COM 803-12: Hermeneutics and Communication

Obed Alcime

Omega Graduate School

August 17, 2024

Professor

Dr. Strecker

Write a three-paragraph essay responding to the following question:

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

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the week

of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during

the live sessions. 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).

**Faith-Integrated Hermeneutics: Through Science by Faith**

This course’s core element of faith-integrated hermeneutics speaks more closely to my professional interests above the others. As a leader who has worked in both secular and religious spaces, it is necessary to understand that the integration of faith-based ideology into mainstream society has now become an imperative, which is best expressed by relentless pursuit of boldly challenging public ethics and morals. Religious faith can provide a solid foundation for moral reasoning and ethical decisions, influencing how people and groups assimilate concepts such as unity, justice, equity, or dignity into their daily lives. Social sciences are used to determine norms in human behavior and societal constructs; however, ethical challenges may require more than just empirical analysis; they may need moral reflection and action. By interpreting social science through faith, scholars and practitioners can begin to build a bridge that addresses not only the symptoms of societal issues, but the roots. This approach recognizes that ethical dilemmas are deeply connected to the values and beliefs that shape societal norms (Smith, 2017).

It is important to understand that social resistance will arise because of this form of interpretation. Historically, efforts to merge faith-based principles into social policy and practice have been met with significant opposition, particularly in secular arenas that prefer analytical data and the status quo over spiritual influence or guidance. These movements, however, drew strength from the resistance to their moral convictions, being rooted in faith, to challenge unfavorable societal norms. As Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," undergirding the notion that ethical principles grounded in faith can guide societal change, even in the face of opposition. (King, 1963). This resistance, though uncomfortable, is very crucial to the process, as it makes society engage in confrontational reconsiderations of its ethical foundations, forging new roads to social transformation; that is, through radically faith-based interpretations.

Furthermore, confronting these challenges offers a new but compelling moral narrative that will hopefully resonate with a greater audience. This narrative is not merely about imposing ethical and moral values on society but about engaging conversations that assist in reshaping public policy and social norms. For instance, modern issues such as poverty, crime, civil liberties, climate change, and human rights automatically increase the role of faith-based organizations in advocacy. These organizations can help to provide a framework that partners with the empirical data provided by social scientists, creating a powerful and constructive collaboration (Gorski, 2019). A deliberate and intentional pursuit of change, despite any level of resistance, gives faith-based ideals and social sciences the junction to develop interpretive language that is crucial to overcoming modern issues. Faith then becomes not only a tool for interpretation, but for solutions.

WORKS CITED

Gorski, P. S. (2019). *American covenant: A history of civil religion from the Puritans to the present*. Princeton University Press.

King, M. L. (1963). *Strength to Love*. Harper & Row.

Smith, C. (2017). *Religion: What it is, how it works, and why it matters*. Princeton University Press.