Integration of Religion and Society

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Omega Graduate School

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**Assignment #3 – Essay**

1. Write a 5-page essay that analyzes the following items:

a. Introduction of the Present Issue: Begin with a contemporary social issue that

has a (probably unappreciated) history of positive Judeo-Christian response to it.

b. Body Sections:

i. Biblical Worldview Perspective: Locate the issue in the progress of Biblical revelation and explain the foundations of a Judeo-Christian perspective. What is a biblical/theological position on this issue based on sound biblical interpretation?

ii. History of the Issue: Trace the development of the selected issue alongside the history of Christianity's social impact on it. Summarize the historical trend at different points in history with an eye to identifying significant causes of the social problem, identifiable processes at work,

and enduring patterns that emerged.

* How did the problem/issue originate and develop?
* What were the causes of the social problem?
* What identifiable sociological or theological processes were at work?
* What enduring patterns emerged that recur?

iii. Exemplars of Religion and Society Integration: Present a specific example (e.g. key leader(s) or movement(s) of socially and intellectually active Christians) of religion and society integration. If known, discuss how God raised up the leader or movement.

iv. Applicable Principles: Distill the timeless principles of truth or leadership derived from the historical examples above. (Develop these based on the Body Sections #1-#3). Pose possible contemporary applications for the integration of religion and society in your field of influence.

c. Conclusion: End with a conclusion that reaffirms your thesis. Discuss what impact this research had on your sense of calling to change your world.

2. Paper Outline

a. Begin with an introductory paragraph that has a succinct thesis statement.

b. Address the topic of the paper with critical thought.

c. End with a conclusion that reaffirms your thesis.

d. Use a minimum of eleven scholarly research sources (two books and the remaining scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles).

**Introduction**

Social movements have played important roles in addressing social issues (Scott, 2023). A social issue is a problem, challenge, or risk that impacts the quality of life, opportunity or wellness of individuals and communities within a society (Kauffman & Badar, 2020). A social movement could be described as a set of people with a shared experience of injustice, who organize themselves to build their collective power and leadership, develop a shared agenda for change, which they pursue through collective action, with some continuity over time (Yates, 2021).

As stated in one of the early writings, social movement has been the order of life since man was expelled from the Garden of Eden (Cairns, 1973). Social movements may bring about positive social change. However, history illustrates that certain social movements can inadvertently lead to social crisis and immorality (Wang & Liu, 2021). Nevertheless, divine intervention often serves as a corrective force, ensuring that these harmful ideologies do not take root in society.

One of such examples relates to the movement for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ), which begun in 1969 in the United States of America. Although federal and state laws were enacted in 1982 to sustain such immoral movements (Davidson, 2021), God has raised a standard against such immoral act through a presidential executive order in January 2025 that the United States will only recognize two sexes, male and female (News Week, 2025). The executive order uses clear and accurate language and policies that recognize women are biologically female, and men are biologically male. The policy of the United States now recognizes two sexes, male and female where these sexes are not changeable and are grounded in fundamental and incontrovertible reality.

Although God may cause or use movements to do his will, he also cares why and how movements are conducted. The Bible vividly states that every action a(Include the translation abbreviation in the In-text citation)nd every actor is going to be accountable to God. God always judges unrighteousness (Romans 2). Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account (Hebrews 4:13). Although the consequences of immoral social movements are real, God’s intervention is imminent. Therefore, the tension between social movements advocating for change and the emergence of immoral policies challenges the moral compass of society, yet the enduring belief in divine oversight reinforces the idea that God plays a crucial role in thwarting the spread of unethical practices fueled by misguided popular support.

**Discussion**

The scope and purpose of social movements have developed over the years. In early days, social movements were understood as reactive response by group of individuals on matters of politics on the basis of shared collective identities (Dani,1992). According to recent studies, social movement is an organized effort by a large group of people to enact, halt, or otherwise guide change in societal norms, values, laws, or policies. These movements often aim at addressing issues of public concern and can be focused on political, environmental, economic, or social issues (Yates, 2021). It may be said that social movements have become increasingly relevant and more fluid as they evolve in scope and purpose.

Scholars argue that Christianity has been playing crucial role in addressing social problems through teaching and by influencing polices (Winthrop, 2024). Early writers described Christianity as the highest solvent of all human differences and antagonisms, overcoming racial, national, economic, and social obstacles to the common welfare. Society requires an efficient agent of universal love and co-operation as a corrective for the pugnacity, exploitation, conceit, and general selfishness of individuals and of conventional groups of men. Religion functions for the consciousness and the maintenance of the social values which human experience has laboriously achieved. It provides a universal sanction for man's ideals, giving them validity, authority, and permanence (Votaw, 1918).

The power of Christ’s gospel to transform individuals did not begin and end with the few disciples; it continued to transform societies and cultures (Schmidt, 2004). According to Ward (2014), the influence of Kingdom of God is realized as Christians bring biblical values to the various spheres of societies. The biblical truth of the kingdom gospel sets people free from worldviews and philosophies that prevent people from seeing and receiving God’s liberating truth.

Scholars highlight that Christianity has left an indelible mark on our history and continues to shape our present. One of Christianity’s most significant contributions to human civilization is its emphasis on social justice and compassion for others. Throughout history, Christians have been at the forefront of movements for human rights and dignity, from opposing slavery during colonial times, to fighting against apartheid in South Africa. In addition to this, Christian art has inspired some of humanity’s greatest works, from Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel ceiling to Bach’s St Matthew Passion (Adams, 2025). It may be said that Christianity continues to have an enormous influence worldwide across various aspects like socio-political change or cultural development.

The early church fought against immorality not only in the society, but also within the church. For instance, the Apostle Paul confronted immoral behaviors of Christians who married wives of their own fathers (1 Corinthians 5), which was also forbidden in the Old Testament (Leviticus legacy for today’s church. In that way, the church stood up for the truth and maintained integrity by upholding righteousness through the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ for the glory to God.

One of the contemporary global social issues that required a Judeo-Christian response relates to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) movement. Davidson (2021) describes that the modern-day movement for the rights of the LGBTQ community had begun in 1969 in the United States of America. The movement achieved a milestone when the protection of the rights of the LGBTQ people at the State or national level was enacted in 1982. According to PBS Shows (n.d.), the LGBTQ movement in the Unites States reached its climax when the U.S. Supreme Court declared same-sex marriage to be legal in all 50 states of America, on June 26, 2015. According to Gardberg, Newburry, Hudson, & Viktora (2023) the LGBTQ movement has gradually caused the enaction of several inclusive policies and formed accommodative public opinion across cultures and nations. As a matter of fat, the movement for LGBTQ rights gained rapid success as compared to other civil rights struggles (Davidson, 2021).

In contrast, scholars highlight that the LGBTQ people experience rejection, prejudice, and discrimination directly through adverse legislative or administrative action and more pervasively through the dominant cultural beliefs and sociopolitical messaging that such developments manifest (Ramos, Burgess, & Ollen, 2022). Klinken (2021) adds that LGBTQ has become a point of contention for African politics and Christianity. Christian institutions and the Bible as authoritative Christian text, have certainly been key part of African politics of homosexuality. Despite some activist efforts being made for Africa to be tolerant toward sexual diversity, African Christianity in particular and the conservative culture in general appear to be rather repulsive (Klinken, 2021).

While the LGBTQ movement achieved progresses, counter movements has posed significant challenge to its progression. Emphatically, the 2020s anti-LGBTQ movement in the United States has triggered an ongoing [political backlash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backlash_(sociology)) from [social conservatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_conservatism_in_the_United_States) against LGBTQ movements. Between 2018 and 2023, hundreds of anti-LGBTQ laws were considered, with more than one hundred passed into law. The backlash has initiated similar right-wing developments worldwide presenting sturdy battle to LGBTQ aspirations (Ramos, Burgess, & Ollen, 2022).

The historic encounter that decisively halted the movement of the LGBTQ took place following the re-election of Donald Trump as president of the Unites States of America. On his first day in office, President Donald signed an executive order that the United States will only recognize “two sexes, male and female”, a move that could have significant practical and psychological implications for trans and nonbinary people. The executive order prohibits the promotion of “gender ideology” by requiring federalagencies to treat biological men and women as distinct sexes. The document also mandates every agency and all federal employees acting on behalf of their agency to recognize only “male” and “female” on official identification forms (NBC News (2025, January 20).

Not everyone understood such action as restoration of moral values, but as a political act to weaken LGTBQ protection and reinforce injustice (Luke, 2025). The overwhelming speed at which the landscape has become inhospitable for gender and sexual minorities has felt at personal, national, and global level. Following the executive order, health institutions have lost millions of dollars and federal agencies had to remove dozens of public health webpages (O’Connor, 2025).

Some argue that the order accuses “ideologues” of denying “the biological reality of sex” and dismisses gender identity, calling it “disconnected from biological reality.” It declares that all federal agencies and employees will henceforth use the term “sex,” not “gender,” in all applicable policies and documents, and that government-issued forms of identifications will “accurately reflect the holder’s sex.” Sex and gender are not always the same thing. Sex generally refers to a person’s anatomy, which aligns with the Bible (Genesis 5:2). Whereas gender has to do with a person’s social and personal identity and may differ from their assigned sex at birth, which is unbiblical.

The intervention of God to stop and punish immoral acts is a recuring theme in the Bible. God has continued to uproot “weeds” of immorality that the enemy seeks to grow in the human society. Therefore, the Church should neither get intimidated nor discouraged by evil movements that seem to grow fast and wide. Instead, the Church must continue to shine the light of the gospel to the dark world. The church is built to fulfill God’s mission by overcoming the challenges of the world (1 John 5:4).

Asaph was a worship leader and prophet in the time of King David ([1 Chronicles 6:31–32](https://www.bibleref.com/1-Chronicles/6/1-Chronicles-6-31.html), [39](https://www.bibleref.com/1-Chronicles/6/1-Chronicles-6-39.html)), who almost lost his faith in God due to envy over what seemed to be unfair in his mind. Asaph was covetous when he thought the wicked unfairly prospers, while the righteous unjustly suffers. As a result, he was painfully discouraged, which gradually led him to a spiritual crisis. Nevertheless, he finally realized that the path of the ungodly leads to destruction, while the path of the righteous leads to glory (Psalm 73). That is why the Bible consistently counsels us to persist in our walk with God, and not to be sidetracked by the misleading monetarily look of the wicked. “Do not worry when evildoers go unpunished or be jealous when the wicked seem to prosper. Evil people will have no future; the life of the wicked will be snuffed out like a candle.” (Proverbs 24: 19).

**Conclusion**

Christians are citizens both of earth and heaven (Philippians 3:20). Consequently, they experience both the distress and the hope of glory. The Bible warns that the increasing confusion and distress in latter times might cause some to depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1). The Bible also teaches us that the grace of God is sufficient not only to keep us through the ragged path of life, but also to offensively push back the work of the enemy. God’s grace enables us not to just go through but to grow through the challenges of life (2 Peter 3: 18). His grace doesn’t just save us but also sustains us to live and to serve (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Both history and the Bible affirm that movements may come and go, but God is always on the move in and through his church. The movement of the church, which is God-inspired has always been advancing. In contrast, a movement that countered the mission of God has always been overpowered. That is why, although some social movements may generate policies that contradict biblical standards, the consistent historical pattern of divine intervention suggests that a higher moral authority is at play, preventing these movements from fully establishing their misguided principles in the social fabric. To this effect, the followers of Jesus Christ must continue to faithfully fulfill the task of the Great Commission (Mathew 28: 18-20), while joyfully waiting for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-14).

I’m personally encouraged to be affirmed that God’s work in and through me shall also continue. For this reason, I prayed that God may continue to use me to pursue and serve the will of God during my life time.

**Lemma, I recognize your hard work on this assignment. You effectively integrated concepts about social movements in your excellent essay. The controversial issue of homosexuality is a challenging issue to grapple with, but you did a good job. Your topic aligns with the course's essential elements of social reform and reflects your interests as a scholar of faith. You used an appropriate number of scholarly sources and built a logical argument. You used a variety of kinds sources. Well done. I even appreciated some of the non-traditional sources like news reports. Nice use of scholarly citations to support your responses. Your paper for PHI 815-22 meets length requirements and conforms to APA style.**

**The whole Works Cited should be double-spaced.**

**Your APA7 form was generally very good. Note a few minor corrections.**

**Include the Bible with the Translation version in the Works Cited.**

**Please visit the OGS Scholarly Writing Centre at https://ogs.edu/writing for APA Resources and our own APA In-Text Citation Checker Tool. Keep refining APA format, especially for in-text citations and references. APA style citations should be in the format (Author, Year, p. 123). APA-formatted papers should be double-spaced in Times New Roman font, size 12pt, including in the Works Cited.**

**Please reach out with any questions, Lemma. -- Dr. David Ward**

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