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Peer Responses

Hello Sarah-Ann Whittey,

I agree with your perspective on the importance of ethical behavior in Christian leadership. An ethical culture is founded around honesty, integrity, and love, plus humility and justice, applying biblical principles such as the Sermon on the Mount that you mentioned. Christian leaders also have a duty to show themselves and model good ethical behavior, as this will reflect godly principles. In agendas where leaders focus on servant leadership and fairness, trust, and accountability are developed inside an organization (Niemeyer & Cavazotte, 2016).

I also find your discussion on the contrast between Christian and non Christian related organizations to be insightful. Non-Christian organizations may not have religious teachings explicitly guiding them, but the ethical standards that they will uphold are secular philosophies and the legal framework (Jones et al., 2018). However, Christian ethics offer a unique spiritual motivation that goes beyond past compliance and urges leaders to act with real compassion and service.

The ethical issues you covered within the military embody real-world ethical decision-making. In confronting unethical behavior, especially in high-stakes activities, courage and accountability are needed (Niemeyer and Cavazotte, 2016). Ethical leadership has to be enforced from the highest to the lowest level to avoid harm and to make sure that individuals feel empowered to stick to ethics. You stress the importance of ongoing ethical education and systems of support.

References

- Jones, J. S., Murray, S. R., & Warren, K. B. (2018). Christian leadership in a secular world. *Journal of Applied Christian Leadership*, 12(2), 90-107. <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/jacl/vol12/iss2/9>Links to an external site.
- Niemeyer, J. R. L., & Cavazotte, F. D. S. C. N. (2016). Ethical leadership, leader-follower relationship and performance: a study in a telecommunications company. *RAM. Revista de Administração Mackenzie*, 17, 67-92. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1678-69712016/administracao.v17n2p67-92>Links to an external site.

Hello Tiffany Miley-Parks,

I agree with your perspective on the evolution of biblical ethics in business and the challenges organizations face in maintaining ethical integrity. I think you do a good job of discussing how biblical principles once guided commerce and then were eclipsed by secular ideology during the Industrial Revolution. This shift, as you noted, resulted in a decrease in ethically responsible business practices, which in turn required the implementation of legal means to maintain a check on corporate behavior (Locke et al., 2021). The reliance on laws instead of moral conviction is a point of view that emphasizes the issue of an ethical vacuum happening in many contemporary organizations.

Your investigation of contemporary Christian business ethics, as shown in the practice of corporate social responsibility, is captivating. This idea of businesses serving society, respecting human dignity, and practicing stewardship is very consistent with biblical values. Nevertheless, as you noted, leadership does have a significant role in determining an organization's ethical culture. The failure of leaders to be honest and held accountable creates a setting in which unethical conduct is allowed, undermining the credibility of the organization (Johnson, 2022). It is your insights that highlight the need for ethical leadership to cultivate a culture of integrity in both Christian and secular organizations. For organizations, it is critical to ensure that ethical behavior is not something formal, but it is the lived practice.

References

- Johnson, C. E. (2022). *Organizational ethics: A practical approach (5th ed.)*. SAGE Publications.
- Locke, G. L. (2019). The clay feet of servant leadership. *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business*, 22(1), 34-42. <https://cbfa-jbib.org/index.php/jbib/article/view/519>