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***20-Day Exercise Submission***

For each of the following prompts, write a thorough response (2-3 well-developed paragraphs, each with 3 to 4 sentences minimum per paragraph) and cite at least one scholarly source (per prompt) to support your answer. Answer the questions in the context of your own professional life, goals, and research interest:

* 1. What is postmodernity, and how does it undermine Christian Orthodoxy?
  2. Define the key terms in orthodoxy: Theology, Doctrine, and Dogma.
  3. When confronted with opposing worldview philosophies and beliefs in your career and culture, how does knowing what you believe help?
  4. List three categories of Christian thought (i.e., eschatology) and state how they apply to your faith journey and profession.
  5. In contrast to the essential core beliefs of Christianity, there are also doctrinal matters that have been the subject of continual debate. Give an example of a non-negotiable belief and an example of a disputable matter from your faith tradition.
  6. Why are “professed beliefs” and “operational beliefs” significant for the study of orthopraxis? How can the distance between the two be reduced?
  7. Change is a natural process in life. Give a personal example of three types of normative life changes that were discussed in this course.

1. **What is postmodernity, and how does it undermine Christian Orthodoxy?**

Postmodernity, a belief system that asserts truth is relative, is gaining popularity in our current time. This way of thinking poses a challenge to traditional Christian Orthodoxy, which holds that truth is absolute and that God is the ultimate truth. Orthodox Christianity maintains a definite view of the world, God, and humanity, and asserts that these views are based on absolute truth.

Sonea, 2018, stated that there is a rejection of objection knowledge for knowledge that is based on int One of the ways that postmodernity is thought to undermine Christian Orthodoxy is by challenging traditional interpretations of the Bible and other religious texts

Not all people who accept postmodernity necessarily refuse the concept of absolute truth. Some proponents of postmodernity argue that there are many valid ways of understanding the world and that these ways of understanding can reconcile without one being considered superior to the others. However, the relativistic viewpoint of postmodernity can make it difficult to justify the presence of absolute truths in the same way that they are customarily understood in Christianity and other religions.

Orthodox Christianity, based on the Bible, declares that there is absolute truth. As a result, the only supreme authority source, the Lord, must be obeyed. God’s will is made known through His Word, the Bible, and the creation of the world. Therefore, postmodernity is an existential risk to society by undermining and debating God’s Word. The influence upon society, as a result, is chaos and or disorder.

1. **Define the key terms in orthodoxy: Theology, Doctrine, and Dogma.**

**Theology** (Gr. theologia, from theos, “God,” and logos, “speech”; Lat. theologia) Language or discourse about God. It can be a scientific, methodical attempt to understand God’s divine revelation. It has classically been seen as “faith-seeking understanding.” (McKim, D. K., 2014).

Theology is the study of the nature of God and the relationships between God and humanity. It is a branch of religious studies that involves the analysis and interpretation of religious texts, as well as the development of religious doctrine and practices.

**Doctrine** (Lat. doctrina, from docere, “to teach”) That which is taught and believed to be true by a church. In various ways, churches sanction their official teachings or doctrines. Jones, J. (2015). Theology and the nature of God. Journal of Religious Studies, 27(1), 45-62.

Doctrine refers to the set of teachings and beliefs that are accepted as true by a religious group. It is often derived from the interpretation of sacred texts and the guidance of religious leaders, and it serves as a framework for the practices and beliefs of followers. (McKim, D. K., 2014).

**Dogma** (Gr. dogma, “that which seems to one,” “an opinion”) A teaching or doctrine that has received official church status as truth. In the Roman Catholic Church, it is a definitive or infallible church teaching. (McKim, D. K., 2014).

1. **When confronted with opposing worldview philosophies and beliefs in your career and culture, how does knowing what you believe help?**

It is essential to have a clear knowledge of your beliefs, as they will eventually be indicated in your actions. The world is home to a variety of belief systems that, if not understood and defended against, can result in feelings of hopelessness, a lack of purpose, and other attitudes that can lead to nihilism.

As a Christian and believing in the Bible is my ultimate truth, I have only one direction to go. For example, I believe in God is the creator of the universe and all over the world, so I do not believe in the theory Evolution of Darwin. I also believe in the marriage of a man and a woman, and the death and rise of Jesus Christ. In society, I have tried to live with the Bible’s principles: living in harmony, treating others with dignity and respect, practicing forgiveness, obeying regulations, praying, and believing in future Jesus’s coming back. I strongly believe in the Bible and have hope, faith, and love for others. As an employee in the public sector, sharing hope is increasingly essential for the stakeholders. Many believers are surrendering to the spirit of the age. Knowing the Lord and His truth is important to me as I seek to share hope, purpose, and truth with God’s people and the people whom I met.

Knowing what you believe is essential as what you believe ultimately will be seen in what you do. The world has various belief systems that can, if not carefully understood and able to be defended against, lead towards situations such as hopelessness, a lack of purpose, and other attitudes which ultimately end in nihilism. South Korea’s shift toward a Christian worldview from more traditional religious views such as Buddhism and Confucianism are examples of individuals knowing what they believe and standing strong regardless of entrenched cultural ideologies (Choi, 2018).   
**List three categories of Christian thought (i.e., eschatology) and state how they apply to your faith journey and profession.**

Jeremey Kimble quotes D.A. Carson on the issue of a Christian worldview stating, “...a Christian worldview addresses questions of God’s identity, origins, the significance of life, the question of evil, and the resolution to this dilemma, all based on the storyline of Scripture, which accords and corresponds to true reality” (n.d.). Several theological categories develop a structure for a biblical Christian worldview. Categories of theology that can contribute to my professional field in a more profoundly Christian way are ecclesiology, theology proper, and eschatology.

* + 1. **Ecclesiology -**

Ecclesiology is a branch of theology that focuses on the study of the church, including its nature, structure, and mission. It involves the examination of the history, origins, and development of the church, as well as the beliefs, practices, and organization of Christian communities. This aspect of theology helps Christians understand the role and purpose of the church in the world and the relationships between believers. It also has practical applications for how churches are structured and operate, and how they fulfill their mission of spreading the Gospel and serving the needs of the community.  
**2. Theology proper –**

Theology proper is a branch of theology that deals with the nature and attributes of God. It includes the study of divine attributes, such as omnipotence, omniscience, and omnibenevolence, as well as the nature of God's relationship with the world and with humanity. Theology proper is an important aspect of Christian theology, as it helps believers to understand who God is and what he is like, and to form their beliefs and practices based on this understanding. It is also a central component of other branches of theology, as the nature and attributes of God are foundational to many other aspects of Christian belief and practice.

**3. Eschatology –**

Eschatology is a branch of theology that examines the end of the world and the ultimate fate of humanity. It includes the study of concepts such as the second coming of Jesus, the resurrection of the dead, and the judgment of humanity. In Christian eschatology, it is believed that Jesus will return at the end of time to judge all people and create a new heaven and a new earth. This branch of theology helps Christians understand the ultimate purpose and meaning of their lives and the world, and to guide their actions and decisions toward the goal of eternal life with God.

In Vietnam, every time at church, believers must declare the statement that Jesus will come back. So, we must prepare and be ready for the coming. We wait with hope and joy to see the savior comes back to save the world and brings believers to heaven.

1. **In contrast to the essential core beliefs of Christianity, there are also doctrinal matters that have been the subject of continual debate. Give an example of a non-negotiable belief and an example of a disputable matter from your faith tradition.**

How people form certain beliefs is in part based on the impact of information obtained from society (Orticio et al., 2021). Therefore, individual Christian beliefs can be changed by society. This secular influence can be seen in multiple ways within a church community. Developing an orthodoxy grounded in the Bible’s truth helps a believer stand firm in the constantly shifting beliefs of society.   
A non-negotiable belief is all people will be saved because God loves all people. In the contrary, the bible stated that God saved the people who believe in Him (John 3:16).

Of course, salvation is only in Christ (I am the way, the truth, the life). Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ. However, people must confess their sins and believe in Christ. Works cannot earn or pay either prior to or as a result of salvation. Only by believing in Jesus Christ can a person be saved. In the scripture, the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Christ is clear in Scripture and non-negotiable.

1. **Why are “professed beliefs” and “operational beliefs” significant for the study of orthopraxis? How can the distance between the two be reduced?**

A professed belief is a belief that someone publicly declares or claims to have. It is a belief that the person openly expresses and is willing to talk about or discuss with others. It is a belief that the person holds to be true and that they are willing to stand behind or defend.

For example, the Christians declared they believe in creation and the bible.

On the other hand, an operational belief is a belief that guides an individual's actions or behavior. It is a belief that is actively put into practice or implemented in some way. Operational beliefs are often closely tied to a person's values and can shape how they approach tasks and make decisions. For example, the revolutionists want to change the government and establish a new regime and force the people to absolutely obey their authority.

These beliefs can be obvious, meaning that a person is consciously aware of them and can speak them, or they can be implicit, meaning that they are unconscious and influence behavior without the person necessarily being aware of them. For example today, there are different opinions about abortion, gay marriage, or immigration policy.

Examples of disparities between orthodoxy professed beliefs, and orthopraxis, operational beliefs, can be found individually and within larger systems such as countries. Croatia is an example where ninety percent claim to be Christian. Yet, due to the enforced ideology of Marxism within the schools, the work ethic does not reflect a Christian worldview theological position(Glavas, 2017).

It is important for individuals to consider whether their actions are aligned with their professed beliefs and values, and to make an effort to align them if necessary.  
An example could be a person who professes to believe in the importance of sustainability and the environment, but who continues to participate in actions that are dangerous to the environment, such as setting fire in the forest, littering, cutting trees, not recycling or driving a gas-swallowing vehicle. In this case, the person's operational belief – the belief that guides their actions – is not consistent with their professed belief in sustainability.

Another example is a Christian doctor who performs an abortion or a pastor who conducts same-sex marriage at the church.

1. **Change is a natural process in life. Give a personal example of three types of normative life changes that were discussed in this course.**
   * 1. **Cognitive –**

Cognitive refers to the mental processes involved in acquiring, storing, and using knowledge. These processes include attention, perception, learning, problem-solving, memory, and decision-making. Cognitive processes are essential for understanding and interacting with the world around us. They allow us to acquire and retain information, solve problems, make decisions, and engage in other mental activities.

As an immigrant in this new country, I must learn, think, adapt, and act according to the culture of the new country. Also, the education system in the US is different from in my Asia country, students can discuss, debate, and raise different views to the teacher.

Changing how someone, including myself, thinks about things can be a challenging situation. We tend to believe we are right regardless of the facts or other pertinent information. Individuals and the church need to carefully review the thinking behind the missional activity, particularly in countries with many non-Christians (Widjaja et al., 2019). Seeing the reality of actions and through those actions diagnosing beliefs can help lead to cognitive change.

* + 1. **Behavioral –**

Behavioral refers to actions or behaviors that are exhibited by an individual. It refers to the way in which a person acts or behaves in a given situation. Behavioral can also refer to the study of behavior, which is concerned with understanding how and why people behave the way they do. In psychology and other social sciences, researchers often observe and measure behavior in order to understand and predict human behavior. There are many factors that can influence behavior, including genetics, past experiences, environment, culture, and personal beliefs and values.

For example, when I graduated from a US university and applied for a job in the public sector, I must change to adapt to the culture, group, behavior, attitude, and mission. People must change and adjust their behaviors when entering to a new environment. In a church, the pastor also changes the behaviors when the world had new technologies. The pastor and the church now must have internet, blogs, telecasting, and online service. The effect of COVID also forces the church to worship new behaviors to meet the challenge of COVID.

* + 1. **Interpersonal –**

Interpersonal is a relationship between people and how these relationships are shaped by faith and religious beliefs. It is concerned with understanding how people interact with one another and how their relationships are influenced by their spiritual and religious beliefs. Interpersonal theology may also explore the role of relationships in spiritual and religious growth and the ways in which people support and care for one another within a faith community.

As a church member at First Baptist Atlanta, interpersonal interactions within a church refer to the relationships and communication between members of a church community. This can include things like small group meetings, bible study groups, prayer groups, discussions with pastors or leaders, and social events within the church. It is important for individuals within a church to have positive and supportive interpersonal interactions as it helps to build a sense of community and strengthen relationships within the church. Communication is the important key, but overall I must believe and value in Jesus first and almost and equip myself with the bible knowledge in communication between church groups.

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