CT800:Fall 2024

Module 2 Homework

For Assignment #3 for Module 2, I described my egocentric behavior regarding my relationship with my oldest sister Teresa. As I’m now reflecting for this Assignment #4, I begin to realize that my sister also wants to determine the quality of our relationship and make it superficial, materialistic, and trivial. Her motivations may lie in a couple of factors: (1) she grew up abused and with her rights violated at home (2) she found in her husband of thirty years the safety and security that she needed. In spite of some violations of her personal rights, she feels safe by living the way she knows and by the reassurance that her husband loves her this way, and (3) her parameters of contact with her family of origin – especially her younger brother (myself). Naturally, I am jovial, happy-go-lucky, relaxed, open-minded, and a conversationalist. I do not shy away from difficult topics of our family history, and some may be painful to mention (much more to broach in conversation). When I do, Teresa makes remarks that indicate that she feels uncomfortable, she does it in a subtle, indirect, and difficult to understand way. I’m beginning to realize that while loving each other, we both display opposing, if not conflicted, interests. The challenge for us may lie in finding the middle ground and carry out a new relationship that feels satisfying for both.

**Identify the Impact of Group Influence”**

Since my infancy and throughout my youth and early adult years, I belonged to the Pentecostal Evangelical Christian church. Growing up, I fell under the indoctrination of their orthodoxy and dogma. Some of the most prominent ideas I observed: (1) the inerrancy of the Bible (2) the superiority of our Dogma and Belief System (3) the Sexual Purity Culture and (4) the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, which would signal the end of the world.

Some of the positive aspects of the specific type of Christian dogma that positively influenced me had to do with an emphasis on helping the poor, feeling love and compassion for my neighbor, and for emphasizing simplicity and a nonmaterialistic lifestyle over riches and possessions. Nevertheless, these same ideals I mentioned seem incompatible with the lifestyle of many Christian believers in America, especially those who preach and practice a “Prosperity Gospel” of seeking riches, prosperity, and financial well-being. It also seems incompatible with the racism (covert or overt) that some Christian churches display towards undocumented immigrants, members of the LBGTQ+ community, and folks of different religions – especially Islam. Seeing these contradictions at the ground level, I now question all Christian dogma, and specifically the fundamentals of the Pentecostal Evangelical Christian Church I observed: (1) the inerrancy of the Bible (2) the superiority of our Dogma and Belief System (3) the Sexual Purity Culture and (4) the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, which would signal the end of the world.