Hermeneutics and Communication

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August 22, 2023

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One could build a case suggesting that being pre-judgmental is the same as being biased, which certainly impacts one’s worldview (in a discriminatory fashion). To that end, I am guilty of allowing room for prejudgments to influence my interpretations; therefore, in a sense, I have developed biases on most, if not all, subject matters.

When navigating through the throes of life, I have concluded that there is insufficient time to dissect most situations. Therefore, developing pre-judgments based on my experience, education, and exposure works well as a shortcut (so to speak). Due to my prejudices and value system, I constantly prejudge, which gives way to interpreting things through a myopic lens.

Several years ago, when I had recently finished my undergraduate work at the Seminary, I was destined to change the world for Christ. The first person I was sure to bring to the right side of religion was a good “Muslim” friend. I told my Muslim friend that my Jesus of the Bible (John 14:6) said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Not one of the ways, but the one way! After my lengthy rant, he began to push back, and I understood that he was as passionate and steadfast about his beliefs as I am about mine. At that moment, a light came on. It was a “fusion of horizons!” We learned more about each other's beliefs and agreed to disagree. That moment in time led me to believe that although we all have biases, we can learn to accept and love people for whom they are opposed to what we believe they should be. Learning about and accepting others' contrary positions epitomizes the “fusion of horizons.”

The assignment response starts on the third page.

WORKS CITED