# **Shaeffer Scholarship Essay**

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A Christian must be able to apply and identify his Christianity in all the areas of his life. Many people do not understand that Jesus and Christianity are present in every moment of people’s lives. The areas are Theology, Philosophy, Ethics, Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics, and last but not least History . All of these different dimensions are like a puzzle that when it is assembled altogether, it sure becomes clear the way everything relates to Jesus and Christianity. Jesus is the foundation of Christianity, and all the teachings of Christianity are depicted in him.

On the one hand, Theology is the study of God. These dimensions of life respond to two special questions: Is there a God? And What is God like? . The first one can be answered because of what is known as the General Revelation, “God’s communication of himself to all everyone, at all times, and in all places” (citation). This means that every single aspects of the universe conveys in God’s existence and His magnificence, so no one has the excuse of not to believe in Him. The special revelation, the Bible, shows us more about the second question. By understanding it, we can know that God is a ruler that He is almighty, that He is righteous and morally perfect, and that He has an infinite love towards us.

Philosophy, on the other hand, is the understanding and study of life meaning. If we already know God’s existence and personality, then we must know what the meaning and purpose of His creation is meant to be. The Bible is the ultimate and unique source for understanding God and life. Consequently to understand life, we first need to know what is real and what is not. According to the Bible, reality consist of a natural universe and a supernatural realm. The natural universe are the things that we can see and explain in nature. On the other hand, the supernatural realm is separated from the natural world, thus we cannot explain the things coming from this realm. The Bible relates and claim for both of these realms, thus it does not go against scientific facts, as many people would argue.

In addition, talking about the natural world, Biology is the explanation of how the world and human specie came to existence. Christian’s beliefs in this regard differs a lot to the well-accepted evolutionary theory. However, this do not mean that Christian’s perspective goes against science or that it is unscientific. Christians also believe in the assumption that “ The universe is orderly and can be expected to act according to specific, discoverable laws” (citation). For Christians these laws were created by an intelligent cause, this cause is God. Furthermore, some of the founders of modern science like Kepler, Boyle or Newton were believers of a powerful and intelligent being as the creator of the universe. When it comes to natural selection, Christians believe that natural selection is instead an adaptation of a specie to the environment. But this adaptation does not imply that every single living creature come from a common form of life. There are some people who try to reconcile Christianity with the theory of evolution, they are called Theistic Evolutionists. However, according to Christians, these two worldviews cannot be reconciled because of all the theological, psychological, and ethical implications they bring along.

A part of our biology as Christians, is the understanding of our mind and soul, the understanding of our psychology. Your life´s perspective, thoughts and feelings towards your life represent everything inside your mind. Whether you might either feel horrible and think life is unfair, or on the contrary you feel happy and think that life is pretty fair, only depends on you, and in what you have inside your soul and mind. You need to replace all those negative thoughts, with the thoughts that God conveyed to you, so that, joy will surround you in spite of and you will be more aware of His greatest mercy in your life.

Hence, psychology is the study of our mind and soul to understand our behavior, then ethics is the study, or the classification of which behaviors are good and which ones are bad. In today’s society people consider that morality is relative and that it will always depends on the situation and the context. According to Christianity there are some moral rules which ought to be followed, no matter what the situation is. However, who is right or wrong, what is right or wrong? According to Christianity, there are such things as the 10 commandments and the sense of guilty in which people can rely on in order to answer this question.

If we want to see how psychology and ethics interact in humans daily lives, we must dig into sociology. We , as human beings have the need of socializing and interacting with other people. Our ability to socialize and to interact with other people in such complex and different way is the reason why we are on the top of the food chain. The Bible stresses three different levels of society. The family, in charged of children raising and education. The church, in charged of conveying God’s faith and learnings, also taking part in social action. And last the state, in charged of the order and justice in the society . In order for a society to be healthy these three levels should be aligned with God’s direction and teachings.

Furthermore we can also call these teachings and directions of God as laws. Law gives society a way in which people ought to behave to have order, direction, justice and peace in society. Beyond these human laws, there are some “Natural Laws” that God created and that rule the way nature behaves. Unlike, human’s law, these “Natural Laws” cannot be broken or perpetrated. They will exist, and be the way they are, regardless of any subjective opinion.

People try to implement these Human’s laws in society through politics. In nowadays society everyone has a lot of “rights” according to these laws, but very few responsibilities. This excess of rights and lack of responsibilities has led humans to have very sinful tendencies, without any control, according to Christianity. The purpose of the state in politics is to maintain order and justice in society, but definitely following certain ethical standards which are thought inside the church and family. Furthermore, the state is in charged of finding a way in which their country or community is able to live abundantly both materially and spiritually. When it comes to material abundance, the word of economics comes to play a very important role. On how a state manage their economics will depend on how good or bad their people will live, at least materially. The history has proven that the best way to produce material abundance is through the freedom of people to produce products and services. Although Christians think that freedom is the key for an abundant society, these “free” people also have the responsibility to share with others and with people in need part of the resources and goods that they have.

I admit that history taught us the best way of managing economy but, it has taught us many, and more meaningful things. History is not about which dates or what characters did in the past, but what are the ideas and learnings that we can get from those characters and those experiences. Thus, we can learn from the history presented on the Bible and God teachings. Especially, we can learn from Jesus, and all the actions that He made on earth.

In conclusion, Biblical and Christian worldview encompasses all 11 areas of life, and give people teachings, directions, and advice which they can rely on to follow this religion. Differently from what many people may say, religion is very applicable to the real life.