

Reflection Paper

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This course has been encouraging and interesting as we encountered topics that as a Christian believer and social worker make one think outside of the box. It is imperative that as we go further in our career as social workers, we note the various lens from which people view certain topics such as the ones that were discussed throughout this course. One of the modules pointed out the fact that as a Christian believer, we cannot merely say that its ok I do not judge anyone because I am a believer and that is not what I am supposed to do. It is important to recognize and prevent countertransference from our own perceptions that have been perceived throughout our lives. I have recognized the importance of religion and science and this course has helped me develop needed skills to ponder topics on a level much deeper than the surface and incorporate science and religion as a unity, especially in practice.

I find that faith and science can complement one another, especially in practice. It is easy for some people to assume that the two are in conflict. One of my favorite topics this semester was comparing religion and science and identifying whether we think that they can coexist seamlessly or not. Due to a lack of nature and scientific evidences, supernatural entities are considered to be separate in terms of how we understand the two. Topics such as abortion have conflicting views surrounding it. Some people tend to believe that science is their primary source of guidance on what is right and wrong by their belief in God. I have a strong faith in God, and I believe that I am not responsible to make decisions surrounding another person's body. I do not believe in abortion nor support the topic, however there are circumstances such as a baby who will not make it once birthed or a mother who is going to die if she does not medically terminate the baby. These circumstances have me in support of medical abortions and I find that an all -

loving God would agree in circumstances such as these. I also understand that some Christian believers find that all abortions whether medical or not, are killing an unborn child and consider it to be murder, regardless of the situation. I disagree with these believers due to my faith in science as well as religion. I trust in scientific evidences such as findings of unborn babies that have terminal diseases. For some people, they would not trust in these scientific findings, and as long as their baby presented a heartbeat, they would never medically terminate the pregnancy.

Another topic that comes to mind throughout this course is the discussion of transgender related issues. Personally, I cannot comprehend transgender concepts and I would find it difficult to work with this population and I know that this is an area that I need work or experience in. I understand homosexuality and am comfortable discussing the topic, however transgender issues are difficult for me to relate to as I need more education surrounding this. Some people find that homosexuality is a choice. I tend to believe that people are born this way or something happened in their childhood which brought about homosexuality tendencies. I have heard some Christians say that this is not true, that no one is born this way. It is important to recognize and control personal bias so that your thoughts and beliefs are not forced onto someone else. This particular subject was interesting and informative for me.

Contraceptives and issues surrounding this was another topic that I thoroughly enjoyed depicting this semester. It is interesting to read about the various populations that share completely different views surrounding the issue. I have witnessed and heard some Christians say that these drugs are merely “playing God.” Personally, I do not agree with this concept. I do not believe that anyone has the power to “play God.” This just shows that whether you are a Christian or non-believer, you may share opinions or display conflicting views depending on the topic at hand.

In conclusion, I thoroughly enjoyed this course and the topics presented in discussions throughout the semester. It has encouraged me as a Christian and social worker to think outside the box and recognize the various opinions and beliefs that are different from my own. It is vital to not cast judgment on those around me who share conflicting views on faith and science and rather, encourage them to share their opinions and thought processes in order to elevate my mindset and openness to learn from others. We all come from numerous walks of life and each individual shares a different story and cultural background. In order for growth to occur, we must embrace diversity and learn from one another and our experiences. Moving forward, I will always allow faith and science to be integrated in a cohesive manner.