

# EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## DIVERSE AND SUNDRY OBSERVATIONS

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### RESPONSE TO VANDERVEEN (2011): BINDING AND LOOSENING

In a recent article, Steve VanderVeen suggested an advantage that Christian scholars might have in responding to “thorny” (Smith, 2010), that is, difficult and complex issues (VanderVeen, 2011).

Drawing from Scripture, VanderVeen combined thoughts about the nature of Christian love, Jesus’ comments about binding and loosening (Matt 16:18), and the methods used by the early church to deal with difficult issues. He suggested that genuine Christian scholarship can move beyond scholarly collaboration and can utilize “church councils”—venues where groups of scholars meet in *Agape* for extended debate and prayer, asking collectively for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to create consensus on the “thorny issues.”

What a good idea! To our benefit, the varied disciplines and faith-traditions in the CBFA make it a likely group from which to form such councils. For example, this issue of the *JBIB* is full of ideas that many of us will, no doubt, find stretching. In the first article, Leo Salgado proposes a School of Christian Strategy—a proposal worth a double-take as Don Daake suggests in his response. Clive and Cara Beed tackle justice

and income, and make a strong case for their perspective in *God, Prosperity and Poverty*. In an Insight, Howard Newell digs into the paradoxes of God and economics. Possibly we could form counsels to “bind and loosen” these complex issues.

Finally, two sobering articles discuss what the integration of faith and business can look like in practice. Samuel Dunn and Ronald Galloway examine one increasingly prominent integration: the Islamic systems of finance. An African pastor we know says that Islam will be the main question facing the 21<sup>st</sup> century church—we, and our students, need to understand this faith. In a Living Integration article, Kent Siebert shows the historic results of the integration of Christian faith and business in the Quaker whaling community of Nantucket. These articles are windows into topics worthy of scholarly church councils.

Are such councils already happening? Where? Can they happen virtually? Is anyone willing to convene one? Thorny questions...of extreme importance.

Smith, Yvonne (2010). “Three thorny questions,” *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business*, Vol. 12: 4-10.

VanderVeen, Steve (2011), “Binding and loosening: Seeking answers to three thorny questions,” *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business*, Vol. 13: 182-185.

## CALL FOR JBIB OPERATIONS EDITOR

The Journal of Biblical Integration in Business (JBIB) is searching for an Operations Editor to join the editorial team.

The Operations Editor would work with the JBIB editor to identify data bases and journal listings that the JBIB should be in, to assist with printing and other logistics, and to help guide the future of the JBIB in the fast paced academic journal industry. This person would not be responsible for JBIB content, rather he or she would direct the delivery of the content in appropriate channels. The JBIB Operations Editor should have an understanding of academic business journals, data bases, and electronic research.

If you are interested in this volunteer position, please send a copy of your vita and a letter detailing your interest and qualifications to: Yvonne S. Smith, Editor, JBIB, [ysmith@laverne.edu](mailto:ysmith@laverne.edu).

## CALL FOR SECTION EDITOR

The *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business* (JBIB) is searching for a Section Editor for Book and Media Reviews.

There are many resources available for professors interested in Biblical Integration. Which are of good quality? Which do students appreciate? Who has time to check them all? The *JBIB* desires to assist professors in this important discernment by publishing book and media reviews.

The Book and Media Editor would work with the editorial staff of the *JBIB* to manage media reviews for the journal. The Editor should understand the nature of media in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, be organized, be experienced in the classroom, and be of an inquiring mind.

If you are interested in this volunteer position, please send a copy of your vita and a letter detailing your interest and qualifications to: Yvonne S. Smith, Editor, *JBIB*, [ysmith@laverne.edu](mailto:ysmith@laverne.edu)

## DO BUSINESS SCHOOL DEANS THINK STUDENT DISHONESTY IS A PROBLEM?

A recent study found that almost 78% of the business school deans surveyed did not believe that student cheating was a problem in their school (Brown, Weible, & Olmosk, 2011). About 45% of the deans felt that fewer than 20% of their students participated in dishonest practices; another 33% believed the participation rate to be between 20% and 39%. Neither did they think cheating, itself, was all that serious. Asked whether cheating was a problem, about half (48.3%) believed it to be a moderately serious problem and a combined 29.5% believed it to be slightly or not at all serious. Almost 81% of the business schools represented were accredited, mostly by AACSB.

Faculty members, who daily experience the murky quagmire of entitlement and blurred truth in which many students live, tend to think that the level of student cheating is very high and very serious. This thinking is reinforced by research. Most self-report studies on cheating find that between 75-95% of college students admit to cheating, often repeatedly (Schmelkin, Gilbert, Spencer, Pincus & Silva, 2008). This dishonesty harms their souls, diminishes their value to employers, and destroys moral community.

Would deans in the CCCU test differently? Would faculty? If we deny that our students cheat, do we deceive ourselves (I John 1:8)?

Brown, B.S., Weible, R.J., Olmosk, K., (2010) Business school deans on student academic dishonesty: a survey, *College Student Journal*, Vol. 44, Issue 2

Schmelkin, L.; Gilbert, K., Spencer, K. J., Pincus, H., Silva, R. (2008). A Multidimensional Scaling of College Students' Perceptions of Academic Dishonesty. *Journal of Higher Education*; Sep/Oct2008, Vol. 79 Issue 5, p587-607

## FOUND ON THE INTERNET AND WORTH THE TIME

### 1. USA, Inc: Red, White and very Blue.

Mary Meeker, a partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, used financial information from the U.S. Treasury Department and the Congressional Budget Office to analyze the United

States of America as if it were a company with shareholders, a balance sheet, and competitive pressures. The results were published in *Bloomberg Business Week*, Feb 24, 2011 [http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/11\\_10/b4218000828880.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/11_10/b4218000828880.htm)

## 2. IBM CEO Survey 2010: “Capitalizing on Complexity.”

In 2010, IBM surveyed over 1,500 CEO's from 60 countries about their views of the world. The CEO's identified complexity as the main issue they face, and creativity as the most important characteristic for a leader. The full report can be found at <http://www-935.ibm.com/services/us/ceo/ceostudy2010>.

## DO WE QUOTE OURSELVES?

Do authors who submit papers to the *JBIB* quote other authors in the *JBIB*? Often they do not, even when the topic is clearly within the *JBIB* domain. Why is this? Some researchers might suffer from a “prophet in his home town” syndrome. However, it is more likely that the authors did their research from data bases that do not include the *JBIB*. Increasingly, scholars are looking at data bases, not print journals, as they search for articles.

The more a journal is quoted, the more it will be quoted. There are several ways we can encourage authors to quote the *JBIB*. One way is to increase the journal's presence in the appropriate data bases. The *JBIB* is in EBSCOhost and we are looking at other databases. Another way is to put copies of the journal into digital form for content searches. This has been done—you can find the digital *JBIB* at [http://www.cbfa.org/html/journal\\_of\\_biblical\\_integratio.html](http://www.cbfa.org/html/journal_of_biblical_integratio.html).

There is also a minor change in the journal's Information for Contributors. We now request that when an article is submitted to the *JBIB*, the cover letter will show how the article extends, or differs from, what has already been published in the journal on that topic. This is not an original idea. A number of journals do it and it is a good habit for writers to cultivate. After all, when a paper is submitted to the *JBIB*, it is usually reviewed by colleagues who are experts on that topic. Those would likely be the people who have published on that topic. Quoting them is wise.

## ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

### Will not the End Explain?

“Will not the end explain?

The crossed endeavour, earnest purpose foiled,  
The strange bewilderment of good work spoiled,

The clinging weariness, the inward strain,  
Will not the end explain?

Meanwhile, He comforteth

Them that are losing patience. 'Tis His way:  
But none can write the words they hear Him say  
For men to read; only they know He saith  
Sweet words, and comforteth.

Not that He doth explain

The mystery that baffleth; but a sense  
Husheth the quiet heart, that far, far hence  
Lieth a field set thick with golden grain  
Wetted in seedling days by many a rain:  
The end—it will explain.”

Carmichael, Amy (1932). *Gold Cord*,  
Christian Literature Crusade, PA: 32.