The Rediscovery of Spiritual Intelligence in the Christian Context and its Implications for a Secularistic Society

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Abstract

In recent years the concept of multiple intelligences has been developed and widely acknowledged. Since a couple of decades, the construct of Spiritual Intelligence (SQ) has been developed and became a vast topic of research. Therefore, many scholars have come up with different, partly complementing and partly revers or at least widely spread concepts regarding Spiritual Intelligence as a non-religious phenomenon. Thereby "spiritual" has often been seen as opposite or at least in strong contrast to "religious". At the same time there was and is a great influence on the discussion from eastern oriented religions to basic human-secular concepts. In this context, there are great correspondences or similarities with other concepts of "intelligence", especially with "Emotional Intelligence". The research discovers an interesting phenomenon: although the word "spiritual" originally comes from the biblical-Christian context, none of the concepts are based on this original meaning. In general, there is no or only little research that tries to discover what Spiritual Intelligence means from its historical emergence. Thus, this study firstly identifies, compiles and compares the different definitions of Spiritual Intelligence to detect common principles. A review of the historical emergence of the word "spiritual" in the Christian biblical tradition will be proposed. This will lead to a new construct of Spiritual Intelligence that will be grounded in the historical emergence but will be put into the secularistic context to create systematic principles to enhance the construct of SQ even further.