Cross Cultural Dynamics

Derrick Snow

Omega Graduate School

May 25, 2024

Professor

Dr. Sorber

Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working in each course. The Learning Journal integrates the essential elements of the course within your professional field of interest. The objective of the course journal is to produce a degree of acculturation, integrating new ideas into your existing knowledge of each course. This is also an opportunity to communicate with your professor insights gained as a result of the course. The course learning journal should be 3-5 pages in length and should include the following sections:

1. Introduction –Summarize the intent of the course, how it fits into the graduate program as a whole, and the relevance of its position in the curricular sequence.

2. Personal Growth - Describe your personal growth–how the course stretched or challenged you– and your progress in mastery of course content and skills during the week and through subsequent readings – what new insights or skills you gained.

3. Reflective Entry - Add a reflective entry that describes the contextualization (or adaptation and relevant application) of new learning in your professional field. What questions or concerns have surfaced about your professional field as a result of your study?

4. Conclusion – Evaluate the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals.

**Introduction**

This course on Cross-Cultural Dynamics has shown the importance of having a larger cultural perspective to help understand and relate to people of other cultural and subcultural backgrounds. Culture is the way we understand to be and exist, it is the primary way we understand who we are. Thus, the insight into the cultural background provides insight into the other person. Coming to know the other person is coming to understand the other person and is to have a relationship with them. This is the cross-cultural interaction that joins us as humanity. We have been cross-cultural as humanity since the beginning with Adam and Eve's children, Cain, Abel, and Seth, each formed into a different cultural heritage. In reality, all our diverse cultures are not so unique, they are all a product of God’s creative plan, who seeks and needs a mediator, between them and God, which is Christ Jesus.

**Personal Growth**

I have enjoyed the study of cross-cultural dynamics, as a sociologist, I developed an understanding of the importance of culture has on people, it is the primary socialization factor of people. We as Christians should above all should have a cross-culture mindset, where Christianity has no political or cultural boundaries, the Christian faith is for all people of every nation and tongue, as God has created all things in heaven and earth, so to the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ unites people worldwide in His name. However, throughout Christian history, we have seen the ethnocentrism of Christian people as they spread the ‘gospel’ throughout the world, it has been in many times an ethnocentric white European politicalized, economized genocide of the ‘uncivilized’. To which is no gospel at all. Christianity is not a religion of ethnocentrism, but a worldwide multi-cultural religion of God’s love for His creation. We as Christians including myself need to remember the harmful practices done in the name of Christianity.

**Reflective Entry**

In my study of sociology as a Christian, I have learned to be more open-minded about people and felt I see humanity closer as Christ sees His created humanity. With more of an understanding of their needs and brokenness, as we all are before the Holy God. Before I studied sociology, I thought I cared and had a heart for the ‘other’, but found I was cold, rigged, and conservative in my Christian thinking, it was ethnocentric and man-made conservative centrism. This wasn’t necessarily based on cultural differences, but mainly sub-cultural differences in non-Christian groups. Nevertheless

As the apostle Paul writes, “I am not ashamed of the gospel” (Rom 1:16), I was ashamed of the way I thought of the gospel, that I knew Christ transformed people, but thought they needed to be transformed like ‘us’. As Paul continues “for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Rom 1:16) and then Paul continues to write and Martin Luther sees the gospel “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith at it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith”” (Rom 1:17). This Biblical text highlights the grander of the gospel, it is beyond our given culture, it is beyond our socialization, the gospel penetrates beyond ‘who’ we are as people as sinners. I came to see the gospel as loving people no matter where they are or how they identify. It is about reaching out with the gospel and not isolating.

**Conclusion**

Cross-cultural dynamics have shown the importance of having a cultural relativism perspective to help understand and relate to people of other cultural and subcultural backgrounds. This is important as fellow human beings, but even more so we as Christians need not to see others and other than us, but rather united in Christ Jesus for one another and for the ‘others’ who desperately need Christ as we had need of Him.