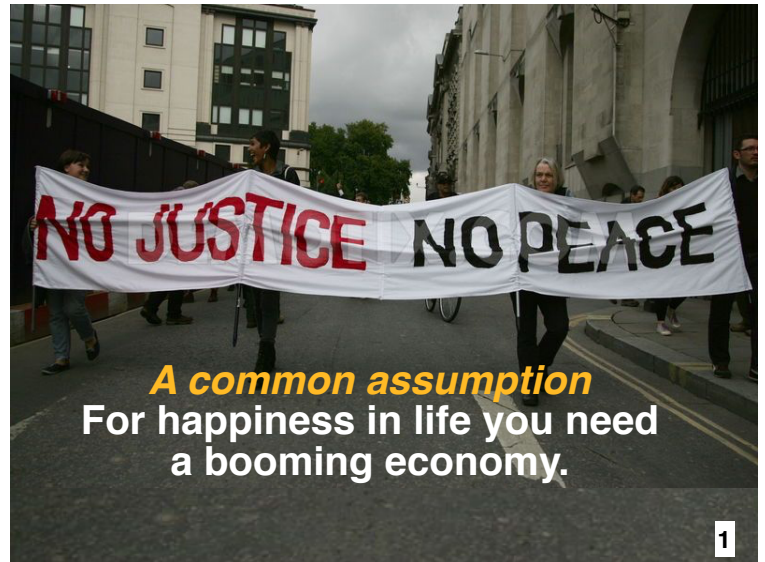


THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

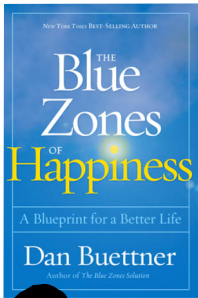
Luke 14:11
Lesson #40
Humility and Honor 2
06/28/2020



A common assumption
For happiness in life you need
a booming economy.

Happiness Index.

Note that economic wealth is NOT a key factor.



FACTORS

- Health care access
- Education quality
- Social support (family, church, etc.)
- Environmental sensitivity
- Peace emphasis

November 2017

USA



VS



COSTA RICA

#108 of 140

#1 of 140

2

Poverty has many dimensions.

Social

- not connected to a supportive community or the social structures of power.

Spiritual

- not empowered from within to experience personal dignity, power, and hope from a relationship with God and His people.



Material

- not able to afford basics (food, shelter, etc.)

Political

- not empowered socially to effect change in one's life situation.

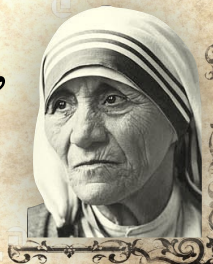
3

If we seek
justice we
must first
find peace
GOD'S WAY

3

“In the end, dear friend, it is always between us and God, not between us and them.”

Mother Teresa



5

Luke 14:11

“For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and **he who humbles himself shall be exalted.**”

Matthew 5

“³ Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“⁵ Blessed are the **humble**, for they shall inherit the earth.”

“⁹ Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.”

6

Luke 6

“¹³ And when day came, He called His disciples to Him; and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: ¹⁴ **Simon, whom He also named Peter**, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵ and Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and **Simon who was called the Zealot**; ¹⁶ Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.”

Men who became humble peacemakers, not political revolutionaries.

7

The Humble Peacemakers (T E A M)

Last week

1. **T**ONED down rhetoric - Swords & shields do not enhance peace.
2. **E**MPATHETIC listening - Work just as hard at understanding as at being understood.

This week

3. **A**FFIRMED common ground - Build on what we all share in common.
4. **M**INISTERING from strength - Build up and affirm those who are passed over, left out, pushed down, and abused.

8

3. **A**FFIRMED common ground - Build on what we share in common.

What we don't mean by common ground:

- Shared **personal preferences** that are too narrow (not common).
- **Superficial goals or means** are not a common ground.
- Perhaps the best affirmation we can offer to another is to respect **their soul's search for its deepest longings** (reconciliation with God, self, others & life).



9

A common ground (goal)
“liberty and justice for ALL”
“a more perfect union”

Political Left

“Promoting the **general welfare** = we over me.”

Socialistic

MANDATORY

masking,
distancing,
& testing.

Political Right

“**Individual freedom** = prosperity.”

Individualistic

VOLUNTARY

masking,
distancing,
& testing.



10

A common ground (goal)
“liberty and justice for ALL”
“a more perfect union”

Political Left

“Promoting the **general welfare** = we over me.”



Political Right

“**Individual freedom** = prosperity.”


Both wrongly equate “a means” with a “common goal”.

Each is right in what they affirm, but wrong in what they deny.

11

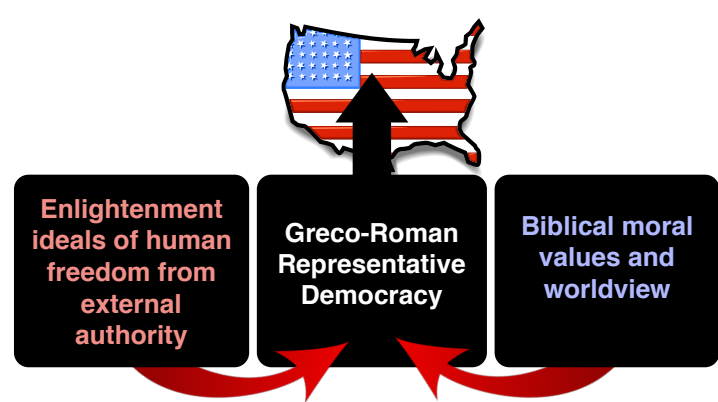
“The poor have sometimes objected to being governed badly; the rich have always objected to being governed at all.”

G.K. Chesterton



12

3. **AFFIRMED** common ground - Build on what we all share in common.



13

Romans 2:18-19

“¹⁴ For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, . . . ¹⁵ . . . they show the work of **the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.**”

*The shadow of God's image is in every human's soul as witnessed by **a universal sense of an ethical conscience and a longing for a secure, significant & serene life.***

14

James 3

“⁹ With it (*the tongue*) we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse **men, who have been made in the likeness of God**; ¹⁰ . . . Things ought not to be this way.”

View all people with a sense of reverence.

Matthew 25:40

“The King will answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, **even the least of them, you did it to Me.**”

See God's image in others, when others may not.

15


3. **AFFIRMED** common ground - Build on what we all share in common.

What we do mean by common ground:

Common aspirations,
LIFE
that is secure, significant, & serene.

Common anxiety,
FEAR
Death - missing out on life.

Next week Common authority, **WORLDVIEW** - nature and nature's God.



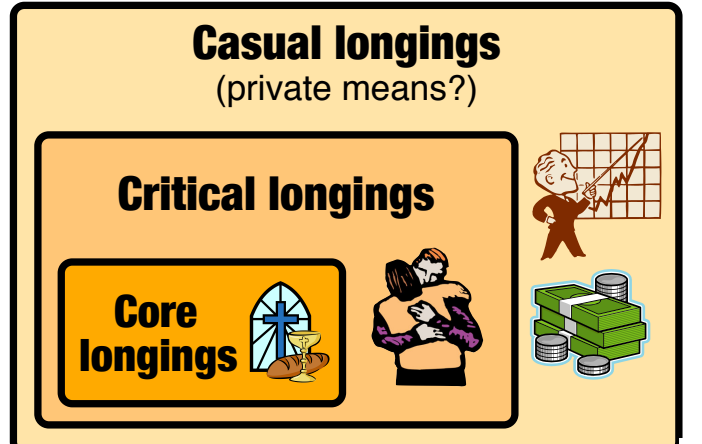
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Levels of life experience

Casual longings
(private means?)

Critical longings

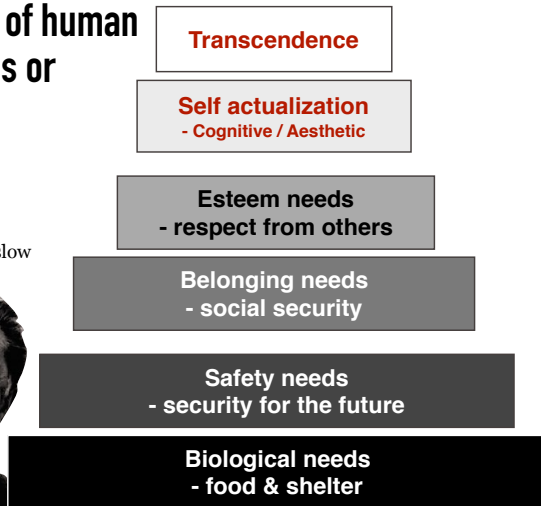
Core longings



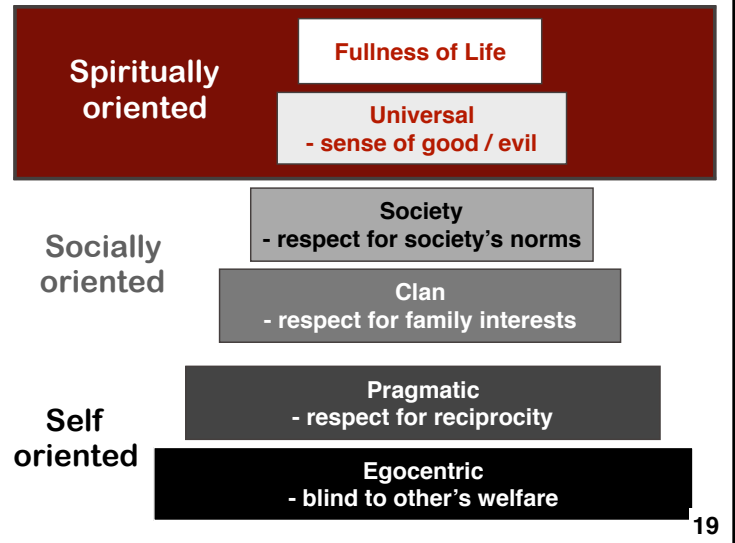
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Hierarchy of human aspirations or needs

Abraham Maslow



18



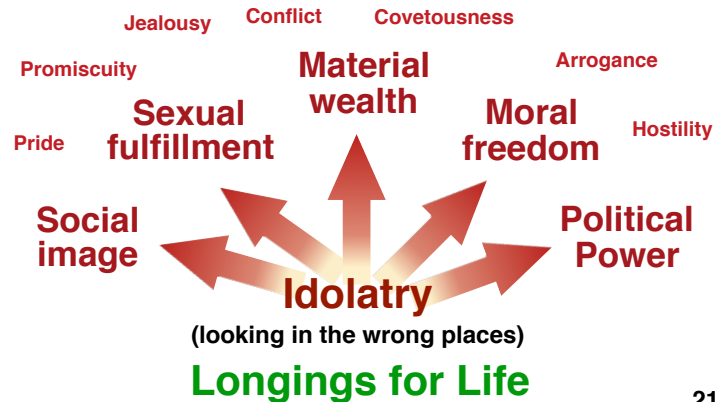
19

Acts 17

"22 . . . "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. 23 For while I was passing through and **examining the objects of your worship**, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' **What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you** 24 The God who made the world and all things in it. . . 25 . . . He Himself gives to **all people** life and breath and all things; . . . 27 that they should **seek God**, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from **each one of us**; 28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of **your own poets** have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'"

20

Common longing Uncommon looking



21

Why do humans commit suicide and animals do not?

Some people who seem to have every material blessing still feel so hopeless and empty that they kill themselves.

We need more than the preservation of our DNA to live.

Too many have too much to live with and not enough to live for.

22

Common anxiety,

FEAR

Death - missing out on life.



23

There are four philosophical questions in life and they all revolve around one issue -

Death!



**Mortality
Meaning
Morality
Management**

24

The great symbols of the faith ARE



The Cross



The bread and cup



Water Baptism

reminders of our deepest longings and hope.

25

Questions we should ask ourselves and others

- **What does your soul really FEAR?** What angers you and why? What holds you back from fully following Christ?
- **What makes you feel most ALIVE?** What do you really long for? Where have you felt left out, held back, missed out, & alone?
- **Where does your life HURT?** How have you medicated the pain? What is the nature of your hope and expectations?

26

4. MINISTERING from strength - Build up and affirm those who are passed over, left out, pushed down, and abused.

- **Jesus came to serve not to be served.**

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but **to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

When we exalt ourselves we look like “modern day Pharisees”.

When we lay aside our strength to sacrificially serve we become the “Body of Christ”

27

Cultivate a Christian “Soul Culture”

- **Start with an audit of our own souls**



Know yourself

(get in touch with your heart)

Accept yourself

(apply grace to yourself with repentance)



- **but don't get stuck or stop there.**



Get over yourself

(remove defensive strategies)

Give yourself

(minister grace to others)



28

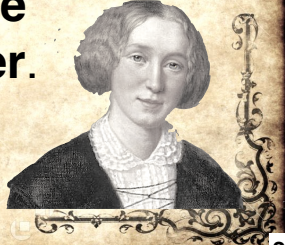
1 Corinthians 12

“18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, **on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly members come to have more abundant seemliness,** 24 whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And **if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.**”

29

“The responsibility of tolerance lies with those who have the wider vision” and the greatest power.

Mary Anne Evans
(pen name - George Eliot)



30

2 Corinthians 5

“14 For **the love of Christ controls us**, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

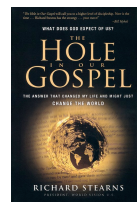
Social peace rests in the hands of those, who like Jesus, are in positions of power, who sacrifice for the good of those who are not.

31

Cultivating a Christian “Soul Culture”

1. **Attack the REAL issue** - our response to GOD and the FALL, not those who disagree with us.
2. Work and pray for **that which cannot perish** - Godly character and gracious community.
3. Greet all circumstances with **gratitude as an opportunity** to develop / demonstrate character.
4. Appeal to **common human longings and fears** in addressing social issues.
5. **Bear witness to the values of the kingdom** of God (dignity of ALL people) through self-sacrificing love, forbearance, and patience.

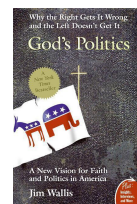
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Richard Stearns



An argument for Christian social responsibility



Jim Wallis

A political liberal, evangelical perspective

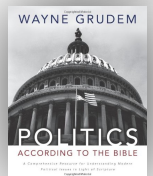
Dinesh D'Souza



A defense of American exceptionalism



Wayne Grudem



A political conservative, evangelical perspective

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