Orthodoxy & Orthopraxis

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Assignment

### 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](https://drive.google.com/file/d/161V_FaYR2BnNGCSFUlWPjUSIQzcH04Hq/view?usp=share_link)” in the General Helps folder for updated information on sample comments, the grading rubric, and key definitions related to developmental readings.

**Source One (Jnl):** Cassidy, T., & Byrne, G. (2024). It Is Leadership, but (Maybe) Not as You Know It: Advocating for a Diversity Paradigm in Sports Leadership and Beyond.[*Behavioral Sciences*](https://doi.org/10.3390/bs14100860)*, 14*(10), 860.

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The authors contend that the reinvention process should assist organisations to develop skills and measure ‘leadership in ways that help leaders effectively navigate greater ambiguity, take charge of rapid change, and engage with external and internal stakeholders’” (p. 1).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Faith-reflection for Christian scholarship.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This variant quote suggests scholars be able to assess and manage different perspectives. However, if we have a biblical perspective (orthodoxy), then we respond in a Christlike manner withstanding any challenge.

**Contextualization:** Christians are to be firmly grounded in the Word. To lead like Jesus, we are to also be rooted in the word (orthodoxy) and live by the word (orthopraxy). Those that do this wear the armor of God and are able to navigate, take charge, and engage.

Matthew 7:24-27 differentiates between a house built on sand or rock. Those without orthodoxy and orthopraxy, or orthopathy look for other ways to be prepared. Leading others isn’t easy, but Christians with the right passion (orthopathy) can lean on Jesus and pray for guidance. God always provides a way for those that trust and abide by Him.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “We challenge the Western orthodoxy of leadership because it is overwhelmingly leader-centric, ethnocentric, gender-biased, and representative of a narrow range of social and cultural identities. As such, we advocate for a diverse leadership paradigm that is more socially just, altruistic, collaborative, and inclusive of all its members across dimensions of social identity and across organisational levels—one that is ‘culturally competent’—even if there is a lack of coherence as to what constitutes cultural competence.

” (p. 13).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Faith-reflection for Christian scholarship.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This variant quote wants a new leadership model to be developed based on “cultural competence” among other things. This is a variant quote because it is not basing the change on Christian orthodoxy, orthopraxy, or orthopathy.

**Contextualization:** Historical analysis of leadership models will lack “cultural competence” and “inclusivity” because until recently there was no uniform societal push for different ways of thinking, which impacts leadership styles. Sadly, this article wants a new style of leadership even if it doesn’t have all the information necessary to put forth quality concepts.

This article should have suggested developing a new leadership paradigm based on biblical principles. Examples of leadership qualities found in scripture include: 1 Timothy 3:1-2 (faithful and hospitable), Proverbs 16:12 (wrong to do evil), Matthew 20:26 (be a servant leader by putting others before oneself). Building a leadership paradigm on biblical principles bolsters our orthodoxy, simplifies orthopraxy, and deepens our orthopathy.

**Source Two (Jnl):** Manoleas, Dawn M. 2024. "Resilience, Job Satisfaction, and Turnover Intention of Missionaries." Order No. 31329592 [dissertation](https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/resilience-job-satisfaction-turnover-intention/docview/3066833135/se-2), Grand Canyon University, United States -- Arizona

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**Researchers have studied resilience, turnover intention, and the role of job satisfaction in fields such as nursing (Bernard, 2021; Sellers et al., 2019), education (Liu et al., 2021), and medicine (Zhang et al., 2020). No such study has specifically been completed in the global worker field.” (p15).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is faith-reflection for Christian scholarship.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the need for research of factors that result in missionaries not completing their assignments or deciding not to continue to serve in this way. This study analyzes factors that lead to either resilience or turnover intention. **Contextualization:**  Mission work has always been done with the “right belief” (orthodoxy) that we must take care of the widows and orphans (James 1:27). To “do” this is to “practice” biblical principles, the foundation of “right belief”. To help others can be difficult, which often leads to turnover. Those difficulties need to be studied in order to develop ways to mitigate turnover and increase release.

Understanding the factors that influence resilience and turnover and finding ways to help missionaries cope with challenges faced in their line of work can deepen the commitment to the work and lead to more completed assignments, increased satisfaction, repeat assignments, and a larger pool of long term missionaries.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The cost of recruiting, training, and maintaining employees brings to light a need for employers to understand what influences the resilience and ability of employees to stay” (p16).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Orthodoxy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports orthodoxy as expressed through the Author’s desire to educate employers with the “right belief” that understanding the influential factors employees value is important for the financial bottom line.

**Contextualization:** Bosses need the “right belief” (e.g., paying a fair wage and showing appreciation) to reduce turmoil and turnover. These investment costs are important to consider and weigh against costs to show appreciation because it will affect turnover. Less turnover is better for business.

This can be said for mission sending agencies too. Money is not as readily available and is quite often raised unlike in a traditional business. It is also more important to understand the factors influencing missionaries because they sacrifice more than a traditional employee.

**Source Three (Jnl):** Msebi, M., & Beukes, J. W. (2024). Enhancing youth involvement in community development: A pragmatic strategy for local churche.[*Verbum Et Ecclesia*](https://doi.org/10.4102/ve.v45i1.2956)*, 45*(1)

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “It is important for congregations to acknowledge the role of youth ministry and young people as catalysts for transformation (within community development). Although this is the view of various scholars, it is not always the case on the grassroots level where the potential of young people is considered valuable for community development.” (p. 2).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is orthodoxy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote suggests scholars see the beneficial value of youth helping with community development, not everyone agrees.

**Contextualization:** Elders in the community may have a lower opinion of youth, especially when it comes to helping build a community that is suffering from poverty. Since youth tend to push limits and get involved with drugs, violence and criminal behavior, their involvement may be even less regarded as helpful.

Churches have an opportunity to train up and provide job skills assistance to the youth of today. Involving and supervising youth to help with development projects could be extremely powerful in the transformation of the entire community. Providing an opportunity to be a part of this transformational process would empower and motivate youth to do good.

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Evangelism would be used as the critical element of the strategy to attract people, particularly outside the church walls. The respondents support the above statements by stating that youth evangelism attracts more young people to the churches. For them, youth evangelism should include fun, entertainment, and anything culturally relevant” (p. 3).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element isorthopraxy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports orthopraxy (right practices) for the modern age… Youth evangelism based in orthodoxy will invite and serve the lost. It is interesting that they want it to be “fun” and culturally relevant, both a modern day draw to catch their interest.

**Contextualization:** Personally, I believe that community development can be fun, entertaining, and culturally relevant, especially if the tasks match an individual’s vocational and spiritual gifting. For struggling communities, this is a fantastic opportunity to pour into youth. Match their calling with community development jobs and supplement that with spiritual mentoring to guide youth to orthopathy.

This is an opportunity to give them a trade they could use to help and contribute. Teaching them the value of hard work and the rewards (fruit of their labor) that come from a job well done will empower them to do more. Teaching them the biblical the principles gives them a foundation that will carry them forward and enable them to pay it forward.

**Source Four (Jnl):** Van Drunen, L.D. (2022). Wisdom-Based Business: Applying Biblical Principles and Evidence-Based Research for a Purposeful and Profitable Business.[*Christian Scholar's Review*](https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/wisdom-based-business-applying-biblical/docview/2739204041/se-2)*, 52*(1), 96-99.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Start with a foundation layer of servant leadership, upon which rests a layer of five wisdom orientations: sustainability, quality, stakeholders, supply-chain, and long-term. Those orientations enable the next layer in the model in which businesses can be reputable, profitable, and have comparative advantage. With these multi-layered means, if a business can practice both biblical high performance (chayil) and biblical steadfast love (chesid), it can achieve the end goal of business, which is the kingdom impact of loving God and loving others. ” (p. 96).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Orthopathy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote details the requirements for business to operate (e.g., supply chain and stakeholders). It also illustrates biblical principles Christians should include in their business plan (e.g., high performance and steadfast love). Collectively, this is a simple example of orthodoxy (right belief) and orthopraxy (right practice) necessary to achieve a Kingdom impact, which at the heart is orthopathy.

**Contextualization:** In 2023, the “how to” (i.e., DIY and self-help) industry was valued at approximately 42 BILLION according to google. Imagine how much money people would save if they knew the Bible holds ALL the answers! Van Drunen’s quote points to this as he outlines that servant leadership is the foundation upon which he builds the biblical business layers of wisdom.

Our belief in the bible and practice of biblical principles will result in a Kingdom impact that will increase our desire to do more. This is the formula to reach orthopathy in business. As a BAM practitioner, I am building on orthodoxy and orthopraxis towards orthopathy which is the BAM biblical based business model. This Kingdom impact that Van Drunen speaks of is orthopathy. Learning this gives me a deeper meaning for BAM and the joy I feel knowing that I am working for the Kingdom.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** Van Drunen discusses relevant scripture in his explanation of wisdom dating back 3,000 years. Examples include Proverbs, especially Proverbs 31; Matthew 25, and Ruth 3.

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is orthodoxy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive paraphrase supports orthodoxy. The Bible provides us with the right beliefs that can be used for every aspect of life. BAM is a newer emerging field that has accomplished great things for the Kingdom. Teaching this to Christians as part of vocational calling is imperative as it is the foundation God provided.

**Contextualization:**  Too few churches today focus on vocational calling. Scripture and BAM need to be taught so that people can participate in the “faith at work” movement. If every Christian learned the biblical business principles that apply to work as part of a vocational calling ministry they will go into their profession with a Kingdom mindset.

The training program my team is developing will equip churches to prepare their congregation for faith at work. The Kingdom impact is multifocal through community development, evangelism, and resolving societal issues like poverty.

**Source Five (Book 1)** Rovner, M. (2020). [*Supernatural business: A better plan*](https://www.amazon.com/Supernatural-Business-Better-Mike-Rovner/dp/1943361614). Oklahoma:

Insight International, Inc.

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The foundation of your life and your business must be in knowing God. -I mean getting to know Him personally, we need to build on a strong foundation of a relationship with God.” (p. 24).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is orthodoxy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** Mike Rovner is on fire for Jesus and for sharing his testimony of going down the wrong path to finding Jesus. He is a successful businessman, who now shepherd’s other business people to be biblical bosses who care for their sheep.

**Contextualization:** Mike Rovner teaches others to lead using his own testimony as the example. His foundation is a non-academic sociological intervention, built on biblical principles and prayer.

The first third of his book is about building a relationship with God. He impresses upon the reader that without this foundation, you can’t move forward. The orthodoxy is the foundation necessary upon which to then build one’s business. Having that relationship with God allows individuals to hear from God, to receive the guidance that will shape the business and allow God to use the business and business owner for His will.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “A supernatural business requires that we serve one another – our clients, employees, and others – with a spirit that only comes when we have spent time with Jesus in prayer. If you try to do it on your own, you’ll quickly exhaust your resources of energy, patience, and grace. We need God empowering us to serve the way he’s called us to help “ (p93).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is orthopraxy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote is speaking to the next step once orthodoxy is understood. Mike lays out through his own experience how God used him, prepared him, and is now allowing Mike as a business owner to realize orthopathy having gone through the steps of orthodoxy and orthopraxy.

**Contextualization:** I am in awe of the Bible! After bible study this morning I am back to working on this assignment. As I learn more about biblical business principles and the stories for bible study, I can clearly see the Bible has so many uses. It would have been great to have learned this about the bible starting as a child. Perhaps I wouldn’t have seen it until now anyway, but the point I am trying to make is that the church should be encouraging us to use the bible in every context.

Maybe I’m just tired or maybe I am slow putting the pieces together. Reflecting on my attendance at church since I was in preschool. I remember the parables and I remember learning about the ten commandments, but did I learn that the principles in the bible can be used for financial lessons? life lessons? relationship and parenting lessons? I don’t know. I like Rovner’s book because he says to establish a relationship with Jesus then build upon that foundation.

**Source Six (Book)** Johnson, C.N., *Business As Mission, In A Nutshell - All the Basics: The Essential Road Map for Christian Entrepreneurs.* Colorado: Roadrunner Press, 2022.

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “A BAM Company has a dual mandate: A Business Mandate to operate a profitable, viable, sustainable business; and a Mission Mandate to minister in the name and love of Jesus, both within the business and outside of the business” (p. 140).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is orthopraxy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports building a business on biblical principles for business and people (employees and community members). The BAM foundation is biblical principles (orthodoxy) lived out through orthopraxy.

**Contextualization:** There is an opportunity to solve societal problems and a need to lift up people; and the two should be interconnected for the greater good. They can be intertwined when we believe in God and live out our faith.

The church can and should be equipping its flock to live out their faith, but this movement has limited to Christian nonprofits and colleges. It is time to equip the church to teach biblical based vocation and spiritual gifting in order to raise up leaders that can either do BAM (entrepreneurs) or teach faith at work principles so Christians know how to disciple in the workplace.

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**BAM’s basic premise is that we can be both successful business persons, with all that means, and simultaneously, obedient, faithful followers of Jesus Christ, with all that means” (p. 427).

**Essential Element:**  The Essential Element is orthopathy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the orthodoxy that we can be successful business people; and the orthopraxy of being Christian business people. Together, we strive towards orthopathy as BAM practitioners who put Christ at the helm and work to create a better world.

**Contextualization:** BAM is the merging of orthodoxy and orthopraxy to alleviate social issues, share Christ, and build the Kingdom. It is more difficult than traditional business because of the dual mandate (Business and Mission). However, it also encourages Christians to release the tendency to forgo prosperity in order to build wealth to do more for the Kingdom.

While BAM encourages prosperity and obedience, maintaining that balance can be difficult. Christians need to keep their eye on Jesus in order to not fall into bad practices of cutting corners, overcharging, or misleading clients. It can be a slippery slope. To maintain course requires prayer and discipline, as well as a team to prevent falling into bad practices.

**Works Cited**

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