuade me or told me amazing things about their religion. I would also try new things like food or television shows if suggested, but that does not change my view or opinion.

#5. Like I mentioned in the 1st question about the drugs and how my cultural based assumption made me believe that there was a group of drug addicts that were classified as bad people. As I got older I kept that thought in mind about touching actual drugs besides marijuana with my own intellectual virtue of keeping true to my rooted assumptions. The self- deception that comes would have been peer pressure or being in an environment where people do drugs then I might start questioning myself in my head about the repercussions both good and bad. Having a lack of information on actually if people thought they

could fly on drugs also played a factor because I did not google about it, nor is google a reliable source. People treat google like the all knowing because it is easy to be able to type just about anything and gain the knowledge, but we do not know if we can trust the information or not. Methodical error to me interpreted I said there are repercussions for the choices that we make, if I were to try other drugs besides marijuana I do not know what would be the outcome and it could be likely that I go insane and go on a rooftop thinking that I can fly, or I can just die because everyone's reaction is different. I thank God I have not ever had curiosity of experimenting the drug world because it seems too risky to gamble with my life over a temporary feeling.

#8. My approach to hermeneutical method is how the storyline applies to my current situation/circumstances. The author states that only after interpreting the text and fully understanding the meaning then we can know how to read certain Scriptures and that we can look for the passages to apply to ourselves and we will have the knowledge to find the lessons or to understand God's communication through the many stories. The who, what, where, when and why method does work efficiently when searching in reading so the fulfillment to be able to follow along through the writing and leading to a greater walk in Christianity.

#9. Appealing to Authority are those we seek who hold knowledge or have a certain status higher than others. One example of this may be like the author said about doctors because yes misdiagnostic is possible. I was diagnosed at 15 years old with what the doctors told me to be chronic gastritis. I was prescribed medication like Nexium and Omeprazole, but I later on found out that I was not supposed to stay on medication like this for a long period of time. I believe that the doctors did not do enough research after my endoscopy. I got a biopsy done on a piece of my stomach lining so there should have been more information behind the reasoning. Logic has three deductive arguments, an example of premise is to question if something is being presented to us or knowledge to be creditable or is it not accurate. During the very intense period of covid a lot of the testings were saying positive and some were saying negative so I'm sure people were questioning the results depending on if they had symptoms or not. Interference of accepting the positive test result or disagreeing leads to the final part which is the conclusion after making a choice. Empiricism I believe is someone who is narrow minded and even if all sides of the story has been heard the individual sticks to believing themselves based on the experiences or knowledge pertaining to whatever person, place or thing and considering their own factors. Hermeneutics has to be carefully understood because depending on what information is being presented to us I believe that we have to understand the root of the context, the meaning behind the words and the genre of writing, poetry, etc., it is easy for miscommunication or the point being missed due to lack of. In Evangelic the Bible is represented to be guidance and to have a value. There are many different interpretations of the Bible because of the many ways to decipher.