Social Change: Lack of relevancy between Christian families and the church concerning

 children’s education.

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***100 Day – Exercise***

Write an 8-10 page essay on a contextualization issue for social change. Page count does not include the cover and works cited pages. The essay should demonstrate scholarly work, cover the subject with sufficient detail to communicate a solid understanding of applying foundational Christian worldviews, and show proper APA 7 style documentation for the resources (works cited). Follow these steps to develop the essay.

**1.** Develop your essay according to the outline in the Strategy Worksheet found in the 100-Day assignment document.

○  Identify a social issue or phenomenon needing a Christian contextualized response.

○  Reflect on Stage of 5 of the Interdisciplinary Research Process

○  Consider the Five Spheres of Life as you consider your strategy for contextualizing

 a social concern.

○  See sample essays of contextualization in the PHI 923 Course Resources folder.

1. **Structure (Paper Evaluation includes the following structure below).**
2. Download the “OGS APA Course Assignments Template 7th Ed 2021” template from the **General Helps** folder in the AA-101 The Gathering Place Course on DIAL. Using the template, create the following pages.
3. Title Page (not included in page count).
4. Copy and paste the assignment instructions from the syllabus starting on a new page after the title page, adhering to APA 7th edition style (APA 7 Workshop, Formatting, and Style Guide, APA 7 Quick Guide).
5. Start the introduction on a new page after the copied assignment instructions.
6. **Be sure to meet the following expectations**.
	1. Document all sources in APA style, 7th edition (APA 7 Reference Example, APA 7 Quick Guide)
	2. Include a separate **Works Cited** page, formatted according to APA style, 7th edition (not included in page count).
	3. Use a minimum of seventeen scholarly research sources (three to four

books and the remaining scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles).

**4. Submit the completed paper to DIAL.**

Today, children’s beliefs, attitudes and actions are the result of influences from parents, teachers, and social media, even for Christian families. But when it comes to education, most do not know what biblical worldview is or how to appropriate it in school day by day. Where is the relevancy of the church today for Christian parents and their children? Christian parents want to be accepted and affirmed in their parenting. How will the church meet this demand if they are not teaching the gospel and reaching families of young children in educational support? There is tremendous lack of connection and relevancy between Christian families and the church’s influence for godly education and thus this is a great social change that needs to be addressed, assessed, and corrected.

1. **Present Situation of Social Concern:** In the church today and at Christian schools, many parents are not sure why they attend or send their children to Christian education. Some parents realize they cannot reach their children because of negative influences, and they are looking for Christian institutions for advice. However, many parents do not attend church regularly. They want others with good morals to teach their kids. The children are forced to go to church at times and are only entertained. The need for the gospel of Jesus Christ should be returned as the main thing in churches and Christian schools and the teaching of relationship with Jesus Christ is most important.

This situation desires and demands a Christian response in order to make

future changes in family, education for children, culture, and society. It is said today that

youth interact on two levels: family and society ((Arshad & Zaman 2020). These are

important and are changing day by day as social media and peers grow stronger as

influences to youth, more than family.

 However, the most important interaction level for youth should be spiritual

relational level. As a student knows his identity knows his identity in a Christian

worldview manner, he can answer questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am

I going? What is my purpose? But who will teach these students? Should not the church

And Christian school be the forerunners of this teaching if Christian parents will not?

1. **Social Analysis: Family, Church, Community, Society**
2. **Family:** Family is important to helping children be a success in all areas of life. What

mothers and fathers understand about their responsibility to God for their children’s

education is paramount. Moms, as the most influential person in the family, and their

understanding of identity, worldview and what she believe about training and teaching

her children impacts their education. Children model their home-life while at school in

their behaviors, thoughts values, and attitudes. “Family engagement is critical to the

achievement of educational goals,” (Filik-Uyanik & Demircan 2021). This is important to

culture today for a better tomorrow.

1. **Church:** Unfortunately, the church is not in a good position to help parents. As I

have discussed and interviewed leaders in youth groups, they do not feel equipped to help the growing need of youth with parents who don’t attend church. There is no partnership or understanding biblical principles of parenting. Many church members do not even understand biblical worldview. “A majority (51%) think they have a biblical worldview –but only 6% actually do. Instead, a whopping 88% of Americans possess a worldview know as syncretism – a hodge-podge of beliefs from multiple philosophies of life,” (Barna 2021). These findings among American adults and families are shocking to the church. We need change if the church wants to fulfill His great mission.

1. **Community:** Community encompasses school and other influences to students

and families. Dr. Harris, a proclaimed advocate of children’s health issues has studied children and loved them through many horrific events in their poor communities. She believes outcomes of children’s values are shaped by where they live, “Connections between poor health and poor communities are well documented,” (Harris 2018). Our churches and Christian schools do their parts, too.Some have many community projects

such as helping with food pantries and Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child, and other service and help. Some youth enjoy these projects upon understanding of servanthood, but others do not want to participate, because they do not know how to put

others before themselves. Children of private Christian school are privileged to be a help but some don’t know why they are doing what they are doing, and just enjoy being with peers.

 “Children’s education and learning are not solely associated with school, but also

interactions among wider systems of families, schools, community, politics, mass media

and other entities,” (Filik-Uyanık Rabia, & Demircan 2021). While many would believe

the family and home are the greatest influential factors, they are not. This could be

caused by the busyness of mom and dad, the absence of mom and dad, and other adult

influences raising the child. Many children are “screening” more hours per day than

should be allowed to. Gaming online, texting can also be influences that give advice

worthless entertainment and immediate gratification taking the place of family. While

church youth groups can be a healthy environment, they cannot take the place of family.

Moms and Dads have distractions from daily work and are tired when they get home.

They do not realize the most important work they have to do daily is at home being with

their children. Life is hard but it is manageable. A parent’s worldview and how they see

life is modeled to their children each day. Children learn most at home by watching.

 “Transparency and openness are basic scientific values,” (Gennetian et al 2020).

Community also must take a major role in researching more about families they serve.

Because our spheres of influence are constantly changing and parents realize this gener-

ation cannot be raised as they were, more scientific discovery and research are searching

for truth in all areas of child development. Whether they choose cultural history as their

basis of study or what’s happened in society in the past five – ten years, or

happening now, clarity is sought. Training in impartiality is very important because all

sides of research must be studied. Life-long learning is key for our churches, schools,

and communities.

 Further, leaders in church and school can make it possible as they work together in

community, despite difficulties that may occur because of beliefs and differences.

“The roles of leaderships in leading toward authentic partnerships with families

and community organizations demonstrate how the school’s approach to

 partnerships evolved toward expanded notions of student outcomes, fostering

 democratic dialogue and productive disagreement, building and sustaining

relational trust, and negotiating reciprocity for generativity,” (Fitzgerald & Quinones

 2019). This can be accomplished through winsome dialogue with community. Other

believers in church and school who cannot attend this conversation can be praying.

1. **Society:**  Living in another country for two years made me appreciate my home

country in the United States. However, serving in China opened my eyes to the Chinese Christian Church there. These folks, including children are hungry for truth and are not entitled with their value of Christian school and church. They appreciate and are thankful, respectful, and kind to all who come and sacrifice their time to teach them. But not all societies are influences in their families. There is another larger influencer that we should notice.

 “Socialization takes place not only in family, schools, churches and community, but also through the media (Berns & White, 2015). While we may not like the above, it is true. Children know more about characters in movies and games than they know about their families. How does the church and Christian school minister to those who are hurting from too much media influence? We must help.

1. **Theological Moral Evaluation**

God cares deeply for families. The New Covenant maintains the standard for marriage and family from the Beginning. Families in the church demonstrate the standards for life, education, purpose, which is why there is so much teaching for spouses and parents in the New Testament. While it is difficult to find stories in the New Testament that illustrate the fundamental principles of grace, worldview, family and church, etc., there is no question that the family and church are God’s primary channels for biblical influence in the world.

1. **Biblical Norms:** The promises of God were repeated from generation to generation

and were written in the houses of families and memorized by children, recited in worship songs and they continue today to be vital for us. Psalm 103, “Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits.” It is pleasing to God when we exalt Him in our homes, families and communities.

1. **Kingdom Relevant Principles:** Families are called to nurture and train children in

the ways of the Lord. Parents’ responsibility is to train their children to live in this world.

 They walk in the ways of the Lord that are taught in the New Covenant. The truths of

 scripture apply to every area of life including vocation, avocation, ministry, theology,

 philosophy and worldview. Worldview begins in the home. This should flow to the

 church, community, and even Christian education. It depends on the partnership in the

 body of Christ and its impact to the community and beyond.

1. **Issues to Address:**
2. Young parents today are not equipped for parenting because they are early in their

spiritual maturation process. They are kids who have kids.

1. The leadership of the church has endorsed and used partnerships with Christian

education sources and the most effective and successful of these schools realize the need

for biblical teaching for young parents and students.

1. Schools must commit to educating these parents and possibly the church would be a

non-issue.

1. Church and Christian school must be on the same page with biblical worldview.
2. **Spectrum of Critical Contextualization**
3. **Commendation of good beliefs or practices:** Teach church leaders and school leaders to use the same language of biblical worldview. Currently, it is viewed that we are not communicating truth in the same way, consistent with scripture. Consistency in same language and making recourses common to both groups as in youth pastors and Christian teachers. This would result in great Bible study teaching to students in the church and Christian school and be foundational for every discipline and activity.
4. **Communication strategy**
5. **Stakeholders:** There are many stakeholders involved in this strategy. Christian parents are first and foremost. Christian school boards, administrators, teachers, and staff are needed. Church leaders including pastors and decision makers, teachers, volunteers, and church members. Both organizations would benefit from conversations and discussions about importance of understanding Christian worldview, separately in their organizations and then as one whole group.
6. **Venues of communication (media?):** In the church, biblical worldview classes, seminars, and conferences are exceptional ways to begin to teach the fellowship. As new people join the church, new membership classes including worldview classes, would be a great way to communicate truth. When leaders and parishioners understand, then teaching of biblical worldview to children can be explained.

Christian school boards, administrators, teachers and staff can participate in a

 Christian worldview program at the beginning of the school year during their pre-

 planning days. Groups can be formed for monthly accountability and intentionality in

 continuing what is learned and how it is properly taught to students. Continuous

 talking and sharing is a phenomenal to learn.

In the Christian school’s social media parent threads, “Table Talks on Biblical

 Worldview,” meeting twice per month, as well as, at the beginning of the new school

 year, Parent Orientation Night are great communication tools.

1. **Resources (what is already available):** Ask reflecting questions that cause critical thinking. “As a parent, pastor or teacher, how should knowing your roles, as both steward and shepherd of children entrusted to your care impact your behavior and responsibilities, especially as it relates to the education of those children, (Pue 2021). Christian worldview is transformational to understanding the questions: Why am I here? Who made me? What went wrong in the world? How can it be fixed? Now, how do I live? These fundamental questions have answers to help us all know what we believe, why we believe it and why it’s important. There are many organizations who are willing to come to churches and school: Colson Center, Summit Ministries are just two that I’m familiar with.
2. **Timelines/issues:** For churches and Christians schools, beginning something new takes time and planning. Leaders will have to engage and excite others in small groups as first. Even if some of the leadership believes this is best for the community, they will have a challenge convincing others of its importance. Churches usually like to start something new in January of each new year. We must believe that Jesus Christ will make the way clear as He works in the hearts of believers.

Schools particularly like to begin new things in the fall. For all teachers to be on board, teaching and training them to be able to teach and train others takes more time than they have at the beginning of school. And administrators will have to come along side of them to keep the momentum continuing. Small groups of a few energized teachers who already teach from a biblical worldview model should be invited to talk about how this can be achieved through school.

 It will take revelation knowledge for this all to happen. We will need the

Holy Spirit’s help to reveal those things to all of us, so that what we hear and read will be transformative (Friedmann & Russin 2023). Prayer for both church and school is necessary proponent. As the Holy Spirit dwells in all believers, He will make it so.

1. **Obstacles:** Since “Socialism and Marxism are on the rise—especially among young adults. Millennials are swelling the ranks of the ‘Don’ts’—those who don’t know, don’t believe, and don’t care whether or not God exists,” (Barna, 2021). These are some of the parents of our younger school children. There are also those who believe they already understand and don’t want to learn more or attend another seminar. Some Christians believe the church should express the Gospel and be simply familiar to culture. They have blinders on, and their heads are inward as they think only of themselves. They will be the hardest to reach, but we must begin somewhere. Small groups are best. Onesies, twosies, fewies…

 To conclude, “Cultural transformation is possible, but only with a renewed

 commitment to biblical worldview. We need the information we need to build a

 winning game plan for cultural transformation. Worldview is not a game changer. It’s

 the game,” (Barna, 2021). Young people develop their own worldview at a very

 young age. During their teens it is refined and reshaped. After that it doesn’t change

 much, unless there is a major life event. As we think of major events taking place in

 our society, especially with the worldwide lockdown of 2020 because of the deadly

 pandemic virus and children being taught virtually for foundational studies, it is no

 wonder families in the church and community struggle with their faith.

 Finally, how will this be accomplished. It’s bigger than all of us. This can

 cause much anxiety. There is no worry or fear. Our Father is Sovereign and we trust

 his timing. We do not fight this giant alone. “We choose to lift our eyes and see Him,

 bigger and more powerful. He loves us and plans to lead us back into His light,

 (Giglio 2023). His answer: There are no worries, just thankfulness to God and

 trusting Him. He knows exactly what He is doing in the world.

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