LDR 810-42

Cross-Cultural Dynamics

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Professor

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Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

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.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Understanding

“You can’t understand others until you have learned about, from and with them” (Elmer, 2019, pg. 37). Indeed, to effectively interact cross-culturally, much knowledge about culture and cultural differences is necessary prior to actively engaging in ministry as well as while interacting with other cultures other than one’s own. In his book titled *Building Cultural Intelligence (CQ) Nine Megaskills,* Richard Bucher states that culture refers to “a people’s way of life that is socially learned, shared, and transmitted from generation to generation” (2008, pg. 6). One’s own culture must be examined to understand the similarities and differences in order to develop meaningful and fruitful relationships. When a person is open to learning from and with people, demonstrates authenticity, humbleness, and shows respect (regardless of one’s social status, education, wealth, or power), trust ensues, which is foundational in building long-lasting mutually beneficial relationships.

“Common grace says we can learn from anyone” (Elmer, 2019, pg. 111). However, with differing worldview perspectives, spiritual discernment, and cultural intelligence (“key competencies that allow us to effectively interact with people from diverse cultural backgrounds in all kinds of settings”), (Bucher, 2008, pg. 7), is critical. One of the best biblical examples to emulate is found in Acts 17: 22-31 (NKJV, pg. 2445-2446), where the apostle Paul, through his educational training, knowledge, and understanding Greek culture, prepared him to persuasively speak to the people in Athens. He confidently reasoned with philosophers and worshipers (both Jew and Gentile) and carried the gospel message to the marketplace as well as the synagogue.

Through this biblical account, this author can learn a lot from how Paul managed to speak boldly, persuasively, and dynamically to a culture with differing worldviews. Paul carried out his God-given mission with profound results that to this day we can all learn from, regardless of time, the situation, or audience.

WORKS CITED

Bucher, R. D. (2008). *Building cultural intelligence (cq): Nine megaskills.* Prentice Hall.

Elmer, D. (2006). *Cross-cultural servanthood: Serving the world in Christlike humility.*

InterVarsity Press.

Life Application Study Bible. (2007). Tyndale.