History of the Integration of Religion & Society

Kay Lyn Carlson

Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. David Ward

**Assignment #2 – Developmental Reading**

**Source One:** Schmidt, A. J. (2004). *How Christianity Changed the World.* Zondervan.

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

“Whether it was human life as a fetus, an infant, or an adult, the early Christians saw God as the creator of all human life, and thus it was God’s exclusive prerogative to end an individual’s life” (P. 68).

**Essential Element:** Social reform

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** Christians viewing life as sacred is an additive analysis to my understanding. Throughout history, Christians have been instrumental in being change agents that support the sanctity of human life versus a culture that deems life as expendable and of little value.

**Contextualization:** The historical positive social impact that Christians have made regarding human rights issues is still visible today. However, within the last 50 years especially, there has been a major shift from viewing life as sacred to expendable, most notably to life in the womb. The consequences have been devastating. As a change agent for social reform, I will analyze how the legalization of abortion has negatively impacted human flourishing and identify how valuing life brings about life satisfaction, purpose, and meaning.

**Source Two:** Hegeman, D. B. (2007). Plowing in hope-Toward a biblical theology of culture, 2nd. Ed. Canon Press.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“As man sets out to fulfill his calling to transform the earth from its original natural state into a glorious garden city, it is clear that we must *do* something. It is not enough simply to think about the changes that could be made. Real action must be taken” (p. 40).

**Essential Element:** Social reform

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This statement is an additive analysis of my biblical worldview. As Christians, we are called by God to share in His grand redemptive story. Through man’s culturative acts, we all have a part to play, and as Christians, we should not hold back our God-given gifts, talents, and abilities.

**Contextualization:** Through my personal redemptive abortion story, educational background, and the higher calling God has placed on my life regarding the moral injury of abortion, I could make a significant impact on the culture of life. Though the work can be difficult, I know that taking action is part of God’s bigger story – to work in us and through us to change the world. As someone who struggles with fear and anxiety, knowing that God trusts me to carry His message of MI-A gives me the confidence I need to move forward.

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“Man…has a unique *moral capacity.* Unlike the rest of nature, we have the ability to choose self-consciously to act in a way contrary to the way God intends for us to act. We call this sin. This has led to disastrous consequences” (p. 42).

**Essential Element:** Social reform

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This statement is additive to my Christian worldview, understanding that each of us was born with a moral capacity to choose right over wrong.

**Contextualization:**

God created human beings in His image and likeness, separate and distinct from animals with an innate sense (moral orientation) between good and evil. Man’s historical consciousness gives us the ability of perception - to build upon what is good (fruitful), recognize what is bad (sin, missing the mark), and have the intelligence to solve problems that benefit future generations. This is God how we are in relationship to God, working in tandem with His cultural and redemptive mandate to restore His creation prior to the fall.

**Source Three:** Ward, D. (2014). Interdisciplinary faith-learning integration for social change. *JIS,* V26, (1-2), 29-56.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

**“**Disciplines are specialized domains of knowledge that give focused understanding of various dimensions of reality…But the more disciplines specialized, the more fragmented knowledge became. The interdisciplinary studies movement arose in response” (p. 29-30).

**Essential Element:** Social reform

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The above quote is an additive understanding of my worldview recognizing that as more disciplines specialized, less was known of the whole – just the sum of many parts.

**Contextualization:**

With the fragmentation of knowledge among specialized disciplines, the need for a multi-dimensional (bio/psycho/social/spiritual) and interdisciplinary approach is necessary in order to understand the complexities that exists interpersonally as well as intrapersonally. To do otherwise offers a limited understanding with a narrow view of reality.

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**

The post-World War II interdisciplinary studies movement sought a way to unify the fragmentation of knowledge given the explosion of disciplinary knowledge. It has also promoted greater global justice for human flourishing which is needed because of the postmodern demise of moral authority since the 1960s rebellion against the ethics of traditional family, religion, government, big business, and academic elites (p. 41).

**Essential Element:** Social reforms

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This quote is an additive analysis as I understand the times regarding the postmodern era. demise of moral authority and the breakdown of the family. As a result, the sanctity of human life suffered exponentially with the legalization of abortion occurring in 1973. New to my historical understanding of the past, is the interdisciplinary studies movement that began and in which I am a part of today.

**Contextualization:**

This new information reveals another time in history when God uses others to create change through social reforms and how their influence is still active today. Moral injury is a great example of how their work contributes to our current place in time and history.

**Source 4:** Koenig, H. G., & Al Zaben, F. (2021). Moral injury: An increasingly recognized and widespread syndrome.  *Journal of Religion and Health, 60(5)*, 2989–3011. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-021-01328-0>

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

Symptoms of MI may also be experienced by those outside of the military. The trauma, as well as among individuals experiencing any type of physical or severe emotional/physical trauma (rape, abortion, automobile accidents, other accidents, etc.). Such traumatized individuals often obsess about what they might have done differently to avoid the negative experience and believe they carry personal responsibility for the event (because they did not do something to prevent it). Indeed, the transgression of moral values is widespread among humans in general (p. 2997).

**Essential Element:** Social reform

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** Recognizing moral injury outside the military context is additive to my understanding of how widespread the construct can be understood.

**Contextualization:**

I can use this resource to demonstrate how other scholars identify abortion as morally injurious. I believe meeting and interviewing Dr. Koenig personally led to his connecting and acknowledging abortion as morally injurious.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“Prospective studies are needed that follow individuals prior to the development of MI and for extended periods afterward to determine factors related to the development and time course of MI symptoms, with or without treatment…well-designed prospective studies that will be able to contribute to causal inference” (p. 3006)

**Essential Element:** Social reform

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This is additive to my understanding of the best type of research to study MI-A in the future.

**Contextualization:**

I can use this information to guide my work at OGS as I move into the research portion of the program resulting in a deeper understanding of abortion trauma and how spiritual issues must be addressed within the mental health setting and beyond.

**Source: 5**

Coleman, P. K., Boswell, K., Etzkorn, K., & Turnwald, R. (2017). Women who suffered emotionally from abortion: A qualitative synthesis of their experiences.  *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, *22(4)*, 133–118.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

I have found forgiveness for my abortion, I have led others to find healing and forgiveness from their abortions, I have written a book…along with a website, I am Executive Director of a Pregnancy Resource Center and saved two pregnancy centers from closing. I have lobbied for the Ultrasound Bill and the Human Life amendment and given testimony on many occasions. I have also appeared on Faces of Abortion and did several radio interviews (p. 116).

**Essential Element:** Social reforms

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The above quote is additive to my understanding of how God changes the world redemptively through the impact of Christians serving a higher calling being change agents to change the world.

**Contextualization:**

This quote is a powerful representation of how God works all things good for His purposes (Romans 8:28). If one reads the statement critically, their abortion did have a negative impact, but through redemption, this person is now working within the bigger story working to create social change. This is also referred to as post-traumatic growth within the social sciences, which I can refer to in my area of social work.

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

In a qualitative study conducted by Coleman et.al. (2017), women who were negatively affected by their abortion experience revealed a common pattern of symptoms, including “deep feelings of loss, existential concerns, and declines in quality of life. More specifically, common negatives included feelings about the termination of a life, regret, shame, guilt, depression, anxiety, compromised self-appraisals, and self-destructive behaviors (p. 113).

**Essential Element:** Social reforms

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The negative outcome is additive to my understanding of the detrimental effects that abortion can have on women.

**Contextualization:** I can use this article to correlate the similarity of symptoms to the moral injury construct providing strong research showing the connection between MI-V and MI-A.

**Source 6:** Litz, B. T., Plouffe, R. A., Nazarov, A., Murphy, D., Phelps, A., Coady, A., ... & Moral Injury Outcome Scale Consortium. (2022). Defining and assessing the syndrome of moral injury: Initial findings of the moral injury outcome scale consortium. *Frontiers in psychiatry*, *13*, 923928.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“The idea that people can be lastingly psychologically and socially affected by their own or others’ transgressive behavior is as old as humanity. It is only recently that these age-old concepts have been considered as clinically relevant social, biological, and psychological problems. The term that is used to describe the outcome of these transgressive harms is moral injury” (p. 2).

**Essential Element:** Social reforms

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is an additive analysis to my knowledge regarding how transgressive behaviors have negative effects on one’s overall wellbeing. Additive also in recognizing the benefits of integrating faith into society to create social change, and additive to recognize that including spiritual issues continues to grow among other disciplines.

**Contextualization:**

In this article, Litzs’ et.al., research reveals the urgent need for spiritual issues to be addressed within the mental health clinical setting. Most excitingly, is the notion that moral injury could become a clinical diagnosis recognized by the American Psychiatric Association, opening the opportunity for world wide recognition of MI-A.

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

“Qualitative analysis yielded six operational definitions of domains of impact of PMIEs and components within domains that establish the parameters of the moral injury syndrome” (p. 1).

**Essential Element:** Social reforms

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The six domains of impact along with their accompanying operational definitions is an additive analysis to my Christian worldview and expands upon the current knowledge regarding moral injury.

**Contextualization:**

I can use the six domains of impact along with their operational definitions in my research regarding how women are negatively impacted by having an abortion. In Coleman’s (2017) research study there already exists two qualitative research questions that have been completed by approximately 187 women that can be analyzed to see if there is a direct correlation between war veterans and women who have had abortions. If my hypothesis is correct, we will see a direct correlation between the two studies and be able to publish our findings in a professional journal article. Thus providing research validating the usefulness of using MI-A as a construct to reveal the truth regarding abortion harm.

**Source 7:** Waytz, A., & Hofmann, W. (2020). Nudging the better angels of our nature: A field experiment on morality and well-being. *Emotion, 20*(5), 904–909. [https://doi.org/10.1037/emo0000588](https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1037/emo0000588)

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

**“**Inducing moral thoughts and behaviors toward others enhanced feelings of virtuousness compared to the case for [selfserving] behavior” (p. 9).

**Essential Element:** Social Reforms

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This statement is an additive understanding of the benefits of thinking and acting morally over self-serving behaviors and can be integrated well with biblical doctrine as well as making a case against abortion regarding human flourishing and happiness versus the negative impact using the 6 domains of PMIE’s (Litz, 2022).

**Contextualization:** Human flourishing occurs when we serve others versus serving ourselves.I can use this research to demonstrate the positive outcomes of acting with moral integrity when women choose life over their own interests and desires. In my research, I have not found that women who choose abortion feel virtuous afterward, just the opposite. Most often, their sense of self and how they view the world around them deteriorates. In my essay, personal stories of women who have had abortions will be shared to demonstrate this observance.

**Works Cited**

Coleman, P. K., Boswell, K., Etzkorn, K., & Turnwald, R. (2017). Women who suffered emotionally from abortion: A qualitative synthesis of their experiences.  *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, *22(4)*, 133–118.

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