

Christian Beliefs and Commitments

Testimony

Raised in a Christian family, I accepted Christ as my Savior as a 10-year-old. I attended Southside Christian Church in Sapulpa, OK. From Sunday school and listening to sermons, I distinctly remember that heaven and hell were the only final eternal destinations, and Jesus was the only one who could save me. My salvation comes from Christ alone. After speaking with my parents and minister, I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. I was baptized as a public display of my salvation. I still remember the 'clean feeling' that I had while shaking hands and sharing hugs with the members of that small congregation.

After salvation, learning more about Jesus developed a desire to be more like him, as well as letting others know of his great love and salvation. Although not a theologian, I regularly read my bible and study God's word. As the father of two daughters, I have been blessed to see them accept Christ as their savior. I feel that I have always been willing to let others know that I am a Christian; however, as a young man, I did struggle with answering clever arguments from some of my friends who were atheists. To remedy, I studied apologetics, including the classic arguments for (and against) God's existence.

I have always been a member of a local church whether as a youth, in college, as a single professional, married, and as a head of my family. Therefore, I have been an active church member in Sapulpa, OK; Norman, OK; Houston, TX; St. Paul, MN; Corpus Christi, TX; Modesto, CA; Durant, OK; and Jackson, TN. In Jackson, we were members of Fellowship Bible Church, and I had variety of leadership roles (greeter, usher, event organizer, and small group leader). Now, in San Angelo, TX, we are members at Glen Meadows Baptist Church (Mack Roller).

Beliefs

There is only one God, who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that the Bible, composed of both the Old and New Testaments, is error-free and the supreme authority of faith and practice for the believer in Jesus Christ. Salvation is found in Jesus alone. None can accomplish salvation according to his own merit but receive it only by God's grace through faith. Those who believe in Jesus for salvation are declared justified. The Christian is adopted as a child of God forever and granted an eternal inheritance. All Christians belong to the one true church and are directed by the Scriptures to associate themselves in local churches. The mission of the church is to prepare for Jesus' return by leading people to Christ and helping them mature in the faith.

Regarding origins, I believe in a literal account of Genesis. God created everything in six days, including man. Adam was created as a man with an appearance of a history (~20 year old), and I believe the universe was similarly created, with an appearance of history. God created man and woman and made it clear that marriage is between a man and woman. Marriage and its ordinances were designed by God, not man. We are wonderfully designed by God in the womb as humans at the moment of conception.

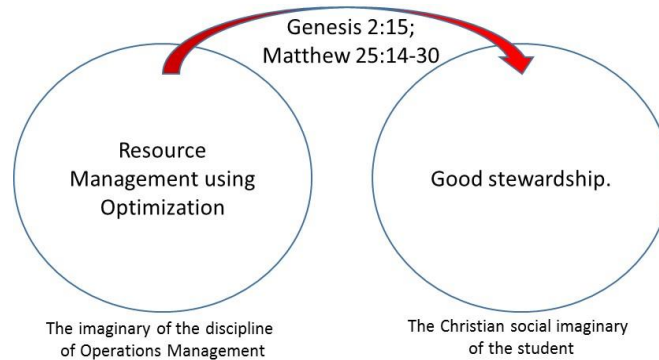
Commitments

I worked for a Christ-centered university, Union University, for eight years, and I desire to return to a Christ-centered university. While teaching at Union University, students in my class knew they were being taught by a Christian. I shared my faith and regularly worshiped with many of them on campus and at Fellowship Bible Church in Jackson, TN. They also knew that I had been successful in the 'real world', from my previous work as well as with my active research and consulting. Therefore, my students can have confidence that I am successfully preparing them to have a 'seat at the table' regardless of where they work.

Prior to joining Union University, I was not intentional in integrating faith and my teaching. I kept them separate. However, Dr. David Dockery, the Union president when I joined, charged all faculty to intentionally integrate faith and discipline. Initially, it was intimidating because I did not want to present to my students anything that was contrived. Additionally, I wanted to offer examples unique to my discipline.

The result was identifying several clear relationships of integrating biblical principles and my discipline, operations management (OM). As an example, one topic of OM is resource management. Resource management is recognizing

that organizations do not have unlimited resources; therefore, tools are needed to help identify the best ways to apply scarce resources for the benefit of the organization. Resource management clearly relates to the bible principle of stewardship, which the bible discusses in Genesis 2 and Matthew 25. However (and this is the key), the bible does not try and teach us how to be a good steward. It just tells us that it is our responsibility. Therefore, I have the opportunity, through my teaching and discipline, to demonstrate how to be a good resource manager and good steward. The construct below presents my purposeful integration.



The construct is not my invention. It was developed by Dr. Fonsie Guilaran, a physics professor at Union. However, when I saw his presentation, I asked him to present to the business faculty at Union. As the Director of Assurance of Learning, I wanted all business faculty to use the above construct and apply to their discipline. I believe that this simple, yet clear construct could be a theme so that both students, faculty, and administration intentionally connect their faith with their efforts. This is just one example and have others in the areas of analytics and supply chain management.