Transforming Self-Concept for Leader Development

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Professor

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Assignment #3 – Essay

1. Write a 5-page paper based on the description below:

a. Synthesize and integrate all that you have learned thus far to write an essay on

the following question: “Why are self-concept, spirituality, and moral

development so critical for leadership?”

2. Paper Outline

a. Begin with an introductory paragraph that has a succinct thesis statement.

b. Address the topic of the paper with critical thought.

c. End with a conclusion that reaffirms your thesis.

d. Use a minimum of eleven scholarly research sources (two books and the

remaining scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles).

Prior to taking this class my thoughts surrounding the idea of a quality leader was vastly different than what is it has grown to be. When I thought of the word leadership my instant association or subsequent question was, what did they lead in, and what certifications/ qualifications did that individual possess?I had never associated or even considered the role that self-concept, spirituality, and moral development would have on leadership. The truth of the matter is that self- concept, spirituality, and moral development are the most critical criteria to explore for leadership.

Self-concept is a very broad spectrum. I think the most overlooked aspect would be that of the Imago Dei. For context, Imago Dei is defined as God’s image as the scripture states in Genesis 1: 26-27. To be created in God’s image, means our very existence is predicated on His nature. “A vast body of theological interpretation on the subject of the imago dei can also be summarized into three prominent (non-competing) ways that humans reflect the image of the God: 1. Substantive (Characteristics) View 2. Functional View 3. Relational View” (Martinez,2).

The characteristics of a leader are of high importance. I believe this is why so many leadership classes require personality tests such as the Myers- Briggs or my favorite the clifton strengths. A complete analysis of the characteristics helps one to see and understand themselves as it relates to the world. One of the domains of the Clifton Strengths analysis is label barriers. .Label barriers are stigmas associated with that particular trait. This information can identify potential conflicts or obstacles. The lack of this information can cause blind spots. Which ties into the functional view of the Imago Dei. The bible states in 1 Corinthians 12:12 that we are one body many parts. The understanding of what part of the body we are gives context for leadership. For example the five fold gifts.

The third facet of the Imago Dei is the relational view. The holy trinity is the ultimate example of relationships. Everything from our creation, to the agape love, the servant leader known as Christ, all set the blueprint for what our relationships as leaders look like. With all of creation within His breath, God has ultimate humility, just, and knowledge ofhis people. “ We must think of the Imago Dei more in terms of a potentiality for being that is given to man with his very being, than in terms of a fixed endowment or nature.” I believe this speaks to the cultivation of what is embedded in all of us because we are made in the image of God. We have to consider free will and the choice to explore and develop all aspects of ourselves. The awareness of Imago Dei should be the framework for shaping our identities and role as leaders.

While self-concept is the awareness and development of oneself, spirituality is the awareness and development of one’s relationship with God. Referring back to the Clifton Strengths, one of the strengths listed is connectedness which denotes one’s ability to maintain a closeness with God regardless of the circumstance. I actually have this as one of the top ten strengths. “When the human mind lacks information to fill a spot or gap, it fills it with what it thinks it knows, or what makes sense” (Vazquez). To offset our innate nature to fill in gaps we must continually seek the Holy Spirit, seek wise counsel (Proverbs 19:20-21). “ Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character give him power”, this famous quote from Abe Lincoln speaks to the potential power of the flesh if it isn’t properly guarded. When spirituality isn’t addressed in the leadership realm or held as the guiding standard it leaves room for emotional and power hungry decisions.

Our history is riddle with examples of what the lack of moral development will do to a leader. Many Christians and denominations supported the eugenics movement and more specifically, the American Eugenics Society (AES). The eugenics movement sought to improve the human race by limiting the reproduction of “undesirables”: immigrants, People of Color (particularly African Americans), and those with disabilities. It was believed that these groups of people were less intelligent, had criminal tendencies, and were a drain on societal resources.

For Christians to rally behind a concept that is counteractive to the first commandment given to man ( be fruitful and multiply) is a direct reflection of what happens when leaders lack moral development. A leader can pour out something that is not inside of them. Do we view them through a lens of deficit, highlighting only what is lacking, or through the lens of asset, seeing each person's unique value and worth? Again more questions to consider when we speak of moral development. Moral development has to pair with Imago Dei and Spirituality. If not then there isn’t a clear base of what is being developed morally. There are laws in America such as LGBTQ rights that are debated and accepted however the bible has clear scriptures on such matter. The moral compass of an organization or even country constantly evolves to suit the needs of its subjects, but the word doesn’t change. I think having a mora compass rooted in spirituality is critical to develop leaders in the world who are doing kingdom work.

There is no conclusion to this paper. It would have needed to be something like this:

Because self-concept is rooted in Imago Dei, spirituality is grounded in connectedness, and moral development is the inner development of the character of a leader, these three concepts are the most critical criteria for leadership.

--Do you see how I want back and referred to your original thesis?

**Rubric: How We grade the essay**

1. **Thesis statement clear 5 points/5**
2. **Introductory paragraph 5 points/5**
3. **Main points, and overall coherence/unity of the essay 5 points /3**

**4. Conclusion/closing paragraph 5 points/0**

**5. Mechanics: Grammar & APA 7 formatting 5 points/4**

**Grading Scale: Total Points: 25 points/ 17**

**A= 25**

**A-= 24-23**

**B= 22-19**

**B-= 18-17 NC=No Credit, needs revision**

WORKS CITED

**Works Cited**

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