



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, PEACE, LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

NPPC 510: PEACE AND CONFLICT THEORY AND PRACTICE

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER 2021

LECTURER: DR. I.R. MADENGA

DURATION: 5 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer any one question

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Your examination responses will be subjected to anti-plagiarism.

Submit your examination answer scripts within 5 hours using Moodle.

Question 1.

Read the case study and answer the accompanying questions. Illustrate each answer fully.

Character is destiny. A person's character is his/her fate. Heraclitus Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, said: "Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude."

As a clergyman, I have watched pitifully how people self-sabotage themselves by seeking spiritual solutions to character-deficit issues. They look around at everybody as suspects for their predicaments when their greatest demons lurks within them - their character. What we often call our destiny is truly our character, and since that character can change, then destiny can be altered. Character is destiny.

Is prayer actually EVERYTHING? Many would begin to argue back and forth on this intriguing question, but my main purpose of writing this piece is not to get involved in arguments. Arguments don't improve the validity of a 'truth;' they only determine how long it would take before you realise it.

Most people believe that we can pray ourselves to success and get away with virtually anything if we become a stickler to some prayer routines.

There is no amount of spiritual penance that can substitute for character. Sometimes, you need character, not prayer.

Prayer is not EVERYTHING! Build relationships, build your family and don't ever forget that God will always use man. Be mindful of your words and how you speak to people.

Work seriously on your character and attitude towards life. I want to say emphatically that character is not optional; it is sacrosanct to the future that God has planned for you and your home. No matter where you place prayers, character matters. The greatest fraud in life is religion without character. A man without character is recklessly alive.

Dutch Sheets said: "Prayer is not a cheque request asking for things from God; it is a deposit slip-a way of depositing God's character into our bankrupt souls." British writer and politician, Thomas Macaulay (1800-1859), said: "The measure of a man's character is what he would do if he knew he never would be found out."

I have often said that what would ultimately destroy a man going to high places in life is not really the enemies that are waiting for him there, but the character that followed him there.

I want to emphatically underline the fact that this write-up is not meant to trivialise prayers in any way. I have observed that many people take character for granted, while overzealously tuning on into their spiritual mode. We have become so spiritually in tune through prayers that we neglect the place of character and our relationship with people.

Many are actually 'heavenly' bound, but with no earthly relevance.

You can speak with spiritual eloquence, pray in public and maintain a holy appearance, but it is your behaviour and character that will actually trigger the manifestation of all that God has for you.

You must learn to treat people with courtesy. The Shunammite woman must have been praying for a child all through her life. By being hospitable to a man of God, she eventually got her much-awaited miracle. It wasn't prayer that opened the door for her; it was her character. Assuming she wasn't hospitable, she would have missed a critical miracle.

Many times, we pray, fast and bind demons that don't exist when our real demons are just our greatly flawed character. Many have insulted people that were divinely placed and orchestrated to help them fulfil their destiny. Some people are keeping malice with their destiny helpers. Treat people with respect. Treat strangers with courtesy.

Never look down on anybody. God can use anyone to change your story.

Abigail Van Buren said: "The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good, and how he treats people who can't fight back." You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.

The way we treat people we think can't help or hurt us, like housekeepers, waiters, and secretaries, tells more about our character than how we treat people we think are important.

1(a). "Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude." Discuss. (40 marks).

1(b). What is the importance of character in peace and conflict studies? (30 marks).

1(c). Religion can be both a source of conflict and peace. Discuss. (30 marks).

Question 2

Read the case study and answer the accompanying questions. Illustrate each answer fully.

How do you treat people? One of the most impressive architectural feats and the greatest military defence project in history is the Great Wall of China.

In 1987, UNESCO designated the Great Wall a World Heritage site, and a popular controversial claim that emerged in the 20th century holds that it is the only man-made structure that is visible from space. Originally conceived by Emperor Qin Shi Huang (c. 259-210 B.C.) in the 3rd Century B.C. as a means of preventing incursions from Mongolians and barbarian nomads into the Chinese Empire, the wall is one of the most extensive construction projects ever completed. History has it that when the ancient Chinese decided to live in peace, they made the Great Wall of China; they thought no one could climb it due to its height. During the first 100 years of its existence, the Chinese were invaded thrice and every time, the hordes of enemy infantry had no need of penetrating or climbing over the wall, because each time, they bribed the guards and came through the doors. The Chinese built the wall, but forgot the character - building of the wall-guards. Though the Great Wall has over the years become a powerful symbol of the country's enduring strength and spirit, it has actually been a good reminder to the Chinese of the superiority of human character. How many people and homes had been invaded, looted and devastated by the enemy through the bribery of ego, self-indulgence, insincerity and unfaithfulness. The scriptures says, "While men slept, the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way". Matthew 13:25. The Chinese realised much later that the best defence against the enemy is not a fortified

wall, but a fortified character. Thus, the building of human character comes before building of anything else.

William Shakespeare captured it succinctly when he said: “The fault is not in our stars, but in ourselves.” Peter Schutz, the former chief executive officer of Porsche said: “Hire character; train skills.”

Lastly, back in the days when Germany was divided, a huge wall separated East and West Berlin. One day, some people in East Berlin took a truck load of garbage and dumped it on the West Berlin side. The people of West Berlin could have done the same thing, but they didn't. Instead they took a truck load of canned foods, bread, milk and other provisions, and neatly stacked it on the East Berlin side. On top of this stack they placed the sign: “EACH GIVES WHAT HE HAS!” How very true! You can only give what you have.

Be sincere! What do you have inside of you? Is it hate or love? Violence or peace? Death or life? Capacity to build or capacity to destroy? What have you acquired over the years? Team spirit or pull down architecture? "EACH GIVES WHAT HE HAS"

2 (a). What moral lessons can be learnt from both the Chinese Great Wall and the East and West Germany stories? (40 marks).

2 (b). Comment on the view that peace is more than the absence of war. (30 marks).

2 (c). What are the basic skills required in conflict mediation? (30 marks).

Question 3

Read the case study and answer the accompanying questions. Illustrate each answer fully.

‘Due regard must be given to indigenous and informal traditions for administering justice or settling disputes, to help them to continue their often vital role and to do so in conformity with both international and local tradition. Kofi Annan (2004). The UN’s stance on African Traditional Conflict Resolution Mechanisms confirms the growing consensus by peacebuilding researchers that indigenous conflict mechanisms must be prioritised. The greatest resource for sustainable peace in the long-term is rooted in the local people and their context (Sending 2009). In fact, ‘local ownership has become probably one the most relevant mantras in post-conflict peacebuilding interventions in sub-Saharan Africa’ Mateos (no date). African Traditional Conflict Resolution Mechanisms are best ‘resources and answers’ to conflict resolution because they are locally-owned and context-based (Huyse and Satter 2008).

3 (a). (i) What is retributive and restorative justice? (20 marks). (ii) Which one is preferable and why? (20 marks).

3 (b) Why is it important to use conflict analysis tools and techniques to analyse conflicts? (30 marks).

3 (c). African traditional conflict resolution mechanisms are best ‘resources and answers’ to conflict resolution because they are locally-owned and context-based (Huyse and Satter 2008). Discuss using examples (30 marks).

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