

Integration Paper

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Abstract

After thorough analysis of the information of the different approaches to the relationship between psychology and Christianity, it is determined that the Allies model best represents this relationship. The different methods of knowing appropriate for Christians will be described (such as appeals to authority, empiricism, logic, and revelation and interpretation), as well as the Allies model itself. Following, the Allies model's view of the "two-books" concept will be interpreted, as well as the strengths and limitations of the Allies model. After reviewing all of this information, it will be determined that the Allies model is most appropriate for the integration of psychology and Christianity.

Integration Paper

Examining the relationship between psychology and Christianity is extremely important for integration purposes, as well as for purposes of the clients, to steer them in a godly direction, in order to get the most out of life and live it to the fullest. Psychology and Christianity are both of equal significance, and should be learned how to merge together properly. In doing this, it can be rest assured that both psychology and Christianity can have a harmonious effect on each other, and thus, on the client. After thorough analysis of the information of the different approaches to the relationship between psychology and Christianity, it is determined that the Allies model best represents this relationship.

Methods of Knowing

First, there are essentially four different methods of knowing which are: appeals to authority, logic, empiricism, and revelation and interpretation (Entwistle, 2015). Appeals to authority contains all knowledge that has been handed down from generation to generation from parents, teachers, and mentors alike; however, it us up to the individual to determine if the authority giving the information is reliable or not (Entwistle, 2015). For example, an individual's parents may tell him/her that God exists. Then it would be up to that individual to determine if God does exist. Logic can be described as an individual's reasoning to acknowledge a piece of information as factual or not (Entwistle, 2015). An example of logic would be if an individual learns what psychology is and how to apply it. That individual could do his/her own research to determine what psychology is. Empiricism is knowledge gained from an individual's sensory experiences (Entwistle, 2015). An example of knowledge gained from empiricism would be if an individual touches a hot stove, the individual will know that stove to be hot, and that knowledge will stick with him/her. Lastly, revelation and interpretation is a method of knowing stemming

from an individual's personal experiences (Entwistle, 2015). An example of knowledge gained from revelation and interpretation would be getting cheated on by a spouse. The individual being cheated on will learn what cues to look for in his/her next relationship, and the event will help the individual discover what kind of spouse he/she truly desires.

Description of Model

Second, the Allies model focuses on the Sovereignty of God, including the concept that all truth is known by God (Entwistle, 2015). This model is aware that there are many different methods of attaining knowledge about the world and about human nature, and also recognizes that religion and/or worldviews has a huge effect on human thinking (Entwistle, 2015). Knowing this, it is extremely important to form a Christian worldview in order to approach the world in an effective manner, and to know what knowledge is false, and what knowledge God's truth (Entwistle, 2015). In this model, one of the most important concepts is the unity of truth, in which all truth fits together like a puzzle, in other words, truth fits together concisely (Entwistle, 2015). According to the Allies model, both Christianity and psychology are at the feet of God's sovereignty, or in other words, both Christianity and psychology must adhere to being God's truth (Entwistle, 2015). This model also has the following features: sees Christ as the creator of all things and the maintainer of all things, recognizes human errors, and understands that the human purpose is through God (Entwistle, 2015). Those individuals that follow the Allies model believe that God is above all things and that Christianity and psychology correlate with each other through the psychology of Christianity and through the theological depth of psychology, while analyzing each situation to determine which model may be most effective; however, it all comes down to God's sovereignty (Entwistle, 2015).

Viewing the Two Books Concept

In addition, the Allies model views the “two books” concept as concise, and believes that the books need to be read in expertise and aptitude of varying methods; however, solely relying on Christian understanding should be prohibited as this can lead to readers following more modern expectations about objectivity and neutrality and can potentially harm an individual’s understanding of human behavior (Entwistle, 2015). The Allies model is based on the belief that God’s truths are in the book of God’s Word, or Scripture, and the book of God’s Works, or creation (Entwistle, 2015). The Allies model is contingent that good psychology can be found in Christianity, but does not contain the belief that psychology and Christianity are mutually exclusive as the Enemies model perceives (Entwistle, 2015).

Strengths

Next, there are certain strengths of the Allies model that make it stand out against all other models. One of those strengths is that while the Allies model does revolve around a Christian worldview, it does not require a Christian-only peripheral at the world; for instance, it does not view the behavior of humans through a Christian-only lens (Entwistle, 2015). This can be classified as a strength because pursuers of the Allies model can see the world through many different perspectives, which can be extremely useful in psychology, when a psychologist is trying to help an individual. Seeing the world through this particular person’s lens will help the psychologist to understand their world better, and give the psychologist the tools to help the individual succeed. Another strength of the Allies model is that it is not solely concerned with religious exercises being psychologically beneficial, but is concerned with whether the religious exercise is theologically acceptable (Entwistle, 2015). This is a helpful strength because sometimes individuals interpret the Bible incorrectly, which can lead to psychological distress. It

is known that many Christian exercises are psychologically beneficial (in example, giving to the needy), but if one interprets the Bible to say something totally different than what is meant, it can potentially lead that individual down a long and winding path of harmful thoughts, which can lead to harmful behavior. This example can also be reviewed in the “two-books” concept, as if someone interprets the Bible in a wrong way, it can lead to an underdeveloped understanding of human behavior.

Limitations

Furthermore, there are limitations to the Allies model, just as there are limitations to all of the other models (Entwistle, 2015). The first of limitations is that the Allies model has a difficult time regarding core convictions of Christianity and how to integrate different Christian approaches (Entwistle, 2015). The Allies model has analyzed past history to determine core convictions that have been repeated over time (Entwistle, 2015). Another limitation would be that there are critics that complain of the integration of psychology and Christianity because these two terms are believed to be incompatible with each other because they do not naturally belong together (Myers, Jones, Roberts, Watson, Coe, Hall, & Powlison, 2010). This can lead to individuals not even giving the integration of psychology and Christianity a chance, completely denying the concept altogether. If the concept is denied altogether, then it will never have a chance to thrive, to grow to do what it was meant to do, to show how the combination of psychology and Christianity can benefit all of those involved. A lot of this denial of integration stems from the age-long battle of Christianity and science, two fields that constantly refute each other in almost all aspects, including creation of the world versus the big bang theory and creation of man versus evolution, among other things.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is determined that the Allies model is the best model for integration purposes of psychology and Christianity. The Allies model is clearly focused on the Sovereignty of God over all things; the fact that all truth is God's truth. In this model, one of the most important concepts is the unity of truth, in which all truth fits together like a puzzle, in other words, truth fits together concisely. There are strengths of this model which include but are not limited to the following: The Allies model does not include a Christian-only view of the world (it is based on a Christian worldview, however) and is concerned with religious exercises being theologically acceptable (which can be traced to the "two-books" concept, as to not interpret God's Scripture wrong). There are also several limitations of the Allies model, which include: difficulty implementing core Christian convictions, integrating Christian approaches, and many critics disapproving of the integration of psychology and Christianity (which can lead to the integration of psychology and Christianity never becoming a thriving concept, to help those in which it was meant). After thorough analysis of the information of the different approaches to the relationship between psychology and Christianity, it is determined that the Allies model best represents this relationship.

References

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