History of the Integration of Religion and Society

Carrie Hayashida

Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. David Ward

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the first week of the term. Post this document in DIAL.

Hegeman (2007) speaks about culture and warns that Christian’s should not become unequally yoked with culture because what advances society and our existence can also lead to the love of money and power. Sadly, society sets us up for such a fall. As children, we are asked “what do you want to be when you grow up?” Adults ask about job aspirations as soon as we enter kindergarten. Before we learn to budget, we are asked if we will choose a job that makes lots of money.

As a Christian Career Coach, I help people discover how God wired them and how to consider that when choosing a career. Using that information to discern their calling. This is in polar opposition to societal inquiry and encouragement towards choosing a career. In fact, my last client’s high school guidance counselor encouraged him to major in computer science because he was “good at math”.

Reading through Hegeman’s work I finally see my assignment. The same way Hegeman differentiates culture for the Christian and for the non-believer, I am burdened by the society’s (secular/non-Christian) view of work/money and the Christian’s view of work/calling.

An examination of secular society’s view work is to make money and to contribute to society. We attend school then graduate high school and pick a career. As a working member of society we get married while continuing to work. As we work year after year, we move up in the company, buy a house and start a family. Continue working and raise a family. Someday we retire, but the cycle continues with our own kids. And so on, and so on.

In contrast, there is a biblical view of work, as well as a growing faith in the workplace movement. I believe that a shift in paradigm from thinking of career as “work/money”, Christians see career as “calling/ministry”. It looks different for everyone, but Christians should be taught a biblical view of work, equipped to discern their calling, and discipled to be salt and light in the workplace. Christian business owners have a similar, but different plan.

As such, The plan is to review the history of work culture (e.g., Christian to secular business cultures, as well as the faith in the workplace movement).

WORKS CITED

Hegeman, D. Bruce. (2007). *Plowing In Hope: Toward a Biblical Theology of Culture.* Canon Press.

**Here is a Sample APA Reference layout:**

