RUNNING HEAD: AUGUSTINE A LIFE OF CONTRADICTION

Church History

Name of Student

[Name of the Institution]

Augustine- A life of Contradiction

Augustine's transformation is deliberated as model for its Christian testament. Though, the emotional characteristics are also pertinent, for Augustine's transformation was inspired by cultural and personal ambitions as my spiritual beliefs (Outler, 1955). The transformation to the Christian religion predicted life of abstinence - a righteous and innocent presence and a life of celibacy (Nauta, 2008). This life means an escape from threatening uncertainty of parent associations and an option to understand the cultural ideal. This life means to understand an enlightened thinker who has conquered the desires of the flesh. Surely no one is so foolish as to say that the precept Of the Lord, Forgive it will be forgiven you; given it will be given you (Luke6:37-38), does not apply to the baptized (Pang-White, n.d.).

Augustine was born in the year 354 AD in the Roman prince of Numidia. His father was a pagan and his mother was a sincere Christian (Pang-White, n.d.). He was impressed by his mother and consider his father a stranger form himself. They speak Latin homes as a matter of pride and scholars have shown that this family was Berber. It is an ethnic group that is indigenous to North Africa. Augustine's commitment to Christianity shows his conversion to asceticism (Outler, 1955). He lived his life in honor of God and considered it as his victory. He represented its victory because of controlling desires of the flesh and impatience of the heart (Brown, 2013). Various studies have presented Augustine’s views and life not only by his religious sentiments but also his representation with other objects and relationships with parents (Eitheroressays, 2018). Augustine struggled for his inner religious wisdom and due to threatening ambiguous relation of his parents. He was struggling to save Christianity from defamation, deviation, and interruption of the pagans (Nauta, 2008). He also wanted to renew the gospel of human’s utter need and abundant grace of God.

***Confessions***

Augustine has reflected his infancy in the book Confessions. He defined infancy as full of childhood and violent behaviors. The child is violent by nature and he used to follow his views and opinions (Shelley, 2013). He represented his childhood full of violent behaviors and later he started reading secular literature and scripture. He committed sins and received punishments form his teachers (Gonzalez, 2010). He used to steal pears with his friends and had Godless lust behavior. Later he developed a love for wisdom after his exposure to Hortensius.

Human psychology is the view of Augustine is pessimistic and he states that there was a time when Adam and Eve spent their life in obedience to God, however, human nature has characteristic that they cannot control their feelings and therefore, they committed sin. He argued that this is human nature that we all display disobedience. He assessed human nature as Adam and Eve were not able to make a decision and displayed disobedience. The reason behind his pessimistic thinking for humans is associated with the origin of sin.

Other views of Augustine are associated with the punishment for the rebellion of Eve and Adam. He argued that how can God punish humans for something they cannot control and this is His omnibenevolent. He argued in his texts that God cannot punish human beings for their emotions and feelings that they cannot regulate by themselves. In this regard, he argued with Pelagius for his views compared to pure Christian views. Augustine highlighted in his texts that it is not possible for humans except God to preordained humans for naturally sinful. According to Roman 7, which states, ‘for I have a desire to do good, but I cannot carry it out’: proposing that humans are weak individuals that require saving by God’s forgiveness and redemption.

According to the opinions, it is suggested that humans are predominantly dependent on God's mercy to direct their lives according to religion. It is argued among scholars that humans are predestined to sin. However, it is also known that humans are made in the image of God therefore, naturally, humans are dawn towards goodness. Augustine's views are pessimistic because he was enchiridion. He also argued that humans involved in doing good will ultimately receive goodness in reward. He states that good deeds done by humans would not be in vain as they will be rewarded. He also states that evil does not exist however, it is found in privation of good.

***Predestined Human Life***

According to the concept that humans are made for the obedience and they are created in the image of God therefore, naturally, everyone is pure and good. Societies and communities allow humans to acquire bad and impaired behaviors. Furthermore, he states that the grace of God would be shown to all human beings. Predestined means humans are predestined to do good or bad. However, deep pessimistic thoughts represent that humans inherently are good and acquire characters from the environment too. Augustine strongly suggested that humans are strongly attracted to sin. He stated that humans have inherited this trait from Adam and Eve. It is also believed by various scholars that there are more good people as compared to bad people. Augustine has stated that love is categorized into two forms. One is selfish love and the other is generous love. All forms of love will ultimately end up in the love of God. He also argued that humans involved in doing good will ultimately receive goodness in reward. He states that good deeds done by humans would not be in vain as they will be rewarded. He also states that evil does not exist however, it is found in privation of good.

It is believed that people live in the obedience of God and therefore, more good people are there as compared to bad. Various scholars would not agree with this opinion as they have observed many bad humans as compared to good humans. People disagree with the opinion that all love can be categorized into good and is impossible to claim it. The love classified as selfish love according to Augustine was Cupiditas and is defined as the love for things. It is an ignorant form of love and is subjected to human himself. Individuals found with love of Cupiditas are selfish and are unhappy. They would be more ignorant and judgmental. As Augustine classified this love selfish, therefore, these people would be more involved in acquiring bad and impaired behaviors and the social life of these people would be weaker. "The philosophers hold the view that the life of the wise man should be social, and in this, we support them heartily." Indeed, the city of God – Augustine's way of characterizing the pilgrim band of Christians during their earthly sojourn in and through a community of reconciliation and fellowship that presages the heavenly kingdom – could never have had "its first start … if the life of the saints were not social" (Augustine 1972: 860).

The love of Cupiditas does not mean that this is selfish in all ways as humans need to be selfish to think for themselves. Although the love of selfish nature would support additionally for humans to acquire impaired behaviors. The social and communal life of the people would be disturbed and they would be more involved in criminal activities. Psychological studies have shown that humans cannot love themselves before they understand how to love themselves. Various scholars have arguments regarding this form of love whereas it is somewhat beneficial for humans. Human nature is adapted to acquire changes and variations particularly bad behaviors so randomly that scholars and psychologists are not in a state to explain the phenomenon. Augustine strongly suggested that humans are strongly attracted to sin. He stated that humans have inherited this trait from Adam and Eve. It is also believed by various scholars that there are more good people as compared to bad people. Augustine has stated that love is categorized into two forms. One is selfish love and the other is generous love. All forms of love will ultimately end up in the love of God.

As various researches have presented views of Augustine that life was presented not only by his religious sentiments but also his representation with other objects and relationships with parents (Eitheroressays, 2018). Augustine put his efforts into his inner religious wisdom and due to the ambiguous relation of his parents, he fights for the truth. He was belligerent to save Christianity from offense, nonconformity, and interruption of the pagans (Nauta, 2008). The highest and purest form of love described by Augustine is Caritas (Brown, 2013). This love is defined as the pure form of love and Augustine associated this love with the love of God. Scholars and ethicists have believed that the purest form of love is also a reward from God.

Augustine claimed that Adam and Eve were inclined to sin and therefore, human nature is adopted to Cupiditas by birth because of Eve and Adam. Human nature is attracted to bad behaviors more often as compared to good behaviors and factors that lead humans to this behavior are unknown. However, the human being is also sensitive to love, Augustine claimed that humans are in dire need of love and seek loving behaviors though they encounter bad behaviors in the process. Augustine has described human nature as pessimistic and therefore, with his example he has defined a way to achieve true love as he has drawn his love to God. Humans have to follow the directions given by God to achieve stability in life. Augustine has argued the fact that humans are inclined towards sin because of original sin therefore, seeking help from God will ultimately take them to heaven. To become a successful human being, it is significantly important to follow the directions of verses and intension should be directed towards the love of God.

It is also believed by various scholars that there are more good people as compared to bad people. Augustine has stated that love is categorized into two forms. One is selfish love and the other is generous love. All forms of love will ultimately end up in the love of God. According to the concept that humans are made for the obedience and they are created in the image of God therefore, naturally, everyone is pure and good. Societies and communities allow humans to acquire bad and impaired behaviors. Furthermore, he states that the grace of God would be shown to all human beings. Predestined means humans are predestined to do good or bad. However, deep pessimistic thoughts represent that humans inherently are good and acquire characters from the environment too. Augustine strongly suggested that humans are strongly attracted to sin. He stated that humans have inherited this trait from Adam and Eve.

Augustine has many described that living a life of contradiction is difficult. His mother was a sincere Christian and therefore, she became the light for her son to follow Christianity. Augustine was a dedicated person and he obeyed God in all perspectives (Pang-White, n.d.). He described that women were created to remove the loneliness of Adam and I took a woman to please me. He described his thoughts regarding his views on how he considered a woman for him. He has mentioned that his thoughts and views were completely different before. He considered a woman for the creation of children and scholars disagree with the view. Philosophers and scholars have said that Augustine was right about the human nature of disloyalty however, humans are pure by birth was acceptable b most of the scholars. The studies have revealed that human psychology to do wrong but he explained the facts that once God has given someone a direction, people would have become better (Brown, 2013). Augustine has experienced Grace and the reward of God and His love for people. He described this form as a pure kind of love for humanity (Brown, 2013). He said that God has created different creatures on earth however, he loves mankind the most. He has given mankind the features of love, emotions, senses, and sentiments. Humans need to rethink about their creation and has to follow the love of God. Augustine put his labors for his inner religious wisdom and due to the ambiguous relation of his parents, he fights for the truth. He was argumentative to save Christianity from offense, nonconformity, and interruption of the pagans (Nauta, 2008). The highest and purest form of love described by Augustine is Caritas (Brown, 2013). This love is distinct as the pure form of love and Augustine associated this love with the love of God. Researchers and ethicists have believed that the purest form of love is also a reward from God.

It presented that God always selects Caritas and that humankind is always in the control and obligation of God. The only means in which we can leave our sins is by the elegance of God. Though this appears to demonstrate God as affectionate, does it not purely display him as a controlling ruler? (Pang-White, n.d.). This showed that sins can be removed through the grace of God. Augustine is not wrong though it is acceptable that we have that love what we have earned however, love of God is for all. It is human nature who does bad things and then repent for his sins because of original sin (Outler, 1955). He represented his life as an incident where he was left in contradiction but late he followed Christianity purely and sincerely.

The highest and purest form of love described by Augustine is Caritas (Brown, 2013). This love is defined as the pure form of love and Augustine associated this love with the love of God. Scholars and ethicists have believed that the purest form of love is also a reward from God (“Romans 13:12-13 NIV - The night is nearly over; the day is - Bible Gateway,” n.d.). Augustine has argued that why humans should have to try to adapt to Caritas as we all are inclined to sin? And the answer lies in the fact that efforts and struggles have to be done by the people to achieve the highest form of love (Nauta, 2008). Though it is predestined to be inclined to bad behaviors and it is useless to try anything as we are predestined.

Augustine has suggested that we all are granted with the highest form of love but once we lead to sin we cannot achieve this pure form of love without struggle (“Romans 13:12-13 NIV - The night is nearly over; the day is - Bible Gateway,” n.d.). Augustine has suggested following: **‘**Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh’ roman 13; 13-14 (“Romans 13:13-14 NIV - Let us behave decently, as in the - Bible Gateway,” n.d.).

To achieve the highest form of love Augustine has the opinion as Roman 13; 12-13, 'The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light (“Romans 13:12-13 NIV - The night is nearly over; the day is - Bible Gateway,” n.d.). Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy’ (“Romans 13:12-13 NIV - The night is nearly over; the day is - Bible Gateway,” n.d.). As the views suggested that jealousy and discouraging others is a form of selfishness in which human being has observed to cause distress among communities (“Romans 13:13-14 NIV - Let us behave decently, as in the - Bible Gateway,” n.d.). Through jealousy and distrust, people would not be able to get the success they think they deserve to achieve. Augustine could be considered correct in the views that all human beings want to be loved by others therefore, they need love by nature.

Human nature in the opinions of Augustine is pessimistic and he stated that there was a time when Adam and Eve spent their life in obedience to God though, human nature has characteristic that they cannot control their feelings and because of this nature, they sinned in disobeying their God. He argued that this is human nature that we all sometimes disobedience. He evaluated human nature as Adam and Eve were not able to make the decision and committed sin because of predestined life. The reason behind his pessimistic thinking for humans is associated with the origin of sin and predestined life.

Augustine has also argued the facts that exist regarding human nature of love. He said that humans were granted with purest form of love, though they have misused it and has corrupted it by their selfish desires (Brown, 2013). Augustine has created his own example by informing that he slept with many women in his life however, he has the opinion that once he had received the purest form of love and have understood the wisdom, and he has not allowed any woman to sleep with him (Pang-White, n.d.). The example has represented that sinful life can be converted into good life God according to the concept of “Romans 13:12-13 NIV - The night is nearly over; the day is - Bible Gateway,” n.d.). He said that this life is not achievable once human himself has not struggled for it.

***Augustine on Social Life***

In his reconsideration of book XIX of Augustine’s masterwork, Oliver O’Donovan argues that Augustine reformulated something like the traditional concept of society and morality in new terms which would give due recognition both to the reality of the moral order which makes social existence possible and to its fundamentally flawed character. Augustine embarks on a radical, but not revolutionary policy of characterizing all politics in terms of moral disorder, which itself provides an explanation of their political order, since, in Augustine’s firmly Platonic view, disorder is nothing but a failure in the underlying moral order … A vice, in other words, is a perversion of virtue; it is a disorder which is predatory on some order. (O’Donovan 1987: 102).

Augustine’s explanations and metaphors of human motivations and sentiments, his depth examines of determination and supposed in their communication, and his examination of the internal nature of the individuals self. The opinions ad views are broadly accepted by traditions and civilizations in European countries and has been appreciated worldwide (Brown, 2013). In recent years, human life is totally and mainly consisting of disobeying God. Humans are involved in the activities that are forbidden and humans would be punished for them (Eitheroressays, 2018). Humans are in dire need of help from their God. Humans need to reestablish their and refresh their faith regarding love of God, it is against the grace of God that h will punish His creation however, it does not imply that human should remain involved in bad behaviors and activities. Augustine claimed that Adam and Eve were inclined to sin and therefore, human nature is adopted to Cupiditas by birth because of Eve and Adam. Cupiditas is a form of selfish love. Human nature is attracted to bad deeds more often than to good behaviors. The elements and factors that lead humans to this behavior are unknown.

Psychologists have reviewed and argued the claims of Augustine, however they are unable to explain the phenomenon behind human nature that is inclined to sin. Researchers have shown that humans are observed to be adopted to bad behaviors because of their nature. However, human being is also sensitive to love, Augustine claimed that humans are in dire need of love and seek loving behaviors though they encounter bad behaviors in the way. Confessions was not intended to represent life of Augustine however, it has described various aspects of human nature and has described the qualities that lead human to sin. His life, the way he love his mother and how he considered his father a stranger is representing that he was not attracted to his father by birth. However, love of mother was strong and sincere therefore, it become his direction to redirect his life towards sincere love. Love of God is divine and human are bound to obey God and follow his directions to attain success in life. Currently, human life is more involved in bad behaviors but it does not represents that humans doing good deeds are not existing. This shows that humans by nature are inclined to sin because of original sin or their genes inherited from Adam and Eve. Human nature was studies well by various psychologists and researchers have presented the idea in correlation with Augustine that humans have more severe intentions to follow and obey their emotions rather following God. Christianity is a way of living in which humans are devoted to sacrifice their life for others however, humans remained involved in bad intentions and lack Grace of God (Eitheroressays, 2018). It is against the beneficence of God to the His creatures therefore, it was suggested from the life of Augustine and the book Confessions, that humans are inclined to sin but through effort and struggle they can modify their behaviors (Nauta, 2008).

***Human Nature and Grace of God***

Augustine argued that this is human nature that we all sometimes disobedience. He evaluated human nature as Adam and Eve were not able to make decision and committed sin because of predestined life. The reason behind his pessimistic thinking for humans is associated with the origin sin and predestined life. Human nature in the opinions of Augustine is pessimistic and he stated that there was a time when Adam and Eve spent their life in obedience to God though, human nature has characteristic that they cannot control their feelings and because of this nature, they committed sin in disobeying their God. According to the concept that humans are made for the obedience and they are created in the image of God therefore, naturally everyone is pure and good. Societies and communities allow humans to acquire bad and impaired behaviors. Furthermore, he states that grace of God would be shown to all human beings. Predestined means humans are predestined to do good or bad. However, deep pessimistic thoughts represents that humans inherently are good and acquire characters from environment too. Augustine strongly suggested that humans are strongly attracted to sin. He stated that humans have inherited this trait from Adam and Eve. It is also believed by various scholars that there are more good people as compared to bad people. Augustine have stated that love is categorized into two forms.

Augustine has also argued the facts that exist regarding human nature of love. He said that humans were granted with purest form of love, though they have misused it and has corrupted it by their selfish desires (Brown, 2013). Augustine has created his own example by informing that he slept with many women in his life however, he has the opinion that once he had received the purest form of love and have understood the wisdom, and he has not allowed any woman to sleep with him (Pang-White, n.d.). The example has represented that sinful life can be converted into good life. He said that this life is not achievable once human himself has not struggled for it.

Human nature was studies well by various psychologists and researchers have presented the idea in correlation with Augustine that humans have more severe intentions to follow and obey their emotions rather following God. Christianity is a way of living in which humans are devoted to sacrifice their life for others however, humans remained involved in bad intentions and lack Grace of God (Eitheroressays, 2018). It is against the beneficence of God to the His creatures therefore, it was suggested from the life of Augustine and the book Confessions, that humans are inclined to sin but through effort and struggle they can modify their behaviors (Nauta, 2008). As the concept of predestined defines humans are predestined to do good or bad. However, deep pessimistic thoughts represents that humans inherently are good and acquire characters from environment too. Augustine strongly suggested that humans are strongly attracted to sin. He stated that humans have inherited this trait from Adam and Eve.

# Bibliography

Brown, P., 2013. Augustine of Hippo: a biography. Univ of California Press.

Eitheroressays, ~, 2018. Assess Augustine’s view on love and its effect on human nature. (40 marks). EO Essays. URL https://eitheroressays.com/2018/05/08/assess-augustines-view-on-love-and-its-effect-on-human-nature-40-marks/ (accessed 12.8.19).

Gonzalez, J.L., 2010. The story of Christianity, volume 1: The early Church to the Reformation. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.

Nauta, R., 2008. The Prodigal Son: Some Psychological Aspects of Augustine’s Conversion to Christianity. J. Relig. Health 47, 75–87.

Outler, A.C., 1955. Augustine: confessions. Retrieved Novemb. 21, 2005.

Pang-White, A.A., n.d. Does Augustine Contradict Himself in Contra duas epistulas Pelagianorum?

Romans 13:12-13 NIV - The night is nearly over; the day is - Bible Gateway [WWW Document], n.d. URL https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+13%3A12-13&version=NIV (accessed 12.8.19).

Romans 13:13-14 NIV - Let us behave decently, as in the - Bible Gateway [WWW Document], n.d. URL https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+13%3A13-14&version=NIV (accessed 12.8.19).

Shelley, B., 2013. Church history in plain language. Zondervan Academic.