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## UNITY IN THE PRESENCE OF DIVERSITY IN THE BIBLICAL AND CONTEMPORARY US CULTURES: WHAT JESUS TEACHES ABOUT SOCIAL COHESION BASED ON MATTHEW 5:3-12

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Relying on Tajfel's (1979) social identity theory, this work researched unity in the presence of diversity within the biblical and contemporary US cultures from the perspective of (a) self-awareness, (b) emotional maturity, (c) emotional sovereignty, (d) self-concept, (e) deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God, and (f) moral behavior for sustainable social value. Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV) verses were used to extract and analyze Jesus' traits relating to unity in the presence of diversity through the lens of social cohesion to make noteworthy inferences on how Jesus' teaching applies in the contemporary US culture to emanate forth onto the world. Extracts of Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2017, acceptance speech and January 6, 2021, "Save America" rally, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'s January 20, 2021, acceptance and April 29, 2021, "First 100 Days of Presidency" speeches were used to identify their traits, analyze them, compare them with Jesus', and discuss characteristics that contribute to unity in the presence of diversity.

**Keywords:** Deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God, diversity, emotional maturity, emotional sovereignty, moral behavior, self-awareness, self-concept, social cohesion, unity.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The term diversity is derived from the middle English and means separate or varied. This term originates from the Latin word *dīversitāt*, which means separate or

different. Unity also originates from the middle English and means oneness. Its Latin root, *unus*, means one.

Diversity in English and Latin points at separation based on differences. From this perspective, diversity applied with low intent based on destructive traits within the social context can be misused by influential leaders to sustain autocratic environments. The opposing view would suggest that diversity applied with high intent based on constructive traits within the social context can be used to accept differences and empower people to celebrate them by engaging in moral behavior for sustainable social value. The latter approach is known as practicing the Golden Rule as reflected in Matthew 7:12 (NIV): “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” This teaching of Jesus of Nazareth is also known as the ethic of reciprocity or the law of reciprocity (Robertson, 1992).

Aristotle stated that humans are social animals and naturally seek group environments to (a) live, (b) interact, and (c) thrive (Cohen, 2010). With the desire for belonging, which is a natural need of humans, group dynamics (Arrow et al., 2000) are important. With this realization, the question of how to sustain group cohesion in the presence of diversity comes to the forefront.

## II. SOCIAL IDENTITY THEORY

Tajfel's (1979) social identity theory emphasizes the importance of belonging to a social group where members find a source of (a) identity, (b) pride, and (c) self-esteem. Stetes and Burke (2000) posited that social identity is a person's level of self-awareness through the prism of belonging to a social group. Hogg (2018) interpreted Tajfel's (1979) social identity theory through the lens of self-concept in a group setting inclusive of the group processes and intergroup relations. Knowles et al. (2015) explained self-concept as being responsible for the social implications of personal decisions.

### *Diversity*

Wreczycki (2019) interpreted diversity through John 14:2 (NIV): “My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?” suggesting that humans are created in the image of God, but humans are endowed with the human condition. The human condition is characterized by the opposing spectrums of traits that are categorized as constructive or destructive within the social context. Gupta (2019) described diversity as inclusiveness and pointed at balanced diversity as equal parts of opposing traits in a group to make the group most efficient.

*Diversity in the Biblical Culture of the First Century CE.* Based on Genesis 1:28 (NIV): “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’” group culture during the first century CE was formed by patriarchal group leaders with God being perceived as a male. The goal of each group was to assist group members in acculturation to their surroundings for maximum functionality of the group. The purpose of human life was to procreate for

species continuation based on the utilization of human labor and natural resources for sustenance (Kirkegaard, 2006; Wreczycki, 2020).

Kirkegaard (2006) and Wreczycki (2020) described the composition of the biblical culture during the first century CE as (a) Romans, (b) Hebrew Jews, and (c) Hellenistic Jews. The Romans were occupants who (a) spoke Latin, (b) worshiped numerous Gods, and (c) used the military to control the existing territories while conquering new ones. The Hebrew Jews were orthodox Torah followers who spoke the Hebrew language and kept themselves isolated from the Hellenistic Jews and gentiles. The Hellenistic Jews were the ones from the diaspora and not as strict in their adherence to the Torah. Hellenistic Jews were good candidates to convert to Christianity.

The biblical culture of the region commonly known as the one walked by Jesus of Nazareth was (a) patriarchal, (b) tribal, and (c) isolated. The patriarchal nature of the societal structure was not a characteristic inherent in any tribe. Rather, social diversity within the context of patriarchal social structure supported isolation instead of unity (Kirkegaard, 2006; Wreczycki, 2020).

*Diversity in the Contemporary US Culture.* In the US, the term diversity is culturally used to point at ethnicity and race. According to the US Census Bureau, the union of 50 states is a highly diversified nation based on these two factors. Over six races are recognized.

### *Unity*

Wreczycki (2019) interpreted unity within the context of an individual's personal relationship with God. This is consistent with Matthew 5:9 (NIV): "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." Unity, within this context, should not be misconstrued as uniformity but considered as an on-going reconciliation of social issues for social cohesion.

Clark (2011) stated that "The goal of a moral life is to be in the right relationship with God" (p. 415). Wreczycki (2019) commented on this divine relationship with God as loving God before anyone else. This love is not blind but recognizes and disapproves of sinful acts while at the same time morally loving the person who commits them. This act of loving morally (Winston, 2002) occurs for God's sake in the name of charity, considered as the divine connection between God and humans to establish friendship in unity with God as the source of grace.

*Unity in the Biblical Culture of the First Century CE.* According to Sinclair (2019), Jesus spent most of his time in the Galilee and briefly visited Jerusalem. These two regions were diverse based on rulership. While Galilee was ruled by Herod Antipas, a Jew subservient to Rome, there was more ethnic unity within the region due to (a) cultural unity, (b) lower taxation, and (c) at least some taxes benefiting the region. This does not mean that the Roman legions could not enter Galilee in case of social unrest. Pontius Pilate ruled Jerusalem. He was a Roman, and there was more ethnic tension there due to (a) cultural differences, (b) the constant presence of the Roman legions, and (c) heavier taxation benefiting Rome.

Stene (1940) explained that daily routines bind societies. Although the biblical society of the first century CE was diversified based on rulership, both Galilee and

Jerusalem were controlled by the Roman Empire. Galilee was controlled indirectly through a Jewish governor subservient to Rome. Jerusalem was directly governed by an appointee of Rome who was Roman. Although both regions had inhabitants represented by three social groups, their members maintained their daily routines and coexisted peacefully. According to Kraeling (1932) and Zetterholm (2003), Romans' acceptance of the local customs for as long as they did not cause social unrest was a factor.

*Unity in the Contemporary US Culture.* As 2016 and 2020 presidential elections confirmed, the key factor standing in the way of the country to function as a union of 50 states is political based on the two-party system – the Republican and the Democratic (Wreczycki, 2020). There are other political parties that do not have an impact on the presidential elections since historically in most cases either Republican or Democratic candidates get elected. According to Dimock and Wike (2020), during the one-term presidency of Donald J. Trump, the social tensions climaxed even in states with democratic leaning.

### *Self-Awareness*

Self-awareness is consciousness-based knowledge of the self as (a) transitional emotions, (b) feelings, (c) motives, (d) desires, (e) thoughts, and (f) acts that result in social implications (Ivancevich et al., 2013). Cherry (2000) interpreted self-awareness as a psychological state of the self as the sole focus of brain energy and therefore attention. Wreczycki (2019) pointed at awareness, as flowing from self-awareness, while managing social justice issues.

### *Emotional Maturity*

Emotional maturity is constructively outgrowing childhood emotions generated and used to survive trying situations for which the child's psyche was not ready. The child assembles defense mechanisms to cope with emotionally charged situations. The child is expected to mature into an emotionally stable adult over time. Under these conditions, the true self as a composite of integrated transitional emotional selves (Ivancevich et al., 2013) oversees (a) cognitive interpretations of the incoming data from the social environment, (b) rational analysis of the data, and (c) the making of value-based decisions based on social responsibility or self-concept (Knowles et al., 2015). The true self consists of the transitional emotional selves that are integrated by self-compassion. The false self can lead a person (a) emotionally, (b) psychologically, (c) physically, and (d) spiritually astray (Gajda & Gajda, 2012). Emotional maturity liberates a person from victimhood into an others-centered existence (Winston, 2002).

### *Emotional Sovereignty*

Emotional sovereignty is the state of being connected with a person's worth rather than seeking a confirmation of self-worth in the opinions of others, which can be fickle. Emotional sovereignty is achieved through sustainability of emotional maturity. Emotional sovereignty is the decision of a person's true self to function as a constructive

composite of the transitional selves based on core values repositied in the moral character and brought to a social context by self-compassion (Issler, 2012). Individuals who are not emotionally sovereign act from transitory emotions, which linger to create (a) moods, (b) temperament, and (c) personality (Ivancevich et al., 2013). Emotional sovereignty is a courageous stance within a social context. Emotional sovereignty allows an individual to emanate compassion onto others by sustaining self-compassion as the spiritual gift of mercy toward the self (Winston, 2002) without compromising the personal core values and accepting immoral behaviors stemming from others.

### *Self-Concept*

Self-concept according to Knowles et al. (2015) is “being responsible for own decisions, for own lives” (p. 44). Knowles et al. (2015) interpreted that once a person assumes responsibility for their decisions and life, the self-direction manifests itself. It requires a group context to be perceived and acknowledged by other members of the group (Arrow et al., 2000).

### *Deliberate Ascent of Free Will to Abide in God*

Deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God is the cornerstone of moral love that based on (a) moral principles, (b) duty, and (c) propriety inspire a person to do what is right at the appropriate time for sustainable value reasons (Winston, 2002). Free will while aligned with God’s will ascends a person to what ancient Greeks referred to as in Entheos, God within. This term was used to describe inspired people. Within the context of the Roman Catholic tradition, an inspired person experiences Pentecost that is the breath of the Holy Spirit or pneuma (Winston, 2002).

### *Moral Behavior*

Moral behavior is precipitated by an individual's self-awareness based on mature emotions and feelings in the body and thoughts in the mind that self-direct an individual to deliberately ascend the free will to abide in God to make moral choices (Issler, 2012; Winston, 2002). Winston (2002) and Wreczycki (2019) posited that constructive personal traits lead to (a) beliefs, (b) attitudes, and (c) behaviors. Winston (2002) and Wreczycki (2019) pointed at Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV) as Jesus’ teaching on archetypal traits that lead to moral character formation and sustainability to protect against “self-aggrandizement” (Winston, 2002, p. 14).

### *Group Cohesion*

Wreczycki (2019) proposed that constructive traits repositied in the moral character (Issler, 2012) serve as pillars of national cultures. Wreczycki (2019) further explained that constructive traits exhibited in social context get amplified and aid group cohesion. Group cohesion is a social process shared by group members that pulls them together to accomplish unified objectives adding sustainable value to not only all group members but to the group’s external environments (Arrow et al., 2000; Beal et al., 2003; Piper et al., 1983).

### *Qualitative Research Questions*

The above literature review provided working definitions of (a) social identity, (b) diversity, (c) unity, (d) self-awareness, (e) emotional maturity, (f) emotional sovereignty, (g) self-concept, (h) deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God, (i) moral behavior, and (j) social cohesion to inform the below research questions:

1. What traits can be derived from Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV) as Jesus' values repositied in his moral character to sustain unity in the presence of diversity (Issler, 2012; Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?
2. What traits can be derived from Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2016, acceptance speech (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?
3. What traits can be derived from Donald J. Trump's January 6, 2021, "Save America" rally (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?
4. Is there consistency between Donald J. Trump's traits based on his two speeches and are the traits conducive to sustaining unity in the presence of diversity (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?
5. What traits can be derived from Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s January 20, 2021, acceptance speech (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?
6. What traits can be derived from Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s April 29, 2021, "First 100 Days of Presidency" speech (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?
7. Is there consistency between Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits based on his two speeches and are the traits conducive to sustaining unity in the presence of diversity (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?

### III. METHODOLOGY

For this research, Liamputtong and Ezzy (2005) qualitative analysis method was used. This method allows for immersion in the content studied. The qualitative data are presented in the left portion in the set of three columns. This method facilitates the emergence of themes in the middle column from the research subjects' words with social implications. From themes, codes flow in the right column as the progression of immersion into the qualitative data analysis via deductive and inductive logic to identify traits as the basis for words with social implications.

Qualitative analysis of Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV) was expected to identify themes and codes from Jesus' teaching to serve as archetypical pillars for sustaining unity in the presence of diversity. The codes were expected to point at Jesus' moral character traits that according to Wreczycki (2019) contribute to culture formation for sustainability.

Within the context of the conceptual model based on (a) self-awareness, (b) emotional maturity, (c) emotional sovereignty, (d) self-concept, (e) deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God, and (f) moral behavior resulting in sustainable social value, Donald J. Trump and Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits classified as constructive or destructive were compared to Jesus' moral character values to make noteworthy inferences whether their traits support or oppose sustaining unity in the presence of diversity. The codification of traits into the constructive and destructive categories was done using the two terms. Any trait overlapping with Jesus' moral character value set was identified as In Jesus' Set.

#### IV. RESULTS

Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV) also known as the Beatitudes, or the first half of the Sermon on the Mount served as the source for extraction of Jesus' moral character traits. These characteristics were then used as a benchmark to compare Donald J. Trump and Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits as extracts from their selected speeches. Traits were characterized as constructive or destructive. Traits overlapping with Jesus' set of moral character values were identified as In Jesus' Set.

##### *Study 1 – Jesus*

The message contained in the Beatitudes transcends space and time. The message is archetypical in nature and applicable in any social setting at any time. Jesus' moral character values serve as an example to follow.

**Table 1**

*Jesus' Traits Based on Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV)*

Content	Themes	Codes
3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	To be open to receive pneuma/the breath of Spirit	Humility - Constructive
4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.	To care for others	Care - Constructive
5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.	To use self-discipline/self-restraint in dealing with others	Self-restraint - Constructive
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.	To cherish a divine relationship with God and others	Social justice - Constructive
7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.	To use empathic imagination and compassion to be merciful	Mercy - Constructive
8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.	To merge transitory emotions into an integrated self	Integrity - Constructive
9 Blessed are the peacemakers,	To establish and sustain group cohesion	Cohesion - Constructive

for they will be called sons of God.		
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	To maintain an unwavering commitment to value adding social causes	Commitment - Constructive
11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.	To persevere despite obstacles	Perseverance - Constructive
12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.	To share joy from successes across the group	Joy - Constructive

*Research Question 1: What traits can be derived from Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV) as Jesus' values repositied in his moral character to sustain unity in the presence of diversity (Issler, 2012; Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?*

Jesus' traits are (a) care, (b) cohesion, (c) commitment, (d) humility, (e) integrity, (f) joy, (g) mercy, (h) perseverance, (i) self-restraint, and (j) social justice. They are archetypal traits for establishing and sustaining constructive relationships with others by first sustaining a constructive relationship with God and the true self. Such unions, despite diversity, serve as a means of collaborative work and keeping the Garden of Eden for the next generations.

Based on the conceptual model used in this study grounded in (a) self-awareness, (b) emotional maturity, (c) emotional sovereignty, (d) self-concept, (e) deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God, and (f) moral behavior for sustainable social value, Jesus' values are discussed as follows:

**Care.** Care flows from moral love, which is not based on conceptual conditions but is the moral imperative to (a) think, (b) communicate, and (c) act for the sustainable benefit of all group members. To care is to focus on and to explore the spiritual gifts of others. This caring does not ignore human frailties but pursues human development for the betterment of all.

**Cohesion.** Cohesion is synonymous with social unity. Cohesion within the context of the human condition acts as a socially binding agent based on social principles. Cohesion is others-centered with an understanding that a person exhibiting it in a social setting knows and feels as being an integral part of the social system with the focus on



the betterment of the system and all its constituents. Social cohesion is a moral community that is safe for all inhabitants and offers equal opportunities for all.

*Commitment.* Commitment is being dedicated to a cause or an action. Commitment goes together with self-restraint. It requires a person to be loyal to principles commonly accepted by a social group.

*Humility.* Humility is the state in which a person knows intellectually and experientially that they are not alone facing challenges to benefit the collective. This knowing-feeling paradox as part of the intellectual and rational process in collaboration with an appreciative heart guides a person to solicit support from others to resolve social issues for sustainable value. At the same time the humble person learns more about the self, others, and God.

*Integrity.* Integrity is cohesion of thoughts, words, and actions, even in the face of adversity. Integrity is commitment to moral character principles. Integrity is the alignment of moral character values with social behaviors. Integrity helps a person to be pure in thoughts and feelings rather than allowing them to fall to the destructive transitory emotions and act in self-interest rather than in social interest.

*Joy.* Joy is gladness of the heart. Joy can be described using John 14:27 (NIV): “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” Joy is an exalted phenomenon.

*Mercy.* Mercy is also known as compassion, which is acting with care for others in a social setting. Compassion is volition-based affection. Compassion is grounded in rational thinking with the simultaneous ability of feeling the emotions of others to assess how human interactions impact all in a social setting and to know the social implications.

*Perseverance.* Perseverance is being patient while pursuing a worthy cause. Despite social obstacles, perseverance is like a consistent plow pushing challenges away from the path of the others-centered goal. Although perseverance can be encouraged by others, its best expression originates from (a) self-awareness, (b) emotional maturity, (c) emotional sovereignty, (d) self-concept, (e) ascending the free will to abide in God, and (f) acting morally to benefit the collective.

*Self-Restraint.* This trait is synonymous with using self-control to live a virtuous life. Self-restraint is living in accordance with the moral character values also referred to as spiritual principles. Self-restraint flows from self-reflection and knowing-feeling the impact of words and actions on others in a social setting.

*Social Justice.* Social justice is common sense applied to justice within a social context. Social justice is fairness and doing what is right. From the biblical perspective, social justice is practicing the Golden Rule for everyone to sustain equal treatment with a reciprocal moral obligation to ensure justice for all.

## *Study 2 – Donald J. Trump*

Donald J. Trump was the forty-fifth president of the US. His one four-year term started on January 20, 2017 and lasted until January 19, 2021. The below are extracts from his January 20, 2017, acceptance speech and his January 6, 2021, “Save America” rally.

**Table 2***Donald J. Trump's Traits Based on January 20, 2017, Acceptance Speech*

Content	Themes	Codes
We the citizens of America are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and restore the promise to all our people. Together, we will determine the course of the United States and the world for many years to come.	To express unity as a nation and unity of purpose	Cohesion – Constructive – In Jesus' Set
We are transferring power from Washington, DC and are giving it back to you the people. For too long a small group of people has reaped the rewards of government while the people have born the cost.	To express us versus them ideology	Division - Destructive
Today will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again. The forgotten men and women in our country will be forgotten no longer.	To express false promise	Demagoguery - Destructive
Everyone is listening to you now. You came by the tenths of millions to become part of historic movement the likes of which the world has never seen before.	To interpret the election result with exaggeration	Self-aggrandizement - Destructive
We are one nation, and their pain is our pain. Their unity success will be our success. We share one heart, one home, and one glorious destiny. The Oath	To express unity	Unity – Constructive – In Jesus' Set

<p>of Allegiance I take today is the Oath of Allegiance to all Americans.</p>		
<p>From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land. From this day forward, it's going to be only America first. I will fight for you with every breath in my body, and I will never ever let you down.</p>	<p>To express focus on the nation</p>	<p>Mission - Constructive</p>
<p>We will seek friendship and goodwill with the nations of the world. We will do so with an understanding that all nations have the right to put their interests first.</p>	<p>To express commitment to the people</p>	<p>Commitment – Constructive – In Jesus' Set</p>
<p>We will shine for everyone to follow. We will reinforce all alliances and form new ones and unite the civilized world against radical Islamic terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the Earth.</p>	<p>To communicate global cooperation</p>	<p>Cooperation - Constructive</p>
<p>At the bedrock of our politics, it will be a total allegiance to the United States of America.</p>	<p>To express excellence</p>	<p>Excellence - Constructive</p>
<p>Through our loyalty to our country, we will rediscover our loyalty to each other. When you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice.</p>	<p>To communicate loyalty</p>	<p>Loyalty - Constructive</p>

***Research Question 2: What character traits can be derived from Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2016, acceptance speech (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?***

The qualitative analysis of Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2017, acceptance speech revealed the traits of (a) cohesion, (b) commitment, (c) cooperation, (d) demagoguery, (e) division, (f) excellence, (g) loyalty, (h) mission, (i) self-aggrandizement, and (j) unity. During the sixteen-minute presentation, Donald J. Trump mixed seven constructive and three destructive traits. The traits of cohesion and commitment are consistent with Jesus' moral character values. The traits of (a) cooperation, (b) excellence, (c) loyalty, (d) mission, and (e) unity are constructive. The traits of (a) demagoguery, (b) division, and (c) self-aggrandizement are destructive. Their presence in a short speech questions Donald J. Trumps' constructive traits as not moral character deep.

There were five constructive traits identified in Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2017, acceptance speech that fall outside of Jesus' moral character values. The traits were (a) cooperation, (b) excellence, (c) loyalty, (d) mission, and (e) unity and are described as follows:

*Cooperation.* Cooperation sustains goodwill through peace and unity of purpose. Cooperation is a humble and others-centered endeavor. Cooperation is a mind and heart phenomenon.

*Excellence.* Excellence is an outstanding quality of a person, product, or service. Excellence supersedes average. Excellence has a distinction on its own.

*Loyalty.* Loyalty stems from trust in a person. Loyalty is a mind and heart phenomenon. Loyalty is allegiance.

*Mission.* Mission is focusing on an important assignment. Mission can also be perceived as a calling to perform an action or to achieve a goal. Mission in contemporary US culture is used to navigate the organizational vision.

*Unity.* Unity is an antonym of separation. To sustain unity requires a humble leader. Unity is wholeness.

There were three destructive traits identified in Donald J. Trumps' January 20, 2017, acceptance speech. They were (a) demagoguery, (b) division, and (c) self-aggrandizement. The traits are interpreted as follows:

*Demagoguery.* Demagoguery is communication that stems from lower instincts and is deceptive in nature. Demagoguery uses prejudice to separate people into opposing groups. Demagoguery is not rational and can have severe social consequences.

*Division.* Division is an antonym of unity. Division is achieved through demagoguery. Division is a source of conflict among members of opposing groups.

*Self-Aggrandizement.* Self-aggrandizement focuses on promoting self-importance. Self-aggrandizement is the hallmark of self-centered people. Self-aggrandizement is an antonym of humility.

### Table 3

*Donald J. Trump's Traits Based on January 6, 2021, "Save America" Rally*

Content	Themes	Codes
All of us here today don't want to see our election	To express unfounded accusation with contempt	Contempt - Destructive

<p>victory stolen by a bold and radical Democrat. We will never give up. We will never concede. It does not happen. You don't concede when there is theft involved.</p>	<p>To express false promise</p>	<p>Hubris - Destructive</p>
<p>Our country has had enough, and we will not take it anymore. And this is what it's all about. We will stop the steal.</p>	<p>To express division – us vs. them and to entice violence</p>	<p>Division - Destructive</p>
<p>Today, I will lay out some evidence proving that we won this election and we won it by a landslide. This was not a close election. I have been in two elections, and I won them both. And the second one, I won much bigger than the first.</p>	<p>To misrepresent to mislead the public</p>	<p>Misrepresentation - Destructive</p>
<p>We have gathered in the heart of our nation's capital for one basic and simple reason – to save our democracy. Our country will be destroyed, and we are not going to stand for that.</p>	<p>To misinterpret the facts to mislead</p>	<p>Misinterpretation - Destructive</p>
<p>What we must go through, and you must get your people to fight. And if they don't fight, we have to primary the ones who don't fight. We are going to let you know who they are.</p>	<p>To imply that the American democracy was in danger</p>	<p>Demagoguery - Destructive</p>
<p>The media suppress thoughts and have become the enemy of the people.</p>	<p>To incite violence</p>	<p>Violence - Destructive</p>
	<p>To instill fear</p>	<p>Destruction - Destructive</p>

<p>We must fight much harder. You are sworn to uphold our Constitution. Now it is up to Congress to confront this egregious assault on our democracy.</p> <p>After this, we are going to walk there, and I will walk with you, we are going to walk down to the Capitol, and we are going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women, and we are probably not going to be cheering much for some of them, because you will never take back our country with weakness. You must show strength.</p>	<p>To reinforce violence</p> <p>To lead the angry crowd to the US Capitol without the ability to empathically envision the consequences</p>	<p>Violence - Destructive</p> <p>Recklessness - Destructive</p>
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*Research Question 3: What traits can be derived from Donald J. Trump's January 6, 2021, "Save America" rally (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?*

The above qualitative analysis of the extracts of Donald J. Trump's January 6, 2021, "Save America" rally returned nine traits that are destructive. The characteristics are (a) contempt, (b) demagoguery, (c) destruction, (d) division, (e) hubris, (f) misinterpretation, (g) misrepresentation, (h) recklessness, and (i) violence, which presented itself twice. The traits are described as follows:

**Contempt.** Contempt is rendering another person as not worth consideration in a social setting. Contempt places its author above the person perceived as unworthy. Contempt is a destructive trait with social implications.

**Demagoguery.** Demagoguery is communication from lower instincts and is deceptive in nature. Demagoguery uses prejudice to separate people into opposing groups. Demagoguery is not rational and can have severe social consequences.

**Destruction.** Destruction causes damage to others. Reckless individuals in the state of unbalanced emotions can destroy the reputation of others. Destruction is a two-edged sword that targets another person but through reciprocity undermines the author of destruction.

**Division.** Division is an antonym of unity. Division is caused by prejudice within the social context. Division can turn into violence.

**Hubris.** Hubris is excessive and not substantiated pride. This trait is destructive because it causes myopia in its author. Hubris accompanied by arrogance can have dangerous social consequences.

**Misinterpretation.** Misinterpretation is interpreting something incorrectly to deceive. Willful misinterpretation aims to alter the opinion of others about a subject or a person. Misinterpretation is biased by a personal agenda of its author.

**Misrepresentation.** Misrepresentation is like misinterpretation. Misrepresentation aims to provide false statements about a person or an event. Misrepresentation is lying.

**Recklessness.** Recklessness is disregard for the consequences of a person's words. Recklessness stems from low self-concept. Recklessness causes a person to pursue risky behavior without considering its social consequences.

**Violence.** Violence stems from an intense destructive emotion. Violence leads to the use of force to overpower another. Violence can have disastrous and irreversible social consequences.

*Research Question 4: Is there consistency between Donald J. Trump's traits based on his two speeches and are the traits conducive to sustaining unity in the presence of diversity (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?*

The destructive traits of (a) demagoguery, (b) division, and (c) self-aggrandizement were identified in Donald J. Trump's acceptance speech in the presence of seven constructive traits. All traits extracted from Donald J. Trump's January 6, 2021 "Save America" rally were destructive. This suggests that the seven constructive traits extracted from Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2017, acceptance speech were not moral character deep at the time of presentation.

Within the context of Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2017, acceptance speech and January 6, 2021, "Save America" rally, his traits are initially a mix of constructive and destructive and then progress into the destructive characteristics. This suggests that Donald J. Trump's constructive traits exhibited during the January 20, 2017, acceptance speech were not deep in moral character. Donald J. Trump's traits are not conducive to sustaining unity in the presence of diversity.

### *Study 3 – Joseph R. Biden Jr.*

Joseph R. Biden Jr. was sworn in as the forty-sixth President of the US on January 20, 2021. He was the US Vice President during January 20, 2009, through January 19, 2017, as part of the Obama Administration. Joseph R. Biden Jr. is an experienced politician and servant to the people.

**Table 4**

*Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s Traits Based on January 20, 2021, Acceptance Speech*

Content	Themes	Codes
This is America's day. This is democracy's day. A day of history and hope. Of renewal and resolve.	To express inspiration and hope	Inspiration - Constructive  Unity - Constructive

<p>So now, on this hallowed ground where days ago violence sought to shake this Capitol's foundation, we come together as one nation, under God, indivisible, to carry out the peaceful transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries.</p>	<p>To express unity while honoring the American's tradition and history</p>	
<p>Today, on this January day, my whole soul is in this: Bringing America together. Uniting our people.</p>	<p>To express the unity of purpose</p>	<p>Unity - Constructive</p>
<p>Through the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War, 9/11, through struggle, sacrifice, and setbacks, our "better angels" have always prevailed. In each of these moments, enough of us came together to carry all of us forward. And we can do so now.</p>	<p>To reinforce the importance of unity</p>	<p>Unity - Constructive</p>
<p>And so today, at this time and in this place, let us start afresh. All of us. Let us listen to one another. Hear one another. See one another. Show respect to one another.</p>	<p>To express the importance of respect</p>	<p>Respect - Constructive</p>
<p>Here we stand looking out to the great mall where Dr. King spoke of his dream. Here we stand, where 108 years ago at another inaugural, thousands of protestors tried to block brave women from</p>	<p>To express social fairness and egalitarianism</p>	<p>Egalitarianism - Constructive</p>



<p>marching for the right to vote. Today, we mark the swearing-in of the first woman in American history elected to national office – Vice President Kamala Harris.</p> <p>Here we stand across the Potomac from Arlington National Cemetery, where heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion rest in eternal peace. And here we stand, days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people, to stop the work of our democracy, and to drive us from this sacred ground.</p> <p>To all those who supported our campaign I am humbled by the faith you have placed in us.</p> <p>To all those who did not support us, let me say this: Hear me out as we move forward. Take a measure of me and my heart. And if you still disagree, so be it. That’s democracy. That’s America. The right to dissent peaceably, within the guardrails of our Republic, is our nation’s greatest strength. Yet hear me clearly: Disagreement must not lead to disunion. And I pledge this to you: I will be a President for all Americans.</p>	<p>To express respect for the deceased servants to the American democracy to honor them</p> <p>To express appreciation for support and confidence in the current administration</p> <p>To express unwavering commitment to all Americans</p>	<p>Honor – Constructive</p> <p>Appreciation – Constructive</p> <p>Commitment – Constructive – In Jesus’ Set</p>
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<p>Many centuries ago, Saint Augustine, a saint of my church, wrote that a people were a multitude defined by the common objects of their love. What are the common objects we love that define us as Americans? I think I know. Opportunity. Security. Liberty. Dignity. Respect. Honor. And, yes, the truth.</p>	<p>To express focusing on human values to resolve challenges in unity and unity of purpose</p>	<p>Unity - Constructive</p>
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*Research Question 5: What character traits can be derived from Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s January 20, 2021, acceptance speech (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?*

The above qualitative analysis of Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s January 20, 2021, acceptance speech revealed the traits of (a) appreciation, (b) commitment, (c) egalitarianism, (d) honor, (e) inspiration, (f) respect, and (g) unity, which presented itself four times. All traits are constructive, and the characteristics of care and commitment overlap with Jesus' set of moral character values. The traits that do not overlap with Jesus' moral character values are described below:

*Appreciation.* Appreciation is gratitude. It is being thankful for good qualities in another person. Appreciation brings joy in the one expressing it, and the joy is shared in their environment.

*Egalitarianism.* Egalitarianism is a belief that all people are created equal. Egalitarianism is social equality. To be egalitarian means to be socially just.

*Honor.* Honor is respect. Honor is adherence to what is right. Honor is a privilege.

*Inspiration.* Inspiration is the state of being mentally stimulated to create. Inspiration is being in spirit rather than being desperate. Inspiration is the breath of spirit to ascend from the ordinary way of thinking to become extraordinary but humble.

*Respect.* Respect is high regard for someone. To respect another human, the person must respect themselves. Respect is admiration of another for their constructive traits and their social impact.

*Unity.* Unity is an antonym of separation. Unity is the state of being whole. Unity calls for acceptance of diversity to thrive as a multifaceted group.

#### **Table 4**

*Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s Traits Based on April 29, 2021, "First 100 Days of Presidency" Speech*

Content	Themes	Codes
<p>We are the most diverse democracy in the world.</p>	<p>To empower through unity</p>	<p>Unity - Constructive</p>

<p>There's not a single thing, and I mean this from the bottom of my heart, there's not a single thing we can't do when we do it together. So, thank you all.</p>		
<p>I want to thank you, and I want to thank the American people because I think we've gotten a lot done. I promised even before I was sworn in that I would get, in my first 100 days, 100 million COVID vaccine shots in people's arms. We've lost over 550,000 Americans. Well, we delivered over 220 million COVID shots in the first 100 days.</p>	<p>To express consideration, appreciation, and achievement of a critical goal</p>	<p>Appreciation - Constructive</p>
<p>The American Rescue Plan would not have passed. So much have we gotten done, like getting checks to people probably would not have happened. So, if you ever wonder if elections make a difference, just remember what you did here in Georgia when you elected Ossoff and Warnock. You began to change the environment. And look, because of you, we passed one of the most consequential rescue bills in American history.</p>	<p>To express appreciation</p>	<p>Appreciation - Constructive</p>
<p>I'm most proud of the fact that we are on track to cut child poverty in half this year by having passed the Child Tax Credit. But as</p>	<p>To express achievement and relief for children</p>	<p>Relief - Constructive</p>

<p>much as we've done, we got a lot more to do. That's why I proposed the American Jobs Plan. It's a once in a generation investment in America.</p>		
<p>We also know that two million women have dropped out of the workforce during this pandemic. Because too often, they must choose between whether they can get care for their child and their family or go to work. In the 21st century, infrastructure is not just steel and concrete, its people, and it is time we start paying people who come to our homes and care for people that love them and going to take care of them.</p>	<p>To express consideration for women as life nourishers and caregivers</p>	<p>Consideration - Constructive</p>
<p>When a lot of people talk about climate, they forget to mention the most important word. I made a promise when I was down here running that I would, in fact, immediately rejoin the Paris Climate Accord on day one, which we did. And I would have, in the 100 days, a climate summit here in America, inviting all the world's polluters and all the world's emitters, including the biggest nations in the world.</p>	<p>To express concern for climate change impacting the globe</p>	<p>Concern - Constructive</p>
<p>And here's one final thing. I want to mention about the</p>	<p>To express job growth to support economic recovery</p>	<p>Recovery - Constructive</p>

<p>American Jobs Plan. We got a \$5 billion investment in that plan for community violence intervention.</p>	<p>while recovering from the pandemic</p>	
<p>But folks, we not only have to invest in America, but we also need to invest in our families. We need to invest in things our families need the most.</p>	<p>To express investing in the American families</p>	<p>Care - Constructive</p>
<p>So, my plan provides a universal preschool for every three- and four-year-old in America. Everyone, that's a game changer. It's a game changer. And it also provides two years of free community college. That's a game changer as well.</p>	<p>To express focus on education</p>	<p>Education - Constructive</p>
<p>So, folks it's only been 100 days, but I must tell you, I've never been more optimistic about the future in America. America is on the move again. We're choosing to hope over fear.</p>	<p>To express optimism for the American future, hope, truth, and continuous recovery in unity and the unity of purpose.</p>	<p>Hope - Constructive</p>

*Research Question 6: What character traits can be derived from Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s April 29, 2021, "First 100 Days of Presidency" speech (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?*

The qualitative analysis of Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s April 29, 2021, "First 100 Days of Presidency" speech revealed the traits of (a) appreciation (twice), (b) care, (c) concern, (d) consideration, (e) education, (f) hope, (g) recovery, (h) relief, and (i) unity. All traits are constructive. The trait of appreciation was identified in Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s January 20, 2021, acceptance speech. The new traits' meaning is described below:

**Care.** Care flows from moral love, which is not based on conceptual conditions but is the moral imperative to (a) think, (b) communicate, and (c) act to add sustainable

value to the collective. To care is to focus on and explore the spiritual gifts of others not by ignoring human frailties but pursuing human development for the betterment of all.

*Consideration.* Consideration is characterized by careful thoughts. To be considerate means to maintain self-concept, which calls for considering the consequences of thoughts that turn into words and actions with social implications. Consideration is others centered.

*Education.* Education is the process of developing a human by providing instructions. Education can be formal or informal. Education creates a body of knowledge that is best applied within the social context.

*Hope.* Hope is a feeling for a certain outcome. Hope is constructive in nature. Hope, faith, and love are the biblical three.

*Recovery.* Recovery is characterized by restoring balance. Recovery is returning to the state that is preferred. Recovery within the context of a human being has four aspects such as (a) emotional, (b) physical, (c) intellectual, and (d) spiritual.

*Relief.* Relief is a feeling that heralds liberation from an emotionally charging situation. Relief is a hope-based phenomenon. Relief can be individual, or others centered.

*Research Question 7: Is there consistency between Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits based on his two speeches and are the traits conducive to sustaining unity in the presence of diversity (Winston, 2002; Wreczycki, 2019)?*

All traits derived from Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s two speeches are constructive. This observation within the context of the conceptual model of (a) self-awareness, (b) emotional maturity, (c) emotional sovereignty, (d) self-concept, (e) deliberate ascend of free will to abide in God, and (f) moral behavior for sustainable social value confirms the presence and stability of constructive emotions, which create (a) moods, (b) temperament, and (c) personality. The traits of care and commitment overlap with Jesus' set of ten constructive traits derived from Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV). Constructive traits affirm unity in the presence of diversity.

Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits are constructive across the two speeches being 100 days apart. Two traits, care and commitment, match Jesus' set of moral character values extracted from Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV). Considering the nature of Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits and the presence of appreciation in both speeches, the traits are conducive to sustaining unity in the presence of diversity.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

Jesus' ten moral character values derived from qualitative analysis of Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV) follow the structure of the conceptual model used in this research based on (a) self-awareness, (b) emotional maturity, (c) emotional sovereignty, (d) self-concept, (e) deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God, and (f) moral behavior for sustainable value. Self-awareness is the knowledge of the true self within the social context, and it requires humility to present itself. Care and self-restraint are moral character values that effectively manage emotional maturity and sustain emotional sovereignty to draw self-worth from the true self. Care is self-compassion, and self-restraint ensures continuous

integration of transitional emotional selves into the true self to eliminate a personality shadow. The moral character values of social justice and mercy support the self-concept to know and to be responsible for the social consequences of words and actions. The moral character value of integrity supports the deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God. The moral character values of (a) cohesion, (b) commitment, (c) perseverance, and (d) joy support moral behaviors for sustainable social value.

The set of Donald J. Trump's traits based on his two speeches performed four years apart reveal how personal traits can deteriorate and cause social unrest and loss of life. Although seven constructive traits were identified in Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2017, acceptance speech, there were also three destructive traits present, which question Donald J. Trump's constructive traits as not moral character deep. All ten traits derived from Donald J. Trump's January 6, 2021, "Save America" rally were destructive and socially harmful.

The set of Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits derived from his two speeches 100 days apart revealed constructive consistency. This suggests that Joseph R. Biden Jr. sustains (a) constructive self-awareness within the social context, (b) effectively manages his emotional maturity for emotional sovereignty, (c) sustains self-concept to know and feel the implications of his words and actions, (d) deliberately ascends his free will to abide in God, and (e) acts morally for sustainable social value to support social cohesion in the presence of diversity.

## V. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

This research focused on extracting personal traits of Jesus, Donald J. Trump and Joseph R. Biden Jr. Jesus' traits were extracted from Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV). Donald J. Trump's traits were derived from the selected extract of his January 20, 2017, acceptance speech and January 6, 2021, "Save America" rally. Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits were derived from the selected extracts of his January 20, 2021, acceptance and April 29, 2021, "First 100 days of Presidency" speeches. To extract more traits of Donald J. Trump and Joseph R. Biden Jr. more content can be qualitatively analyzed.

This research used the conceptual model of (a) self-awareness, (b) emotional maturity, (c) emotional sovereignty, (d) self-concept, (e) deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God, and (f) moral behavior for sustainable social value as a human quest for self-development based on Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV). A person needs to be sufficiently self-aware to know how to be emotionally mature to draw self-worth from the true self to consider the social consequences of their words and actions and to dwell in God to act morally with others-centered motivation for sustainable social value. Since Jesus and Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits were constructive, but Donald J. Trumps were initially a mix of seven constructive and three destructive traits followed by ten destructive traits derived from the second speech, it is worthwhile to study at what point in Donald J. Trump's presidency a breakdown of his (a) self-awareness, (b) emotional maturity, (c) emotional sovereignty, (d) self-concept, (e) deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God, and (f) moral behavior for sustainable social value have broken down to abandon constructive self-development with social implications to pursue self-destruction causing social unrest and loss of life.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Based on Tajfel's (1979) social identity theory, this work researched unity also known as social cohesion in the presence of diversity in the biblical and contemporary US cultures. The perspective taken was the conceptual model based on (a) self-awareness, (b) emotional maturity, (c) emotional sovereignty, (d) self-concept, (e) deliberate ascent of free will to abide in God, and (f) moral behavior with sustainable social implications within the context of Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV), which served as the source of extraction of Jesus' moral character values to serve as a benchmark to compare Donald J. Trump and Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s traits to. The extracts of Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2017, acceptance speech and January 6, 2021, "Save America" rally, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'s January 20, 2021, acceptance and April 29, 2021, "First 100 Days of Presidency" speeches were used to derive their traits and compare them to Jesus' moral character values to answer the research questions and identify the characteristics that contribute to social cohesion in the presence of diversity.

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### About the Author

Alina Wreczycki, PhD is a sole proprietor providing consulting services bridging Human Resources, payroll, and accounting.

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