



Research Doctoral Studies Application School of Church Ministries

FIELD ESSAY: The Christian and the Social Sciences

The purpose of the field essay is to provide a sample of the prospective student's research and writing skill. It also allows to faculty to ascertain the critical thinking skills of the prospective student.

Question: *What is the relationship between human knowledge gained through research in the social sciences (reason) and those truths gained through the study of the Word of God (faith)?*

For example, how would you relate content taught in a psychology course with the material taught in a theology course?

- Provide an overview of current positions on integration of faith and reason.
- What are some fundamental assumptions underlying each perspective?
- Provide your perspective and a defense for your position. Include citations from various books, web sites and articles to support your arguments as well as from the Scriptures
- Discuss the implications of your view for the work of ministry.

The following resources will be a helpful start in your research efforts. Do not limit yourself to these resources, but you may want to begin with them.

1. Bredfeldt, Gary J. *Caring for Souls: Counseling Under the Authority of Scripture*. Chicago: Moody Publishing, 2001. (Chapter 1)
2. Gaebelain, Frank E. *The Pattern of God's Truth*. Chicago: Moody Publishing, 1980.
3. Harris, Robert J. *The Integration of Faith and Learning*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2004.
4. Holmes, Arthur F. *All Truth is God's Truth*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1977.
5. Holmes, Arthur. *The Idea of a Christian College*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975.
6. Heie, Harold and David Wolfe, eds. *The Reality of Christian Learning: Strategies for Faith-Learning Integration*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.
7. Powlison, David. *Cure of Souls (and the Modern Psychotherapies)*. Journal of Biblical Counseling, Spring 2007 (5-36).
8. <http://www.nyackcollege.edu/library/onlinefl/onlinefltoc.htm> (Bibliography on faith and learning)
9. <http://www.virtualsalt.com/int/intdef.pdf>(Helpful summary of the issue)
10. <http://iclnet93.iclnet.org/pub/facdialogue/FacDialogue.html> (Selected issues of *Faculty Dialog* on the integration of faith and reason).
11. <http://www.uu.edu/centers/faculty/>
12. <http://www.uu.edu/centers/faculty/resources/division.cfm?ID=4>