History of the Integration of Religion and Society

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Professor

Dr. David Ward

**Carrie , great job on your developmental reading log for PHI 815-22! You related selections well to the Course Essential Elements. Your Quote/Paraphrase excerpts were interesting. Your Additive/Variant Analyses were thoughtful. But your Contextualizations were my favorite because they gave me a better picture of how you are applying your research to your coaching practice! You chose relevant sources that tied to your research interests in coaching people young people in their callings and vocations. Your selected readings are from appropriate and current scholarly sources. Your log mostly conforms to APA style. Take note of the correction suggestions I provided in the Works Cited. Nice work! -- Prof. David Ward**

**Grade: A**

Assignment #2

**Developmental Readings**

1. Create Developmental Readings from seminal sources and scholarly peer-reviewed

journal articles. Review instructions for Assignment #3, the course essential elements,

and course readings to identify selections of books and journals to create entries.

 a. Refer to the "Student Guide to Developmental Readings" in the General

Helps folder for updated information on sample comments, the grading rubric,

and key definitions related to developmental readings.

2. Review Assignment #3, the course essential elements, assigned readings, and recommended readings to identify selections of books and scholarly articles to identify and select developmental reading sources and entries.

* Refer to the “[Student Guide to Developmental Readings](https://drive.google.com/file/d/161V_FaYR2BnNGCSFUlWPjUSIQzcH04Hq/view?usp=share_link)” for updated information on sample comments, rubrics, and key definitions related to developmental readings.

**Source Journal One:** Dik, B. J. (2023). Understanding Work as a Calling: Contributions from Psychological Science. *Christian Scholar's Review, 52*(4), 29-50. <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/understanding-work-as-calling-contributions/docview/2860384416/se-2>

**Comment 1:**

 **Quote/Paraphrase: “**Christians today typically retain the view that distinguishes between a general or primary calling to a relationship with Christ and a life of discipleship, and a specific or secondary calling to serve God within a particular vocational path” (p29-30).

 **Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Religion & Society Integration Models.

 **Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote points out that today's Christian does not see their vocation as their mission field. This is why Christians are walking away from faith at a rate of 70%.

 **Contextualization:**  In 2022, the Barna Group released a statistic that 70% of Christians entering college will lose their faith by the time they graduate. The College experience can be wonderful, but it can also be a traumatic experience. In general, students have many different experiences. They will respond to those experiences better if firmly rooted in Christ in their upbringing and if they surround themselves with Christians (e.g., campus groups).

 It makes sense that students who are equipped (i.e., know their vocational calling) to earn their degree when they enter college and see college as a mission field (primary calling) will have less anxiety and will respond to college experiences better. Less anxiety and better experiences supports students surviving four years of college with their faith intact.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**Christians (are) desiring a more comprehensive understanding of the role a sense of calling can play in people’s career decision-making and general approach to work” (p30).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Religion & Society Integration Models.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive variant supports the importance of the integration of religion (i.e., calling) and society (i.e., work). Two ways this occurs. First, Faith at Work, a movement that is gaining momentum with Christians. It can reach non-Christians if the group is “open” and is viewed as offering moral support.The second way is to teach biblical principles of work and help Christians discover their vocational calling.

**Contextualization:** To date, there is an opportunity to study the Faith at Work movement. Additionally, teaching this concept and how Christians can incorporate Faith at Work will create kinder work environments. In this way, the office becomes their mission field.

 Likewise, churches that teach biblical principles of work and help their congregation discover vocational calling will pave the way for more Faith at Work opportunities, believers becoming embolden to disciple, and change happens around the world.

**Source Journal Two:** Humphrey, R.A. (2011). *History of the Integration of Religion and Society Supplemental Study Guide*. OMEGA Graduate School. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JoOM6SEbQoAKgtSvmmQ1eaWw3JnTnsfV

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Also it is hoped each student will be better prepared theologically, historically, and socially to express Christianity in activities that not only integrate religion in society but do it through the church in ways that transform society” (p 6).

**Essential Element:** This paragraph supports three Essential Elements - Social Reforms, Religion & Society Integration Models, and Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the Social Reform Essential Element in that it speaks to churches equipping its people to be salt and light at work and in community to support social reform. Christians that take action CAN replace hate with love; and eliminate social injustices like poverty.

 Christians need to ask themselves HOW did islam become so widespread? While it appears to have happened overnight, it has been a hatched plan years in the making. Dr. Neal Johnson told me where Christians planted churches, Islam planted businesses. He believes BAM can have a huge impact on poverty. BAM supports the Essential Element Religion & Society Integration Models, integrating biblical principles (i.e., Religion) to impact society (e.g., eliminate poverty).

**Contextualization:** Teaching churches about BAM, equipping each student to express (i.e., be salt & light) Christianity, and to train every Christian to be a disciple maker in their mission field (i.e., workplace) will allow non-Christians to see God. This is the 21st century way to transform society and save our children from losing their faith on the college campus.

God brought me to OGS, had Dr. Johnson write his BAM book, gave me the CEO position of an Christian educational ministry, and told me to go to churches and equip each student and congregant to become changemakers.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “If we truly have entered a period where the church is antithetical to the state and culture, Jesus’ teachings and the early church’s response to Greco-Roman culture and government can be a learning lab for postmodern Christians of today” (p 14).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote supports Christianity’s Influence on Society as the Essential Element. We see society persecuting Christians and the church, as well as prayer, the bible and biblical principles being scrutinized. We should create the learning lab suggested by this quote.

**Contextualization:** Christianity has gone through many seasons. Starting in Jesus’ time of teaching, a time where people either followed or were “fickle”. As society and Christianity spread, churches became more legalistic. In my youth, I remember being taught in a way that felt legalistic, a way that I didn’t connect with, but was more intimidated by. Looking back at my own rebellion in high school, the world looked so much better than church. It is doubtful I was the only one that felt this way.

Today, the season of the church sees Christians entangled in the world, church reserved for Sundays and holidays, and a significant decline of influence on society at large. The active rebellion has led churches to respond to a decline in attendance and pastor burnout, but God is using the world’s chaos to call the lost who are hurting and searching. It is time the church comes full circle and steps up declaring a new mission field, equipping its people to serve and to be change makers.

**Source Journal Three:** Presley, S. (2021).Living By A Higher Authority - Civic Engagement in the Early Church*.* *Christian History*. (141) p 7 - 10.

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**The church never developed a particular ‘strategy’ or ‘method’ of cultural engagement. Christians weren’t looking for the latest program or innovation to help them cope with or combat the cultural moment. Instead they focused on building the church from within” (p7).

**Essential Element:** Essential Elements are Historical Methodologies and Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The additive quote speaks to today’s world while reminding us that historically Christianity was less consumed with societal norms. Sadly, Christianity’s Influence on Society has lessened over the years, in part due to the turmoil within the church that led to a division that stopped the “building from within”.

**Contextualization:** The “self help” movement based in psychology and sociology provided a platform to those looking to influence society. Simultaneously, strife within the church caused by modernization (e.g., hymnals vs current music), pastoral burnout, and generational division (e.g., legalistic older generation vs younger generation). The result is a divided church that no longer builds from within. An indirect consequence is the lost influence of Christianity on Society that allowed for distraction and becoming unequally yoked to God and society.

Hopefully, a movement among churches to work together to equip the congregation to disciple, define their world (i.e., work and community) as the mission field, and to better prepare for their vocational calling will reverse the trend making Christianity once again influential on society.

**Comment 6:**

 **Quote/Paraphrase:** “God did not intend that His rational creatures,... should have lordship man over man, but man over beasts. …The Fall disturbed this state, fundamentally changing how people relate to God and to each other” (p5).

**Essential Element:** Christianity’s Influence on Society is the Essential Element associated with this quote.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The additive variant supports the influence of Christianity before and after the Fall. Before the Fall, Adam was to work the garden; and God gave Adam a helper in Eve. The Fall disrupted all things, most significantly changing how we relate to God. Then how we relate to each other, essentially confusing lordship over beasts with that of man and beast.

**Contextualization:** The disrupted state made way for people’s need to control our own destiny at all costs. Satan has been very effective causing chaos, influencing people to create their own destiny, and to fight instead of love others. As Christianity lost influence over society it also lost influence within the church.

 What started as a division over hymns and modern music, eventually expanded to a generational divide (i.e., older legalistic elders & modern day elders). Whereas, today the LGBTQ activists have successfully divided the church over gender and marriage. ,the relationship between two people. The result is a divided congregation where the flock is leaving for a more “open minded” church.

 It is no wonder that the church is no longer building within. It is no wonder Christians have left their faith by the end of college. It is no wonder that Christians do not know their calling.

**Source Journal Four:** Ioan, A. (2023). "Working hard or hardly working?" The moral career of young

employees. *Journal of Comparative Research in Anthropology and Sociology, 14*(2), 1-19.

https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/working-hard-hardly-moral-career-young-employees/docview/2957492382/se-2

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The primary findings indicate that young workers experience learning and anxiety in the first stage of a moral career at work, self-confidence, and social relationships in the second stage, and routine and self-confidence in the third stage” (p. 1).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element isSocial Reform.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote is additive if we believe that Christianity positively impacts vocational calling. Discovering our calling using Christian assessments and nurturing career development by teaching biblical principles changing the outcomes stated in the quote.

**Contextualization:** It can be surmised that students leaving for college experience the same three stages when they start college. It is understandable that they experience the same stages when they then start their first job after college. Christians however, who rely on Jesus for strength and cast their worries to Him, should experience these same stages, but to a lesser degree because their faith is in Christ.

 It seems plausible that preparing Christian students for their vocational calling before they leave for college would significantly reduce the degree and length of these three stages both in college and again at their first job. This is the main reason for developing a calling and career program that will equip students before they leave for college in both their vocational calling and to know their spiritual gifts so they will be more confident and able to share Christ with others instead of losing their faith.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “...these young people may be undecided about what they really want to do in the future, going to work just to spend time with friends, or staying employed for only a very short period of time where they work hard for a substantial reward” (p2).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element here is Social Reforms.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the need for social reform. How students choose their career is not working for the majority of students. **Contextualization:** In reading this article, I wondered when and how this shift occurred. In 1991, I had just transferred to UCLA and during orientation students were told to look to your left and right. one of those two people would not be there when you graduate. Later I heard a statistic that less than 20% of graduates end up working in their chosen major.

 Now, in addition to the uncertainty of knowing if you will be one who makes it to graduation, you also have to realize that you probably won’t end up working in the major you choose. Talk about stress and anxiety! It is no wonder mental health has risen to the top of everyone’s list of concerns!

Social Reform is necessary for career decisions. In my senior year the career guidance class I took had a set of binders on a table that we were to go through and pick something. That was it! This assignment has motivated me to contact a local Christian school to see if I can pilot my program there. I’ve conducted assessments for 3 of their students. It will be great to talk with the students and see if we can establish a new process, essentially creating social reform for career guidance.

**Source Journal Five:** Wightman, S., Potts, G., & Beadle, R. (2023). ‘Whose Call?’ The Conflict Between Tradition-Based and Expressivist Accounts of Calling: JBE. *Journal of Business Ethics, 183*(4), 947-962. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-022-05067-4

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Our participants’ understanding their work as akin to worship reflects a Calvinist Christian tradition and is evidently deeply meaningful and motivating to these frontline volunteers in addition to the ways that their work betters them as persons and makes a tangible contribution to the good of others and their communities” (p960).

**Essential Element:** Course Essential Elements: Christianity’s Influence on Society is the quotes Essential Element.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the positive influence Christianity has on Society. As stated, volunteers see their work as a way to glorify God. That the work is “volunteer work” is more meaningful because workers do not get paid. In a time where time is valuable and people do not have much of it, volunteering requires a deep desire to “serve”.

**Contextualization:** Serving those in need, caring for the widows and orphans is what Jesus calls us to do. Not as a vocation, but to serve. Thus, volunteering, also known as “giving back” is a part of God’s call for us to care for others, especially the poor.

 As a Career Coach, in addition to helping people discover their “vocational calling”, I want them to see work as a mission field and to be salt so non-believers can see Jesus through them. Teaching workers to use their spiritual gifts in the mission field is the second call. It is an opportunity where workers can be part of a bible study or prayer group at work or with fellow workers. Or inviting others to church or a Christian movie. These are simple seed planting opportunities that can lead to bigger volunteer opportunities like planning a community food pantry or park clean up.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “...participants’ perception of the role’s difficulty suggests that personal fulfillment and a desire to help others are insufficient sources of motivation by themselves” (p. 957).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Religion & Society Integration Models.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This quote supports the need for religion & society integration models. Christians are called to serve others, if these same participants were Christian, they are in the wrong field. If they are not Christian, they should be on the faith at work team’s radar!

**Contextualization:** This supports the need for calling and career training. It is understanding that people in today’s world, who do not have a biblical foundation for work, need more than fulfillment and a sense of helping others in their career. This is what is leading me to want to establish a program to equip Christians with a biblical work foundation and help them discover their own calling (career and spiritual gifts).

 I believe Christians that see their work as a mission field, know their calling, and are equipped to disciple others will find fulfillment in their work and be motivated to serve the Kingdom.

**Source Book One:** Johnson, C.N., (2022). *Business as mission, in a nutshell - all the basics: The*

*essential road map for christian entrepreneurs.* Colorado: Roadrunner Press. https://businessasmission.com/resources/bam-in-a-nutshell-johnson/

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**  “If God recognizes the importance of business to human society and survival, He must have standards by which He expects businesses to operate, especially those owned and managed by His followers” (p8).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Christianity’s Influence on Society. **Additive/Variant Analysis:** Hobby Lobby, In-N-Out, and Chic Fil A are the big Christian owned businesses. How many other, smaller businesses are owned, managed, or staffed by Christians. Are these smaller businesses outwardly Christian or not?

 The Faith at Work Conference opened my eyes to a world that is salt and light, but that we don’t typically hear about. The exponential growth supports the need for more businesses, owners and staff to be salt and light. As I embrace my new role as CEO of a Christian non-profit educational ministry, God is opening doors. I believe He will open doors for all Christians wanting their work to be a mission field for Christ.

**Contextualization:** Imagine every business owned, managed and staffed by Christians with biblical principles. It would be like having Hobby Lobby, In-N-Out, and Chic Fil A in one parking lot! Like being at church all day, everyday. That is how God wanted it to be, but sin messed everything up. So, here we are in the 21st century and the most chaotic upside down world anyone could have imagined. Enter, BAM! In a world where so many people are lost, BAM can be a beacon of light giving Christians the opportunity to be salt and light through business.

 The program I intend to develop will share Faith at Work with Christians and will equip students so they are prepared to serve the Kingdom when they enter their mission field. What a joy it will be to serve others, helping them discover their vocational and spiritual calling; and to help them develop a strategic plan to serve on the mission field.

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Those standards help us define not only God’s purpose for business, but the way in which the service is to be rendered” (p8).

**Essential Element:**  The Essential Element is Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** “...The way in which the service is to be rendered” speaks to Christians to be salt and light (i.e., Christianity’s Influence on Society). We are to be salt and light, we are to be disciples of people!

**Contextualization:** Christians have become complacent. It is difficult not to become unequally yoked with society, even if they don’t think so. As we see awakening all over the nation, all over the world, there is still complacency.

 Now, is the time for complacency to be turned on its ear. For the awakening to reach out to adults, not just college students. For Christians to come together and to be salt and light, to see their work as their mission field.

**Source Book Two:** Smith, G.T.(2011).Courage & Calling - Embracing Your God-Given

Potential. Intervarsity: Il.

**Comment 13:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**  “To think vocationally means that we make a self-appraisal. We look at ourselves; we identify, accept and embrace who we are called to be. This focus on ourselves frees us from comparing ourselves to others. And this liberates. When we refuse to compare ourselves to others, when we reject envy and jealousy of others’ gifts and abilities and opportunities, we are freed to be who we are.” (p131).

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** The Essential Element is Social Reforms because

teaching others to think as the quote suggests, would free each of us to focus on our own work. It would also minimize envy, increase productivity, and allow us to feel joy about work both independently and collectively.

**Contextualization:** Smith mentions the influence of television on our psyche. Essentially saying the “star” or perfect image of those we see on television creates roadblocks in our mind because we view ourselves as less (i.e., not “star” quality). I laughed because the original book is a little more than 20 years old and we no longer mention “television”. It is all social media and streaming.

 Terms like FOMO (fear of missing out) and Adulting are common. So many labels, indicative of our being entangled in the world. Christians, today more than ever should be firmly rooted in the Word and our vocational calling. As I explore the research, the program I envision to equip others is desperately needed for both the Christian and the lost. Christians that see their career as a mission field, discover their vocational and spiritual callings, and are equipped for Faith at Work will be extremely effective at discipling.

**Comment 14:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “... a true sense of vocation is rooted in the reality that there is something we must do. Think of your vocation as something you must do—even if it means you will never be famous. You are faithful to your vocation, ultimately, because you resolve to be true to yourself, for only then can you be true to your God” (p131).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Christianity’s Influence on Society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive Essential Element can impact the church, renewing the purpose of work that has been lost as Christians have become entangled in the world without even knowing it.

**Contextualization:** Years ago, when just starting out in my career I asked a group of friends, who was happy with their job? No one, but me, was. The expectation that it would be the same or close to it today.

 The Department of Education recently made it a priority to focus on careers and as such increased the budgets to expand student programs. However, as a Christian Career Coach, my most recent student was misdirected to computer science because his counselor said he was good at math. This student, albeit four years later, is on the right path after discovering his vocational calling is the medical field.

There is a need to go deeper than just discovering one’s calling. As Smith suggests, we need to be “rooted” in our vocation. Teaching students there is something they need to do, something God designed them to do gives purpose and meaning to our vocation. Teaching students to understand this is their mission field and how to work in a mission field will “root” them in their vocation, giving a deeper sense of purpose to their career and their life.

**Works Cited**

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[*Comparative Research in Anthropology and Sociology*](https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/working-hard-hardly-moral-career-young-employees/docview/2957492382/se-2)*, 14*(2), 1-19.

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