

Review of: "The Gradual Growth of Man in the Freedom of a Child of God"

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Review

Article titled »The Gradual Growth of Man in the Freedom of a Child of God« presents an interesting take on the issues of marriage, sexuality and reproduction in the intersection with church institutions. The paper comes with a potential for a strong contribution, however in its current form there are also great opportunities for improvement. Here are some recommendations:

Abstract needs restructuring. At the moment abstract functions more as an introduction than an abstract. I suggest following classical structure of an abstract and including (1) Introduction to the topic, (2) statement of the purpose, (3) Research question, (4) Methodology (and sampling), (5) Key findings.

»Introduction« needs to be upgraded. At the moment the introduction does not work for the benefit of the paper for it is informative of several important features, but lacks several important elements, therefore failing to introduce reader to the topic and main argument. Therefore, I suggest restructuring Introduction by including (1) presentation of the research question (or main problem) if the article (»what is to be done«) and (2) introduction of the structure of the argument in the paper (»how it will be done«)

»The search for a culture of life« needs improved integration within the whole argument. The subsection presents interesting and important information but as a piece of argument appears fragmented and separated from the rest of the text. Transition from the introduction to this part does not exist, therefore it is hard to make sense of why this fragment is important for the whole argument. By (1) stating a research question and presenting the whole structure and (2) adding missing paragraphs (e.g. at least introductory paragraph, concluding paragraph), this subsection will be better integrated in the rest of the paper.

Conclusion needs to be restructured. At the moment this section appears to have two subsections, one interpreting and discussing presented information and one concluding the argument. Separating both would greatly increase the value of the argument. I am aware that this means restructuring the entire paper (e.g. adding definitions, approaches and authors to introduction, re-examining »The search for a culture of life«...) but I think it is worth it for it will work for the benefit of the paper.

In addition (after reading the article) I would also suggest rethinking key words and the title. As they stand at the moment

(family, family planning, marriage, sexuality and »The Gradual Growth of Man in the Freedom of a Child of God«), they suggest somewhat different content. In my opinion, title and keywords should have a rather tight connection to the actual content of the paper.