SR-953: Research for 21st Century Scholarship

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Omega Graduate School

October 5, 2024

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**The Intersection of Christianity and Ethical Leadership**

In a world where leadership is often defined by profit margins and market competitiveness, the intersection of Christianity and ethical leadership is emerging as a critical area of study. This topic is of particular interest because it not only focuses on leadership principles but also explores how Christian values can shape and guide ethical behavior in leadership roles. The objective of this topic is to understand how Christian ethics influence leaders in making morally sound decisions that establish integrity and prioritizes fairness. Additionally, this topic investigates how Christian ethical principles can be integrated into modern leadership models, particularly within business and organizational settings. In this essay, three primary points will be explored: the impact of Christian ethics on decision-making, the role of personal integrity in Christian leadership, and the challenges faced by Christian leaders in upholding ethical standards in secular environments.

**Search Terms Related to the Topic**

Search terms related to the topic of this paper are as follows:

* Christian ethical leadership
* Christian values in business
* Ethics in leadership
* Religious influence on leadership ethics
* Christian personalist ethics
* Ethical decision-making in Christian leadership
* Christianity and modern leadership challenges

**Book Summaries**

**Morgen, W. (2019). The Ethical Leader: Why Doing the Right Thing Can Be the Key to Competitive Advantage.**

**Author Biography and Credentials**

Morgen Witzel is a recognized writer and consultant in the field of management and leadership. He has published numerous books on business ethics and leadership, and he holds degrees in business and philosophy and is affiliated with several academic institutions and consulting firms globally.

**Readability**

The book is highly readable for both academics and practitioners. It uses accessible language while still addressing complex ideas about ethics in leadership. Witzel's book is accessible to both academic and business audiences. He writes in a clear, conversational tone, balancing academic rigor with practical examples, which makes complex ethical theories easy to understand. The book is structured in a way that allows readers to engage with both theoretical concepts and practical applications, without losing interest or becoming overwhelmed by academic jargon.

**Presentation of the Subject**

The subject of ethical leadership is presented clearly with real-world examples. Witzel makes strong connections between ethics and long-term business success. Witzel expertly presents the subject of ethical leadership by connecting it to the broader context of corporate success. He argues that doing the right thing is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic advantage in today’s competitive business world. He draws from both historical examples and contemporary case studies, highlighting the long-term benefits of ethical behavior for business leaders.

**Relevance**:

This book is directly relevant to the topic of ethical leadership in Christian contexts, as it provides a framework for understanding how ethics can lead to sustainable leadership. This book is directly relevant to the topic of *Christian ethical leadership*, as it provides a framework for understanding how ethical behavior contributes to leadership effectiveness. Although not overtly Christian in focus, Witzel’s emphasis on integrity, fairness, and responsibility parallels core Christian principles, making it a valuable resource for examining how Christian ethics can be applied in business leadership.

**Williams, T. D. (2020). *Christian Leadership in a Secular World: Rediscovering Biblical Models of Leadership*.**

**Author Biography and Credentials**

Thomas D. Williams is a well-known Christian theologian and leadership expert with a focus on biblical leadership models. He holds a doctorate in theology and has authored several books on Christian leadership and biblical principles. Williams is a professor of theology and leadership at various seminaries and has served as a consultant for faith-based organizations.

**Readability**

Williams' writing is both academically sound and accessible to a broad audience, including church leaders and laypeople. He uses a straightforward, engaging style that makes complex theological concepts easy to grasp, particularly for those unfamiliar with academic theology.

**Presentation of the Subject**

The book explores how biblical leadership models, such as those exemplified by Moses, David, and Jesus, can be applied in modern secular environments. Williams provides detailed analysis of biblical narratives, drawing practical leadership lessons from Scripture and applying them to the challenges faced by Christian leaders today.

**Relevance**

This book is directly relevant to the topic of *Christian ethical leadership*. Williams emphasizes how biblical principles, such as humility, servant leadership, and ethical decision-making can guide Christian leaders in navigating secular challenges. His approach provides a solid foundation for understanding how Christian ethics can be integrated into leadership practices in various settings, including business and non-profit sectors.

**Journal Article Summaries**

1. **Adeosun, L. P., & Gbadamosi, G. (2023). Transformational Leadership and Ethical Decision-Making: A Study of Nigerian Christian Leaders.**

**Title, Year, and Authors**:

*Transformational Leadership and Ethical Decision-Making: A Study of Nigerian Christian Leaders*, 2023, by Adeosun and Gbadamosi.

**Literature Review Categories**

The article reviews the connection between transformational leadership and ethical decision-making, with a focus on religious leadership. The literature review focuses on transformational leadership theory, ethical decision-making processes, and the specific influence of Christian values on leadership styles. The authors highlight key studies that link religious beliefs with ethical leadership in both Western and African contexts.

**Research Type and Methods**

This article employs qualitative research, using in-depth case studies to explore how Christian transformational leaders in Nigeria navigate ethical challenges. The study draws on interviews with Christian leaders who oversee several types of organizations, ranging from churches to Christian-owned businesses.

**Population and Participant Selection**

The study focuses on Christian leaders in Nigerian churches. Participants were selected through purposive sampling for relevance to transformational leadership, ensuring that only those with significant leadership experience in Christian settings were included.

**Findings and Conclusions**:

Adeosun and Gbadamosi conclude that Christian leaders in Nigeria use their faith as a foundational guide for making ethical decisions, especially when facing complex moral dilemmas. The authors suggest that transformational leadership, when rooted in Christian ethics, results in decision-making that prioritizes communal well-being over individual gain.

**2. Peña, D., & Rodríguez, J. (2020). Integrating Faith and Leadership: How Christian Ethical Principles Influence Decision-Making in Business.**

**Title, Year, and Authors**

*Integrating Faith and Leadership: How Christian Ethical Principles Influence Decision-Making in Business*, 2020, by Peña and Rodríguez.

**Literature Review Categories**

The literature focuses on the integration of Christian values in leadership, decision-making models, and business ethics. The literature review centers on Christian ethical principles, business leadership, and the integration of faith within secular corporate environments. The authors review studies on ethical decision-making and the role of religious values in shaping corporate culture.

**Research Type and Methods**

This is a mixed-methods study that combines quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews. The authors surveyed Christian business leaders to quantify the influence of faith on decision-making, while also conducting in-depth interviews to explore how these leaders apply their faith in day-to-day business operations.

**Population and Participant Selection**

The study focuses on Christian business leaders from diverse industries across North America. Participants were selected based on their open identification with the Christian faith and their positions as decision-makers within their organizations.

**Findings and Conclusions**

The research highlights that Christian leaders who integrate their faith into their leadership practices tend to make decisions that align with ethical business standards, such as transparency, honesty, and fairness. Peña and Rodríguez found that these leaders believe their faith gives them a unique ethical framework that differentiates them from their non-religious peers.

**3. Zadroga, A. (2021). Professional Ethics of Social Entrepreneurs: The Perspective of Christian Personalist Ethics.**

**Title, Year, and Authors**:

*Professional Ethics of Social Entrepreneurs: The Perspective of Christian Personalist Ethics*, 2021, by Zadroga.

**Literature Review Categories**

This article reviews Christian personalist ethics, social entrepreneurship, and the ethical dilemmas faced by entrepreneurs operating in socially focused businesses. The literature focuses on how Christian ethical frameworks can guide entrepreneurs in balancing profit with social responsibility.

**Research Type and Methods**

This study is theoretical in nature, employing a philosophical analysis of Christian personalist ethics as applied to social entrepreneurship. Zadroga utilizes case studies of well-known social entrepreneurs to illustrate key ethical principles in practice.

**Population and Participant Selection**

Although this study does not involve a specific population or direct participant research, it draws on case studies and examples from existing social enterprises to illustrate how Christian personalist ethics can inform professional conduct.

**Findings and Conclusions**

Zadroga concludes that Christian personalist ethics provides a strong moral framework for social entrepreneurs, encouraging them to prioritize human dignity, community welfare, and ethical integrity over personal and financial gain.

**4. Baker, C. R., & Miles, J. E. (2022). Integrating Faith and Organizational Culture: Christian Leadership in the Workplace.**

**Title, Year, and Authors**

*Integrating Faith and Organizational Culture: Christian Leadership in the Workplace*, 2022, by Baker and Miles.

**Literature Review Categories**

This article explores faith-based leadership, organizational culture, and ethical leadership models, with a focus on how Christian values shape leadership and ethical behavior within the workplace. It reviews prior research on religious leadership and workplace ethics.

**Research Type and Methods**

This is a quantitative study that uses a survey-based methodology to analyze the effects of Christian leadership on organizational culture. The survey collected data from Christian leaders across various industries, examining how their faith influences their leadership styles.

**Population and Participant Selection**:

The participants in this study were Christian executives and managers from medium to large organizations. Random sampling was used to ensure a diverse participant pool, representing various sectors, including corporate, non-profit, and faith-based organizations.

**Findings and Conclusions**

The findings suggest that Christian leadership positively impacts organizational culture by promoting ethical practices such as fairness, accountability, and employee well-being. The authors argue that faith-based leadership fosters a culture of integrity and mutual respect, leading to improved organizational outcomes.

**5. Mele, D., & Joan, F. (2017). Christian Ethics and Spirituality in Leading Business Organizations.**

**Title, Year, and Authors**

*Christian Ethics and Spirituality in Leading Business Organizations*, 2017, by Mele and Joan.

**Literature Review Categories**

This article reviews the role of Christian ethics and spirituality in leadership, with a particular focus on business organizations. It explores how Christian spiritual practices can inform ethical decision-making and leadership behavior.

**Research Type and Methods**

The article is a theoretical exploration, drawing on philosophical and theological sources to examine the impact of Christian spirituality on business leadership. The authors also incorporate case studies of business leaders who openly practice their Christian faith.

**Population and Participant Selection**

The study does not involve direct participants, but it examines case studies and existing research on Christian leaders in business.

**Findings and Conclusions**

Mele and Joan conclude that Christian spirituality offers a unique set of ethical guidelines that can enhance leadership in business settings. By incorporating practices such as prayer, reflection, and community service, Christian leaders can foster more ethical and compassionate workplace environments.

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