PHI 815-22 History of the Integration of Religion and Society

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Omega Graduate School

March 9, 2025

Professor

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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:**

**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?**

**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?**

**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.**

**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.**

**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).**

**Obed, excellent work on your essay for PHI 815-22! This is a model essay. It is very well written. After you clean it up, I might want to ask your permission to offer it as a SAMPLE of what a good PHI 815 essay for what a good looks like?**

**Thesis: "This essay contends that contemporary ethical business leadership is deeply rooted in Judeo-Christian teachings, specifically visible through three historical business aspects of the Quaker movement: ethical practice, corporate responsibility, and sustained principled leadership." This is an excellent and clear thesis statement, climaxing the end of the introduction and guiding the rest of the essay. Thumbs up!**

**This is the only history course in the curriculum, and it is about more than dates and dead people! You followed the suggested structure, and I hope you grasped that it was teaching the rare skill of historical perspective reasoning from a Christian worldview.**

**You used good scholarly sources to support your argument and did a great job of putting everything together into a logical argument.**

**Exemplars of Religion and Society Integration: *George Cadbury* and *Joseph Rowntree* are great exemplars. This section is nicely written and shows each of them as illustrations of models to imitate.**

**Applicable Principles: You drew the contemporary relevance of historical leadership principles modeled by the Quakers into great takeaways at the end. The reader comes away enlightened by history, ennobled by inspirational models, and equipped to change the world.**

**APA style tips: Works Cited title: Use the Ruler to Center, not spaces!**

**Article titles are to be in sentence case: Burton, N., & Bainbridge, J. (2019). Spiritual discernment, the incorporated organization, and corporate law: The case of Quaker business method. ….**

**Keep up the excellent work, Obed!**

**Dr. Ward Grade: A**

**Leadership Ethics in Business: Examining the Judeo-Christian Legacy through Quaker Contributions**

Ethical leadership in modern business environments, are increasingly occupying public discourse. The historical roots of these values, specifically from a Judeo-Christian perspective, should not be overlooked. Modern scandals that have involved unethical behavior in corporations prove that there is an urgency to revisit foundational ethical principles guiding business conduct (Maclean, 2022).

While contemporary discussions may attribute the rise of corporate responsibility to secular influences, historical analysis reveals significant contributions that are deeply rooted in faith-based ideals, particularly the Judeo-Christian worldview (Hannah et al., 2023). The Quaker movement, notably influential from the 17th to 19th centuries, provides a compelling historical case, showing how religious beliefs can directly inform ethical business practices (Heubeck, 2024). This essay contends that contemporary ethical business leadership is deeply rooted in Judeo-Christian teachings, specifically visible through three historical business aspects of the Quaker movement: ethical practice, corporate responsibility, and sustained principled leadership.

**Biblical Worldview Perspective**

At its core, the Judeo-Christian tradition provides an ethical structure that prioritizes justice, compassion, and moral accountability. In today’s modern times, there is a need to return to these ideals, including economic activities and commerce. The Hebrew Scriptures contain clear standards against fraudulent practices, unjust financial management, and exploitation of workers (Leviticus 19:35-36, ESV; Proverbs 11:1, ESV; Amos 8:4-6, ESV). Complementing these Old Testament guidelines, the New Testament emphasizes servant leadership, accountability, and stewardship, which are central to Christ’s teachings and parables (Matthew 20:25-28, ESV; Luke 16:10, ESV). Collectively, these biblical texts support ethical behavior as foundational to leadership and business operations (Burton & Bainbridge, 2019).

**History of the Issue**

Historically, the Quaker movement seminally impacted contemporary business ethics, notably during the 17th through 19th centuries. Amidst the exploitative economic practices characteristic of the Industrial Revolution, Quaker entrepreneurs distinguished themselves by integrating their religious beliefs with progressive business practices (Fitzgerald, 1999; Daughton, 2016). They introduced fair wages, safe working conditions, and comprehensive employee benefits, ultimately influencing what is now recognized as corporate social responsibility (George, Okanlawon, & Owoyemi, 2012).

**Exemplars of Religion and Society Integration**

### George Cadbury

George Cadbury stands as a seminal figure exemplifying the integration of religious convictions into business leadership. His creation of the Bournville community was driven explicitly by Quaker values. The Bournville community was a pioneering model village designed explicitly to enhance employee welfare (Luu et al., 2021). Motivated by Quaker religious values, Cadbury’s initiatives exemplified an early form of corporate social responsibility, significantly influencing future ethical standards in business practices. By providing quality housing, educational facilities, and healthcare, Cadbury set innovative standards for ethics in business conduct, dramatically enhancing his employees' quality of life and influencing communities at-large (Cadbury, 2010). George Cadbury’s Bournville community featured several pioneering initiatives that clearly embodied his ethical convictions. Cadbury provided affordable, quality housing equipped with gardens and open spaces, offering a stark and intentional contrast to the cramped, unsanitary urban housing prevalent during the Industrial Revolution (Luu et al.,2021).

Additionally, Bournville prioritized residents' health and welfare by establishing healthcare facilities, recreational spaces, and areas dedicated to leisure activities, reflecting a comprehensive view of employee wellbeing. Moreover, Cadbury introduced ethical labor standards by ensuring fair wages, safe and humane working conditions, and reasonable working hours. Collectively, these progressive measures set an influential precedent in corporate social responsibility, distinctly rooted in Cadbury’s Quaker principles (Luu et al., 2021).

### Joseph Rowntree

Joseph Rowntree is another exemplary figure whose business practices were profoundly shaped by his Quaker beliefs. Like Cadbury, Rowntree prioritized social reform, ethical management practices, and the welfare of his employees. He also established the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, dedicated to addressing social inequalities through social research on poverty and combating his findings with philanthropy (Misra et al., 2010).

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), established in 1904 by Joseph Rowntree, has pursued extensive social research and advocacy aimed at identifying, understanding, and addressing the root causes of poverty and social injustice. Since its inception, the foundation has funded and produced influential research reports covering critical issues such as housing, income inequality, social exclusion, and poverty reform (O’Dowd, 2024). These initiatives have significantly influenced British social policy, contributing directly to reforms in public housing, welfare systems, and even labor policy and laws. Additionally, the Foundation actively supports community-based projects, promoting social togetherness, educational programs, and sustainable socio-economic training and practices.

To this day, Rowntree Foundation’s ongoing commitment to evidence-based research and practical social interventions continues to reflect Rowntree’s original vision of applying ethical and humanitarian principles derived from his Quaker values to actively address social issues. His programs demonstrated a tangible and viable commitment to ethical business practices derived from Judeo-Christian principles, which have shaped social expectations for business responsibility for generations to come (George et al., 2012).

**Applicable Principles**

A pivotal principle emerging from the Quaker legacy is sustainable leadership. The consistent ethical conduct demonstrated by Cadbury and Rowntree established high standards of fairness and transparency, exemplifying how personal integrity can positively influence corporate conduct (Burton & Bainbridge, 2019). Additionally, the Quaker movement showed corporate responsibility as transcending mere profitability (Heubeck, 2024). This principle emphasizes the active contribution of businesses to employee welfare and a broader community well-being, reinforcing the interplay between commercial success and societal advancement (Misra et al., 2024).

Quaker leaders illustrated the significance of enduring ethical leadership grounded in personal convictions (Pullin, 2023). By aligning their religious beliefs with their business decisions, they proved a model of leadership that supported sustainable ethical practices and influenced long-term organizational culture (Vu & Burton, 2021). Contemporary applications of these historical principles include advocating transparent and open governing structures within organizations, actively creating and engaging in purposeful corporate social responsibility programs, and sowing ethical and moral values deeply into corporate organizational cultures (Hannah et al., 2023).

**Conclusion**

Recognizing the significant historical contributions of the Quaker movement in hindsight, deeply informed by Judeo-Christian teachings, provides insights into the roots of contemporary ethical business practices. Revisiting the biblical foundations, examining exemplary Quaker leaders’ tangible societal impacts, and following enduring leadership principles illustrate the continued relevance and importance of integrating faith-informed ethics in the business world. This historical exploration reinforces a personal commitment to uphold integrity, compassion, and accountable leadership in contemporary corporate settings. A historical commitment in which I desire to continue and participate in, as I too feel called to integrate business practices with faith-based ethics.

**Works Cited**

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