The history of the integration of religion and society, its implications, and the church's role as a catalyst for social change.

Kevin W. White

Omega Graduate School

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Professor

Dr. David Ward

**Assignment**

**Assignment #2 – Core Essential Elements**

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

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

 the first week of the term. Post this document in DIAL.

**b.** The professor will check for content quality and word-count requirements.

 The grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

**Religion and Society Integration Models**

Religion and politics in colonial America facilitated subjugation and supported chattel slavery. However, those tools later helped end and abolish slavery. In recalling information from U.S. History in secondary education, the teacher informed the class about the dualistic system of Plato and Anaxagoras, who taught that there are two principles: one active and the other passive. This education empowers us to understand the complexities of history and the potential for transformation, such as a two-edged sword. Despite the atrocities of colonialism, it is pertinent to understand religion's role in social change and the activities of specific revolutionary movements (Akanbi et al. 2017, pg. 4). The bible is replete as it relates to God's history of interaction with humanity and his redemptive acts. The divinely authentic social ministry of Jesus in the New Testament finds him confronting and speaking power to government and religious hierarchy while articulating the principles of the kingdom of God, as shown through his performance of miracles and social reform and relief. This narrative of faith's transformative power is a source of inspiration and hope for the potential of positive change in society.

Jesus' impact on individuals led to significant changes in global morals, ethics, healthcare, education, law, arts, and governance. These contributions often go unrecognized but continue to produce positive effects in both Western and some non-Western areas (Schmidt 2004, pg. 16). God's plan of social reform culminates with doctrines concerning the Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and Restoration, thereby giving the foundation and framework for a Christian worldview and blueprint for social reformation and change. Therefore, John's gospel of Jesus makes plain God's sociological intention by extending himself from the celestial to the terrestrial by the inaugural presentation, thus proclaiming that *the Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood* (John 1:14 The Message Bible-Remix).

Because of the work of God in and through Christ Jesus in the world, today, the modern-day church has a strategy for sensitizing itself to challenge it to raise and, in some cases, revive social consciousness to become a change agent in this post-COVID-19 epoch. While leadership studies are vast, epistemological presuppositions and theories dealing with servant and transformational leadership integrate well with faith-based approaches for groups, organizations, and society. Servant leadership focuses on the style of impact of change agents who put the needs of those they serve and seek to influence ahead of personal power and ambition. Yet transformational leadership focuses on the change leaders seek to influence (Ward 2014, pg. 51). The need to fulfill God's Creation mandate by advancing human flourishing is on a continuum. The struggle against sin to redeem life from the Fall's effects through work for justice and restraint of evil continues as movements of faith-inspired scholar-practitioners may change their world and society from the inside out in post-Christian Western culture. (Ward 2014, pg. 53).

**Works Cited**

Akanbi, S. O., & Beyers, J. (2017). The church is a catalyst for transformation in society.

*Hervormde Teologiese Studies, 73(4)* <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v73i4.4635>.

Schmidt, Alvin J. (2004). *How Christianity changed the world*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Ward, David C. (2014). Interdisciplinary faith-learning integration for social change. *Journal of*

*Interdisciplinary Studies*, 26(1/2). 29-56 (digital).