

## INFLUENCE OF THE THEOLOGICAL THOUGHTS

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**Abstract:** Social changes are the result of different factors, which influence directly or indirectly in different directions. One of the important factors that change opinions and worldviews is theology through its thoughts. Such thoughts of theology can form convenient and positive spaces for people, regardless of their affiliation, or they affect negatively and create an opinion of mutual hatred between different people, ethnicities or nations. The aim of this elaboration is to assure that the theological thoughts have an important part of the formation of close social ties if it is practiced with wisdom and special care, if it does not offend anyone and if it is not based on the principle of overvaluation. As a result of these positive theological thoughts, we can see that the doors of a wider social communication at different local and global levels, could be opened. Using negative thoughts will narrow the life and provide a difficult and limited cooperation. During this elaboration, I used the descriptive method when describing and transmitting quotes from different authors, as well as the analytical method to better analyze the ideas and opinions on the issue of the influence of theological thoughts on social changes. The conclusion would be that such thoughts may affect vital social changes, which can have a relaxed social end and general understanding in all spheres of life, regardless of the political spirit that exists in society, because such connections will be the result of a worldview with wide and universal world.

**Keywords:** Influence, Theology, Thoughts, Society, Changes.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The issue of theological thoughts implies the need for the elaboration of the critical social reality and the unfolding of the effective role that theology can play in critical individual and social moments alongside other institutions, which also deal with the studies of social phenomena.

In the world of religion there is a multidimensional and cosmopolitan concept and for this reason it is very difficult to give a final and decisive analysis. In this complex world, researchers try to give an objective overview, a deep analysis or a reflection of the factors, but, since theology is not an exact science, we once again portray variable thoughts and ideas.

All studies on theology provide elaborations on the nature of religion and in all studies we notice that religion is considered an important and crucial factor in society or in social changes.

The theological thoughts are different, but they have been considered one of the main factors of social changes due to different interpretations on the role and function of religion in society.

All theological activities are directly related to the thoughts and interpretation of rituals and theological concepts. In the following, we will highlight the explanations of different concepts, which are formulated on the nature and manner of religious activities, and which are explained through language.

This examination of this phenomenon will help to understand the segment of the influence of theological thoughts on social changes based on the opinions of Western researchers, who research the issues and phenomena that are under the influence of theological thoughts.

### 2. INFLUENCE OF THEOLOGICAL THOUGHTS

The definitions of different issues give a more general overview of the essence of the examination and understanding of different social processes.

Even the issue of the influence of the theological thoughts is closely related to the meaning of the different definitions that exist on theology and its nature.

In all societies there is an ongoing struggle to control the core idea “reality that shapes our perspectives of what is right and possible, what is bad, good, or necessary. It never stops. (Levine, 2022)

The influence of theological thoughts cannot have a general rule because it depends on how much influence other non-theological institutions have in society. Any attempt to define the meaning and nature of theological thoughts would be impossible because the ways of perceiving different religious doctrines are different.

‘Beliefs, symbols and rituals are major components of all religions, and many social scientists have suggested that they are the primary “building block” of religious institutions. Beliefs are strongly held ideas; symbols are ideas and images; rituals are more or less fixed sequences of behaviour that assume special importance when performed within a religious context. Social scientists contend that beliefs, symbols and rituals are necessary for the creation and

maintenance of religious institutions the world over. Religion is a system of beliefs and practices by which a group of people interpret and respond to what they feel is super-natural or sacred. (Gangte, 2018)

If we analyze such meanings, we will see that theological thoughts are a close part of society and their influence on social directions can be seen in every aspect.

Theological codes are formed from theological principles and then applied in society to be practiced in everyday life.

Analyzing such theological thoughts paves the way for a diverse approach from different aspects of definitions by different scholars and researchers.

We can see from the above definitions that religion is a body of beliefs and practices that directs an individual and a body that holds the community together and has a direct influence to the social changes through its language and various interpretations.

Theological definitions are very closely related to the nature of theology and their meaning cannot be imagined only because two separate worlds would be formed, which do not match due to the antagonisms between them.

### **3. ESSENCE OF THEOLOGICAL THOUGHTS**

The influence of theological thoughts in society cannot be individual because it does not exist anywhere that belongs only to one person. We cannot imagine the existence of an individual religion, but only individual thoughts, which are formed by general theological concepts and principles, which are formed by such concepts.

Conversely, those who share an ethnicity do not automatically share a language. Families who immigrated to this country several generations earlier may identify with their culture of origin but no longer be able to speak its language. English is the most common language in the United States, but 18 percent of the total population report speaking a language other than English at home. (Amoah, 2021)

Theological thoughts are conceived from worldviews, which are formed by religious literature, which tries to explain the nature of theology and the way of religious practice in society.

All theological thoughts give a common nature of the collective influence and the general theological formation within a society through institutions, theologians or researchers of theology from different aspects.

During the interpretation of the definitions on theology, we notice that the theological thoughts play an important role in explaining the nature of theology and it is impossible to be separated from theological comments, theories and practices.

### **4. THE ROLE OF INTER-THEOLOGICAL THOUGHTS**

Theological thoughts are different and exist within concrete societies and different religious affiliations, but they also influence the formation of a religious society with a general concept, which helps in understanding such thoughts and in unraveling close social ties because the influences of such theologies are evident in the common life that we all enjoy.

Styles of communication and nonverbal methods of communication are also important aspects of cultural groups. Issues such as the use of direct versus indirect communication, appropriate personal space, social parameters for and displays of physical contact, use of silence, preferred ways of moving, meaning of gestures, degree to which arguments and verbal confrontations are acceptable and degree of formality expected in communication. The contact will culturally reflect very basic ethnic and cultural differences. (Amoah, 2021)

Inter-theological contacts will contribute to a more appropriate interpretation of characteristics of religions, to strengthen their inner coherence and to deal with the specific structures more appropriately. More explicit attention is given, also in the media to the images religions inherited or constructed. More accurate information often helps to deconstruct false images, and to overcome prejudices. This implies that the status given to religions in the interreligious dialogue is of crucial importance for its ultimate credibility. The practice of interreligious dialogue, which aims at a personal change of the partners involved is not a mere individual matter, but also affects the structure of religious institutions. (Lumbaerts, 2011)

Interfaith thoughts is the most suitable way to open closed doors and to communicate with each other because only mutual communication can help cancel stereotypes, which are formed by non-communication and isolation.

The support in mutual theological opinions and the clarification of such opinions would give a beautiful form of mutual understanding and would strengthen the common social concept with mutual opinions, which would help to overcome problems and interpersonal disagreements without any effect negative.

### **5. POSITIVE INFLUENCE OF THE THEOLOGICAL THOUGHTS**

Religion continues to be a source of meaning, identity, and moral guidance for individuals and communities worldwide. Its influence extends beyond the confines of sacred spaces into the realms of politics, culture, and ethics,

shaping the very foundations of societal structures. In participating to the ongoing dialogue surrounding the role of religion in the modern world, such research would contribute to further nuance the insights available, although it would very likely remain a provisory answer to a complex relation. The intersectionality of religion with diverse aspects of human existence underscores the need for ongoing research and dialogue, fostering a deeper understanding of how religious beliefs and practices both shape and are shaped by the complex tapestry of contemporary society. Through the map provided here, we hope to inspire further inquiry into the ever-evolving relationship between religion and the diverse landscapes it traverses. (Tipei, 2023) Social developments and changes shape religious and spiritual existence, just as social developments, behaviour patterns and value systems are shaped by religious changes. (Muller, 2023)

The religious influence on attitudes and behaviors includes both normative institutions by teaching and organizational institutions by community engagement. Therefore, active attendance will play an additional role. Second, empirical evidence supports the multidimensional effect of religiosity, and nominal religiosity is more strongly associated with ethnocentrism possibly due to the signaling effect of religious identity. (Weiqian, 2021)

In different religious frameworks, valuable explanations are given on the meaning of the definitions of religious thoughts, and a more detailed explanation is given by the famous scholar Svallfors in three different fields, which are related to the issue of politics. Svallfors defined three key concepts in the explanatory framework: “*Political Cleavages, Political Institutions and Political Articulations*”. (Svallfors, 2007)

Theological concepts, in essence, are used to clarify the various issues of life and to help solve social problems. If they do not play this active role in society, then they will be dead and inactive concepts in society or simply, an ideal idea that has no relation to the reality of life.

The interpretations of theology through its language is “an active coping strategy to overcome existence problems better, since the person is allowed, to look for an existential meaning for certain stressing situations of life, to construct or reconstruct life problems or events in terms of meaning, to provide coping processes with an existential orientation system, to translate the orientation system into specific coping methods, to look for meanings in the coping process through mechanisms for conservation and transformation of the meaning from vital events, to try to solve problems through several ways that are convincing to them and to solve problems through mechanisms inserted in their cultural system”. (Ana, 2014)

The theological thoughts can be used as a positive tool and as a negative tool to influence religious groups, depending on the position taken by the speaker.

To deny the importance of either spiritual or material wellbeing is an unbiblical dualism. Such dualism has often plagued the Western World, sometimes prioritizing the spiritual (in the pre-modern world) or sometimes the material (in the modern, especially the post-Enlightenment, world) in ways that excluded or diminished the other. Both are essential parts of God’s kingdom: the spiritual, concerned with the activities and relationships of spiritual beings (God, humans, angels, and the like), and the material, concerned with physical beings and objects. The future “new heavens” and “new earth” will involve the perfection of both spiritual and material beings as well as a close and harmonious relationship between them. Humanity is a union of the spiritual and material; we are both spiritual and material beings. (Pokrifka, 2020)

If someone wants to serve the people, he uses careful language in all social, collective, political, religious and cultural events.

Social analysis can be accepted as an acting, tangible protocol of faith as opposed to the trap of merely staying in the prayer room to ask God to act to solve human problems in the world. Sermons on discipleship, faith, offerings, tithing, heaven, sin, and hell must be as important as concrete actions in helping society. (Zaluchu, 2024)

Opposing language would be very dangerous and would encourage fights with unimaginable consequences. “In other words, it helps people understand their interpretation of the meaning of life”. (Amoa, 2021) Having surveyed the literature on religion and health, we will close with a series of summary propositions, encapsulating much of the discussion of the present review, but offered so as to be subject to further discussion, refinement and potential empirical inquiry. (Tyler, 2019)

The positive impact on society comes from the positive nature that is given to the meaning of religion. In difficult social situations, every institution tries to influence positively through positive thoughts and ideas. If unconstructive ideas spread, the result will be negative and ultimately unfavorable.

A healthy theology can solve problems of human suffering in the midst of world crises. A healthy theology is rooted in God, and if it is not, then it will be difficult or even impossible to properly solve the problem of the humanitarian crisis. Theology is a way of life that has a closer relationship with God, the Creator. (Harianto, 2022) Explanations of theological thoughts should include all possible fields and should extend to all possible aspects of thought, including the digital sphere because “the digital theology is an emerging field that is gaining traction with scholars of computer science, theology, sociology, and religion”. (Sadiku, Chukwu, Majebi, Sarha & Musa, 2022)

The sober of the theological thoughts has an impact on society and all social organizations. Such social changes can be positive if the interpretations are positive.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The discussion about positive theological values in society reveals that social issues can be resolved with all the relevant factors that deal with such considerations and that theological interventions in solving such problems in society complement any other initiative to provide a positive solution in individual and social life.

From the research in this paper, it is clearly seen that the use of measured and careful theological thoughts during the explanation of theology and theological notions provides a great benefit in society and does not create mutual hatred between different peoples, cultures and religions.

We must say that it is essential to leave aside prejudices and stereotypes and on the contrary, sustained efforts must be put on performing research works with scientific precision to deal with challenges of wealth and complexity of the human being.

In the time of contemporary crisis, the positive theological thoughts can have a greater impact than any other thoughts and can contribute to calming the human mind, nourishing the empty soul, and eradicating hatred from within people and healing psycho-physical health.

The use of a reasonable theological thoughts and understanding can stop any fighting and can help to eradicate the use of weapons among the peoples of the world because behind every harsh theological interpretation, there is a fierce fight and behind every thought of understanding, there is rapprochement and dialogue, which brings peace to all.

So, my conclusion would be that the positive thoughts of theological understanding is the most suitable way to ensure positive influence on social changes.

Any misinterpretation and use of offensive thoughts during the explanation of religious teachings in society, can affect the division of people and different communities. So, the preacher of religion can positively influence the strengthening of social bonds and avoid any eventual fights from disagreements, which are formed by the language of insults towards others.

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