PHI-815 History of the Integration of Religion & Society

Regina Matthews

Omega Graduate School

Date: January 25, 2025

Professor

Dr. Ward

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).

**Regina, this is a great Assignment #1 focusing on the Course Essential Element of Christianity’s Influence on Society.** **In your brief essay, you highlighted Christianity’s civilizational impact, especially on education, which, in light of your having spent 26 years in education as a calling, was very appropriate! Well done.**

**Remember that you can use any of the many course resources for the course in DIAL as Developmental Reading sources.**

**Here are a few formatting tips: It would be good to get used to using the Ruler to create 1/5 inch indented paragraphs instead of spaces. Your APA form was good but remember the rule for book titles: Book titles are in italics and in sentence case: Schmidt, A. J. (2004). *How Christianity changed the world.* Zondervan.**

**Keep up the good work! Dr. Ward**

**Grade: A**

I would like to explore Christianity's influence on society as an essential element of the History of the Integration of Religion and Society course. My initial thought about this element is how the United States was founded on “religious freedom,” yet our government still features monetary pieces with the phrase, “In God we trust.” These fleeting thoughts come to mind when I consider the impact of Christianity and the word of God on society. However, delving into several different pieces of literature for our course has allowed me to realize that a multitude of ideas, practices, and systems are rooted in Christianity.

I have been immersed in education for twenty-six years, evolving from a teacher to an administrator in public schools. This profession has chosen me, and it is my vocation to serve in this role within the marketplace. My research has shown that education originated with Christian principles, many of which are still relevant today. In teaching students’ virtues, restorative practices, and respect for authority, we impart biblical values deeply rooted in Christianity. “Today most Americans do not realize that all colleges and universities established in the colonies before the Revolutionary War~with the exception of the University of Pennsylvania~had Christian origins.” (Schmidt 2004)

Several major elements in education help us truly connect with Christianity. However, the irony is that schools cannot directly incorporate these principles into their students. Still, the evidence of biblical principles and God’s guidance in our lives resides within many of our foundations. In reading the article about Schmidt, we see how the impact of Christianity is evident in our hospitals, charitable organizations that support our country, and our core values. I look forward to researching and exploring this aspect to understand and discover how much the world has been built on our Christian morals and values.

While not everyone may accept this truth, history provides clear evidence of its validity. Although we cannot speak to our ancestors, we can observe the groundwork they established, unaware of the changes that would arise and lead us away from that foundation.

WORKS CITED

Schmidt, A. J. (2004). How Christianity Changed the World. Zondervan.