Fusion of Horizon Essay

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COM 803-22 Hermeneutics and Communications

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06/24/2023

## Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

## 1. Write a three-paragraph essay responding to the following question: When have you noticed your pre-judgments influencing your interpretations? How have you experienced a "fusion of horizons" in your learning experiences?

## Fusion of Horizon Essay

While discussing Han-Georg Gadamers “Fusion of Horizon,” I was taken back to a discussion I had with a colleague some time ago about homosexuality and biblical context. As a child, I was raised in a strict Christian home. My mother was a Sunday school teacher and believed in instilling the word of God into her children. You can say she has an “old world religion” for lack of a better term. In this religion, the concept of homosexuality is more than often compared to the biblical story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. In various religious groups, this story is taught to be an example of how much God hates and despises the “sin” of homosexuality, to the point of destroying entire cities.

While talking to my colleague, I shared with him the fact that God destroyed two cities, at one time was the premise for my belief that homosexuality was a contemptible and unpardonable sin. Continuing to speak with my colleague and friend, he asked me “Do you think God would destroy entire cities over one sin, or multiple sins?” He continued to tell me the only unforgivable sin the Bible names is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. He suggested I go back and read the story of Sodom and Gomorrah again, and read Judges 19, the story of Lot and the Ephraimite man. The events of this story are like the events of Sodom and Gomorrah. Both stories deal with a group of strangers coming into a city where the residents wanted to engage in sexual violence and do in the story of Lot. But here, it wasn’t an issue of sexual gratification, it was an issue of man’s unrepentant and sinful nature.

By speaking with my colleague, listening to what he had to say, and taking his advice and doing some further research on my own, I’ve begun to look at this issue through a different lens. I see now that the story of Sodom and Gomorrah wasn’t just about homosexuality, but just like the story of Lot and the Ephraimite man, it was about the totality of man’s sinful nature during that period. Some examples of this would be greed, lust, violence, unwillingness to help the poor, etc. This would be what an attorney would call, “the totality of circumstances.”

In summary, my pre-judgements about why God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were based on the teachings of what I call “old world religion.” After speaking to a colleague and taking his advice regarding further reading, my pre-judgements have changed, and I now look at and consider the totality of the things that were happening during that period.