

SOCIAL WORKER'S INTEGRATION OF THEIR FAITH – CHRISTIAN (SWIF-C) SCALE

Source: Oxhandler, H. K., Chamiec-Case, R., & Wolfer, T. (2019). The development and validation of the Social Workers' Integration of their Faith – Christian (SWIF-C) Scale. *Social Work and Christianity*, 46(2), 57-78.

The purpose of this scale is to assess your views regarding the integration of your personal Christian faith and your personal social work practice.

Definitions to guide the interpretation of scale items include:

1. *social work* is "the professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques to one or more of the following ends: helping people obtain tangible services; counseling and psychotherapy with individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and participating in legislative processes. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior; of social and economic, and cultural institutions; and of the interaction of all these factors." (NASW, n.d.) *We intend to include what you believe, value, think, and do as a social worker.*
2. *Christian faith* is "recognizing and accepting God's grace [revealed through Jesus Christ], which gives rise to a way of life—a way of believing, trusting, committing, and orienting all one's thoughts and actions" (Dykstra, 1999, p. 17-18). *We intend to include what you believe, value, think, and do as a Christian.*

Please follow the instructions. All responses are anonymous; please answer each item according to how you really view the integration of your Christian faith with social work, even if you are unsure of your answer, have no opinion, or have had little to no experience with this.

Thank you for your time and willingness to share your thoughts and opinions on this area of your life! We are truly grateful and hope you enjoy the survey!

Please indicate the response that best describes how much you agree or disagree with the statements below.

Response Options based on Level of Agreement (see scoring instructions below):
Strongly Disagree=1, Disagree=2, Neutral=3, Agree=4, Strongly Agree=5

Section I. The Impact of Social Work on One's Faith

1. Social work helps me to cope with challenges in the practice of my faith.
2. I seek ways to exercise social work values in my faith.
3. Social work deepens my understanding of faith.
4. Social work provides valuable insight into my faith that I would not be able to find within my faith tradition alone.
5. Social work filters the faith beliefs and practices I choose to embrace.
6. Insights from my faith and my social work inform one another.
7. My experience as a social worker motivates me to live out my faith more intentionally.

8. My faith practices are shaped by my experience as a social worker.
9. Incorporating social work techniques in my own life (e.g., conducting a spiritual assessment) is helpful to my faith.
- *10. My understanding of social work does not affect how I prioritize different aspects of my faith.

Section II. The Impact of Faith on One's Social Work Practice

1. My faith forms the foundation from which I build my understanding of social work.
2. My faith provides insight into social work that I would not find in my other sources
3. My faith motivates me to deliver high quality social work services.
4. Understanding my faith helps me better understand my clients' spiritual belief systems.
5. Modifying established social work interventions using spiritual principles is helpful in social work practice.
6. Incorporating spiritual practices (e.g., use of prayer or Scripture) in social work practice is helpful for clients who desire this.
- *7. My faith does not deepen my understanding of social work.

Section III. The Impact of Faith on One's Social Work Identity

1. My faith supports my on-going commitment to being a social worker.
2. My faith strengthens me as a social worker.
3. My faith helps me cope with personal challenges as a social worker.
4. Exercising Christian virtues (e.g., faith, hope, and love) strengthens me as a social worker.

Section IV. Conflict between One's Faith and Social Work

1. My Christian faith encourages me to influence my clients' spiritual belief system.
2. Social work conflicts with the expectations of my faith.
3. My faith conflicts with the ethical requirements of social work.
4. There are conflicts between my experience as a Christian and as a social worker.
5. I reinterpret my understanding of social work in order to avoid tension with my faith.

Note. Scoring: Items noted with an asterisk above must first be reverse-scored, such that responses of 1=5, 2=4, 4=2, 5=1. Then, items within each subscale may be summed to obtain a respondent's score for that subscale. The scoring range for each section is as follows: Section 1: 10-50; Section 2: 7-35; Section 3: 4-20; Section 4: 5-25; Total Scale: 26-130. Higher scores for sections 1-3 and lower scores for section 4 indicate higher levels of integration of faith and social work practice.

The authors provide permission for others to use this scale for no charge but ask that items not be changed in any way and that the authors receive credit during administration of the instrument and publication of study findings. Please contact holly_oxhandler@baylor.edu with any questions regarding this instrument or to inform the team of your use of the instrument.