SR 968-22: Sociological Methodology: Interpreting Changing Cultures

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Omega Graduate School

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**Assignment #1 – Content Questions**

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

a. Asynchronous Cores 2 and 4: Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the first week of the term. Post this discussion in DIAL Discussion Forum. Then, provide two peer responses of 100 words each (total of 200 words) in the Discussion Forum.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

**Introduction**

Religious beliefs shape and are shaped by the sociocultural systems within which they operate (Alina & Don, 2022). Therefore, faith and society are deeply interconnected, shaping each other in profound ways. Depending on their religious orientation and research findings, scholars may have different opinions on how faith and society impact each other. In general terms, however, the Christian faith has been playing positive roles in shaping societies. Whereas some scholars describe religion in general and Christianity in particular as a dividing force in a society, the Christian faith has been described as key facilitator of social wellbeing and social change. This short essay, thus, discusses the role of Christian faith in transforming societies. To this effect, the essay briefly discusses various views and makes a conclusion.

**Discussion**

According to Bainbridge (2021), while it’s possible to hold beliefs privately, actions put us in the realm of the social. That is to say, how people put their belief into actions affects the people around them in particular and the society in general. Scholars differ in their view regarding the interplay between religion and society. Some scholars describe religion as an instrument of societal peace (Saikia, 2024), while others describe it as a practice that exacerbates social intolerance (Hogemann & Tavares, 2021). Similarly, some writers describe Christianity as a system of oppression, while others view it as a means to maintain social order and equilibrium (Bainbridge, 2021). Christianity has discouraged noble indigenous values that bonded communities for centuries (Nweke, 2025). Needless to say, there are groups that view Christianity as a harmful form of religion.

Some writers state that the objectionable portrayal of Christianity partly derives from religious biases (Gokaru, Nor, & Bensaleh, 2024). According to Copper (2022), part of the undesirable perception about Christianity relates to its cross-cultural nature. That is to say, the application of the never-changing truth of Christian faith to the ever-changing world and the application of the biblical text to the rather diverse global context appear to facade the beauty of the transformative power of Christianity in some cultures. Al-Kire, Pasek, Tsang, Leman, & Rowatt (2022) argue that Christian nationalism has diminished the impact of Christianity on societies. According to this source, the politically motivated Christian nationalism appears to be a significant and consistent predictor of anti-immigrant stereotypes, prejudice, dehumanization, and support for anti-immigrant policies.

Nevertheless, several scholars argue that the Christian faith has been contributing to the transformation of societies (Kumar, Sahoo, Lim & Dana, 2022). For instance, Evgeny (2023) states that Christianity has played a leading role in world civilization. Daniel (2020) adds that Christian reforms such as protestant reform has enhanced progressive social change. Christianity has defended social orders and restricted the violation of human rights (Griffith, 2024). Christian faith plays central role in teaching and upholding social ethics, justice and order (Heibert, 2022). The spread of the gospel has enlightened the marginalized tribal communities (Pauw, 2024).

**Conclusion**

Some religions might have a disparaging role in our society. The application of Christianity across cultures might reflect some drawbacks. Yet, Christianity has incontestably transformed individuals, families, communities, and societies for the better. According to Mathhew 5: 13-16, Christians are called to be the light and the salt to the fallen world. Living up to such responsibility involves being stewardship to the societal culture and playing active role in constructive social change (Reichard, 2025). The Christian community can glorify God by transforming societal culture in alignment with biblical teachings through faith-integrated social analysis and Christian social teaching. The church of today should be able to learn from the past history and use the critiques of scholars to renew itself, and continue to transform societies for the glory of God.

**Works Cited**

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