

Long Term Thinking by Ben Huot

# Long Term Thinking

4th Generation Writings

By Ben Huot

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June 26, 2022

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# Long Term Solutions

## Same Faith - Different Philosophy

Many like to use logic and science to argue the non-existence of God. I argue that God exists by paradox and intuition. Many of the things people consider anti-Christian I think are more consistent with Christianity than the former.

I am a born again Christian but almost every other view I have is contrary to what most Christians believe in America. There is more than one way to live life and still be a Bible believing Christian.

## My Solution Overview

Past success does not determine future success. Many people think the information revolution will work out well as they believe the industrial revolution worked out well for them. You cannot just stay in the industrial technology revolution and then not have it evolve into the information revolution just as you cannot stay with one kind of political, social or economic situation and not have it evolve into another. You cannot pick and choose what parts of your ideology people will adopt and what they will adopt from competing ideologies.

If we want to improve the morality of the world, we can't continue to have modern civilization. We cannot innovate our way out or continue to consume without the present global

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situation. There will always be a scarcity of resources and you getting more means someone else will get less.

What we consider evil today is beyond what anyone would imagine in previous eras. This increase in evil is the direct result of having more than we need and in result others having less. Until we change our society from being consumers to being producers, focus more on work than entertainment, and give up trying to move up the ladder; we will continue to suffer more greatly than we need to.

## Economic and Political Solutions

Our society's biggest problems are its complexity and its brittleness. We need to hold back technology until we as a society can understand it well enough to make rational decisions on it based on knowledge not ignorance. We need to have a group that regulates the creation of new technologies.

Also we need to get disentangled with Saudi Arabia and China at any possible cost, but it will take a long time to get to the point where we can do that and it will likely mean giving up electricity, modern plumbing, modern medicine, and computers. In the meantime it is not wise to anger them. We got ourselves into this mess to make our leaders richer, but we must sacrifice to fix the problem as you cannot just move society back in history just because you want to.

We need to start planning as a society on scales of at least generations if not hundreds of years. We need to study other cultures, histories, and languages to be aware of what is going on in the world, not fight constant wars. We need to actually create a

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culture that is worth preserving and value intellectual achievement outside Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This is what we should be using computers for.

For people so concerned with fraud and waste, the military and large corporations are the biggest sources of that. One of the reasons why you don't see the waste in the military is that it is classified. Corporations waste potential use of their vast resources because of their unwillingness to invest in anything new or continue to stay with something new long enough until it is profitable.

The infantry across services that actually wins wars is actually relatively cheap. Even Army helicopters and tanks, which are the best in the world by far, are much less expensive than most Navy or Air Force machines of war. The big costs are in the big hardware that the Navy and the Air Force have. Much of this is necessary only because we want to control all trade throughout the world and constantly fight small wars all over the world.

## Energy Situation

Oh and it would be a good idea to finally fix our physical infrastructure like roads and bridges. We also need to keep rolling out faster Internet connections or convince people to stop using so much video and convince companies to make efficient websites and applications. It would help our society tremendously if people stopped driving huge SUVs and stopped all non-essential travel via cars, but that isn't going to be accepted.

It is sad that the research into alternatives to coal and oil were cut off after President Carter left office. If the government spent even

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a tiny amount of money from then until now on that we would know if alternative energies can be made efficient enough. What we now know is that coal and oil are not cheaper than alternative energies and the efficiency is increasing very fast. Most of the objections about lack of viability are being overcome or never were a problem.

Also natural gas is only as natural and good for the environment as coal and nuclear is so expensive that it is no longer viable. Besides even with the best safety records of anyone in the world including Japan or the US statistically a major meltdown would happen every couple years if we rolled out enough nuclear power to power America. There is also the waste problem and trying to find not only a geologically stable enough location but also one with nothing of value that people will attempt to mine in the future. Also mining for nuclear material has destroyed parts of West Africa and a Navajo Native American reservation in the US.

We are finally seeing some of the early signs of the scale of suffering being unleashed by our greed when the weather starts getting out of control first in Pakistan and India. Most scientists now agree we need to find ways to pull the carbon dioxide and methane back out of the atmosphere as well as reduce our coal and oil consumption. This is when things are likely to get real bad when we end up trying to remove the green house gases and end up causing a bigger problem for ourselves.

## Ridiculous Solutions

Some people want to solve our problems by going to other planets but this is ridiculous from at least an ethical, psychological, economic, social, and political point of view. You

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can do almost anything for a price, but the question is what problem does it solve and what price do we have to pay for it? It is ironic that those who do not believe in global warming think science will save us if we just go to another planet. Most people have no clue how far away even the moon is, how many resources even one person uses and how dangerous anything outside earth is.

Manned travel outside our orbit or mining from moons or other planets would bankrupt us to do it somewhat safely, it would always be dependent on earth and never economically or energy positive, people would not be able to get along or form stable societies, we would never be able to move large numbers of people there, and it would deepen the political divide in America. It is much cheaper and easier to fix the problems on earth than to use the energy to go to other planets. Even the earth like planets are much worse to live on than the worst case scenario for global warming.

Going to near earth orbit got us some useful things but going to the moon got us very little for its cost. Going to the moon was one of the things that helped put us into such deep debt we are in now. The difference between sending an unmanned drone vs a human flight is exponentially different in complexity and cost. Many also suffered greatly throughout the space program. At first, they just strapped people and animals to nuclear rockets in place of the warheads. And most our modern technologies, especially for anything space related came directly from NAZI research. Some of those who should have been sentenced for wars crimes were essential for at least the early US space programs.

And advances in computers do not solve the problem of traveling through space or surviving in a hostile environment. Ironically

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people would laugh if you talked about colonizing the bottom of the ocean or Antarctica but these would be much more feasible. Working in the arctic and Siberia is extremely expensive, slow, and difficult, but nothing compared to trying to survive in space or another planet or moon.

## Future Directions

We need to focus on the boring routine stuff and get that figured out before we go onto the flashy fun stuff. The people who know the most about technology today are some of those with the least confidence in what it can actually do. This speaks volumes.

We are going to find in the near future that many things are just not physically possible to do that we want to do or else the robots will become sentient and we will be their slaves if they don't just annihilate us all. Humans after all are the problem and advanced human societies use genocide frequently especially in the last 200 years.

We have to begin to treat large scale evil (often financially driven crimes and corruption) as seriously as we do blue collar violent crime against one person.

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# Long Term Problems

## Same Faith - Different Philosophy

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## American Issues

The political situation in America today is like that of the Native or Indigenous Americans and European Americans during the first hundred years of our country. The two ways are not reconcilable and are not going to be resolved because they are fundamentally different ways of seeing things.

It may end in very different ways but no one is going to accept coexistence with the other group and no one is going to change their point of view. Why we have political debates anymore is beyond me.

I think America is starting to find itself with similar problems as the rest of the world. Maybe America is beginning to actually

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have a history long enough to be worth studying. I am very uncomfortable with either group.

Some powerful people have tried to tie together America and Christianity for its entire history. But most its ideas are not from the Bible. Do you know there is no reference to America in any form in the Bible? The only possible explanations are that America is the evil empire of the devil (Mystery Babylon), the unpopulated areas that people flee towards when the evil empire takes over, or it simply does not exist in any meaningful form at the end of times.

Neither capitalism nor democracy are talked about in any form. God seems to care a lot about social justice and the poor and marginalized. God wants to rule us directly but only if we first desire to do so. Jesus Christ did not use the government or the military to implement any of His ideas and did not advocate us doing so either. He did not advocate overthrowing the government but did not endorse it either.

## Religion and Politics

Christianity is inherently apolitical in nature as its focus is on God, itself, and the people who are not saved yet. It is concerned with the individual and with the afterlife primarily. One of Jesus disciples was an anarchist and another a government official. Most of them were average people.

Throughout the Bible, God usually chooses someone unqualified to lead as it brings glory to God not people. Never did the early church get involved in any political activities. The downfall of

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ancient Israel was that the people wanted to be ruled by other people instead of by God.

When later Christians got involved in politics this made it possible for the Arabs to expand out of Saudi Arabia, it was a major factor in the persecution and eventual genocide of Middle Eastern Christians, it divided the Western Church into Catholic and Protestant which lead to modern atheism, and it made the Soviet Union and communism in general possible.

Yes politics and belief systems intertwine, but the ends never justify the means and politics by its very nature always works this way. Politics is about compromising your principles and only those who will do anything to win will win. Essentially politics is about the rich and powerful exploiting the weak and powerless. Good comes about spiritually as it comes from God.

One of the things that really confuses me about the religious right today is this opposition to tolerance and their wanting everyone to follow religious laws even if they do not believe in that religion. Salvation according to the Bible only occurs when people accept Christ as Lord and Savior of their own free will. As much as Christians should follow the rules of the Bible it is not going to save someone by just following Biblical rules.

This is also ironic for Protestants to oppose social change as that was the basis for the Protestant movement itself or to desire to merge religion and government together as that is why Protestants separated from the Catholic church. It comes down to different people having different moral systems. Many people just assume if people don't agree with their belief system that the person has no morals.

## International Issues

Furthermore so many people lamenting the major changes in the world today are the same group of people who supported the same changes in the winning of both the Cold War and World War II. If you think you can fight the future and resist ever changing technology or social values you can see China as an obvious example.

The reason why China became communist and rejected their culture completely and modeled their entire society after Japan and Russia was because they were very weak and humiliated. This situation came about because they did not invest in more firepower and change socially like what was happening in Europe.

Ironically, in spite of all the distinctions being exaggerated, Russia is now much like the religious right in its thinking now. Many people cannot accept that the cold war has come and gone and this is not the world system now.

America has a persecution complex and feels it needs to run the whole world and have everyone think like them in order to feel safe. For a country that was never invaded and almost impossible to invade and having the most effective military on the planet, it is hard to think of this attitude as anything other than paranoia.

Many today respond to this line of thinking as you are just pretending to care about other people for status or that you do not understand how the world works to think this way. I understand very well how the world works as I attended public schools through college and served enlisted in the US military

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straight out of high school. Most of the people I am close with do not share most of my political or religious views so it does not give me any more friends supporting social justice.

I also make the same accusations to the religious right. When the religious right adopts more than one social cause that improves things for the world maybe then they can say they are not just pretending to care. And the only way this is immature to think the way I do is if you see things so negatively about other people that you adopt a defeatist worldview and give up on making the world better.

The big reason I do not want to have my country take part in this kind of evil is that it is currently being done in my name making me partly responsible for it. I have suffered enough in my lifetime to want to do something to reduce the suffering in the world or at least not be an active contributor to it. There is a lot of evil in the world, but concentrating the power and wealth even more is not an improvement. We should not give up on treating the rich the same as the poor just because it is hard.

# A Theme of History

## The Problem

Throughout history, there is a re-occurring cross-cultural theme where those who have are robbed of their wealth on a large scale by those who have little to nothing. The question to me is not whether it is ethical, as I have no control over it, but how does one adequately defend the things they have created or acquired? In this case, most of us in America are in the same boat.

Oftentimes this takes the form of what they then called barbarians coming in and destroying the rich farmlands and then retreating back into mountainous, deserted, waterways, or forested areas quickly. For historical examples, you have the Goths, Vikings, Mongols, and pirates. For modern examples, we have school shootings, malicious hacking, and terrorism.

Often times a small group of people can dominate a society and take its wealth, because they have nothing to defend. Defense is always more difficult, because you have to defend everything and the attacker only has to attack the targets they select before hand. Sometimes some of the big advantages of the attacker is speed. Many times it is hard to locate the group at any one time, and, if you do there is little to take from them.

Today our society is set up to recreate this same dynamic, by having such a wealth gap in our world civilization. In addition, we keep on allowing our tools for war to spread into the hands of people, who do not care for who we are. Furthermore, in our

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efforts to control all of society further motivate outsiders to strike back harder and more often.

One of the things inspiring these attacks are that we portray ourselves as better than everyone else morally. Then we later find out that so much of our economic success is caused by the exploitation of others and their wealth. It is hard to say one thing and do another and not have people hear what you are doing more loudly.

Many people cannot prove in a court of law what is happening, because so much of it is classified. But we do know these things are happening and we feel morally compelled to do something about it. I do not believe that the ends justify the means, but both the attacker and defender in this case do.

Most people are not aware of it, but we have had a full scale world war going on for at least 10 years. Every major country and world power is participating. Right now it is a fairly cold war, without people killing each other directly, but that will likely come too in the near future. Some of the biggest casualties are local schools, local governments, and hospitals in rural and inner city locations, in the United States and around the world.

The attack looks like the following concept. The predators pick off the weakest in the herd and the herd doesn't realize one was taken until they stop running. This can go on indefinitely, but it will eventually reach the scale, where everyone will realize that this is a problem. Then we will be in a very deep mess.

## How they could solve this

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Any easy way to stop it is to outlaw hacking internationally as a war crime. More importantly, make a public treaty between all these nations that we all, including us, stop hacking each other. Follow this up with a notice that any digital attack will be met with a conventional or nuclear attack.

Basically we are in the process of destabilizing the world, by allowing spy technologies and techniques become both an integral part of the culture and economy of our own country and let it spread to other countries. It is like the proliferation of nuclear weapons that we have taken so seriously and have prevented much of the literal fallout we could have had.

Today our entire economy is based on gathering the information of common people without their consent or ability to refuse from both a technical and practical standpoint.

In such an economy, covert actions of any type are very ineffective, because you cannot hide things very well, when anyone can report something. Basically, the only way you can keep things secret, for any length of time, is to not put them online or in digital form (but this is changing rapidly as well). So effectively, not only do we have no privacy, but neither do the classified elements of our national infrastructure.

Therefore there is no net gain, in further conducting electronic surveillance or doing any covert actions. We can and should learn about the rest of the world and repurpose our clandestine forces to do similar work as we think of the State Department doing. We, as a nation, in one of our government agencies, need to learn other world languages and read local news in the native language. Open source revolutionized the software industry and

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it could do so as well in the classified agencies. In this case, the information source is open rather than the software or the end analysis.

So we need not worry about compromising national security, in ceasing to antagonize other nations and proliferate classified tools, by being as China calls us - a nation of hackers.

### What we can do

So obviously people in the position to change this have already chosen to ignore this idea and continue on full speed in a reckless manner. I have a hard time believing they hadn't thought of the same idea well before I am writing about it today. But for individuals, what can we do? Do fight this and don't just give up, because the information will be used against you and the wealthy don't care yet.

Rely as little as possible on technology and specifically on where things get more automated and easier for us but more complicated for the computer. These types of technology are notoriously completely reliant on outside infrastructure and expertise to work perfectly every time or else you lose something important.

Keep the complexity down and learn everything you can about things, especially the history of computing. Understand basic things like the number of errors in code is always more for products with more users, but that is because more of them have been reported. Use as simple a method as you can for important things like security tools and backups (in terms of complicated for the computer to do, not you).

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Be aware of what is going on in the computing world and have some security common sense. Realize that the news only reports on divisive things and most hackers are seeking things that make people look bad. There is nowhere to hide anything and doing so will make you look more like an attractive target. Once something becomes common enough it is no longer reported on, even though it is likely still very important to be aware of.

Understand basic things about business trends, like that businesses are optimized for what is cheapest in the short time and no other considerations are made. Once someone has sold you something, they have no interest in you. Be wary of things that are too cheap or too easy.

There is always a cost to everything. Businesses don't like working with you anymore than you like working with them. People are annoying and hard to work with and this won't change in a positive way anytime soon.

Don't trust encryption, because we are all dependent on prime numbers being random for almost all encryption. If and when this is found to have a pattern, we get significantly more processing power, or your hardware and software age, nothing can be effectively protected that way. This is also true even when smart people make great security products with few errors and a good design and keep it up to date.

The big takeaway from this is to learn about our world today and our world today is run on machines. We need to learn as much as possible about important computer developments and keep up to date on them as the situation evolves rapidly. But also read about

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computer history, because you will need to understand basic concepts and, as we all know, history repeats itself.

Today your valuables may be safer in your own house than being accessible digitally. This is something to consider to understand the gravity of digital security. What makes something easy for you makes it easier for the hacker as well. Most developing security technologies help the attacker as much as the defender.

# Long Term Psychology

Many like to use logic and science to argue the non-existence of God. I argue that God exists by paradox and intuition. Many of the things people consider anti-Christian I think are more consistent with Christianity than the former.

I am a born again Christian but almost every other view I have is contrary to what most Christians believe in America. There is more than one way to live life and still be a Bible believing Christian.

I think we as Christians can learn from both the Bible and modern psychology. I also think like many other things attributed to other people modern psychology comes from the Bible. If you read through the letters of the Apostle Paul, I can not understand why you wouldn't believe he is the first existentialist.

One of God's titles is Wonderful Counselor. Reading in the Psalms makes me think of someone confiding in a good psychologist. Jesus did not just make simple literal responses to what those who talked to Him said but took time to listen to them and meet them where they were. He realized that what a person is saying does not always fully reflect what they are thinking.

We are not fully rational in our psychological composition and this is a good thing we need to work with rather than struggle against. Just like there are two sides to every personality trait that have both useful and troubling aspects, so there are positive and negative uses and properties of every emotional response. Fear

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can save your life or destroy it, depending in how, when, and why you use it.

The emotional aspects of the brain can be worked with in extreme and time sensitive situations. In the Army, you constantly train in the combat survival skills you first learned in basic training, so that you can perform them without thinking. The military requires great mental toughness and fast decision making under pressure but is not difficult intellectually for the most part.

We need to learn to develop control of our emotions as much as we need to learn to make use of our intellectual abilities. We need to continue to teach people of all ages what the appropriate ways of reacting are in different situations. Of course, in order to do so, we must first decide upon a common moral standard and philosophical system.

Currently most people do not know what is appropriate in group settings as our society teaches conflicting principles and people have opposite ideas on how they want people to interact. This is why the online world is so abusive and depressing. We need to learn as much from the humanities as the sciences as a society.

Creativity is very important but so is self control. You do not want to have to choose between either of these, because a society that does not value both of these is not going to survive very well and will be dominated by other societies that can. Some of the most important emotional attributes are kindness and forgiveness. A society that cannot master a at least this will be like hell to live in.

People were meant to live and work together, even in crisis situations. Even in a hunter gatherer or agriculturally based

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society, no one can survive by themselves. People who go off grid are still dependent on society working together so that they can trade and get energy without constant warfare or stealing. While our society is as complicated as it is, we all need to learn how to recreate and maintain as many aspects as possible with as little outside help as possible. At the same time, we still depend upon many others just to be able to use what are now very common systems.

But we are spiritual life forms as well. This means there are complex interactions between not only other people but within ourselves with major connections between the spiritual, mental, and physical aspects of ourselves. This is at least part of what being created in the image of God means. God also has a spirit and a human body. God to an extent looks like us although His thinking and morality are perfect rather than our absolute failures.

Christ gave the best examples of self control, creativity, kindness, forgiveness, leadership by example, and obedience to His Father. Unfortunately many people have broken family relationships and so have trouble understanding who God is. But we can see in the Gospels what an ideal child parent relationship should be.

People are evil by default. They were created good and can eventually be restored over time to a be better people. Essentially we are never going to live up to the kind of people we can and should be.

Many people do not want to follow rules of any kind on both ends of the political and social spectrum. But being a religious person means following the instructions of someone else voluntarily. It requires spiritual maturity and most importantly

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humility. The lack of humility in the world today is a big contributing factor as to why there is so much unnecessary suffering.

Spiritual things are ignored in our society largely because we have decided to move things along so fast. We consume so much in natural resources and generate so much waste. We treat each other like garbage and run through people and animals to produce as much as fast as we can to entertain each other.

We do nothing that truly satisfies us so we continue to hunger and try to get filled on negative experiences. Only God can truly satisfy all our needs. Removing God from our society has made life meaningless for most people. That is why most people want to be distracted. Meaningless information can be the most distracting thing of all.

For us to find God we must turn down the noise and wait patiently for Him.

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4:7-10 WEB

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# A Sad Story

People in general, especially those who prescribe my psychiatric medications, often want to know about my childhood. I seldom write about it because there is little drama and it was quite normal and good. Actually it was too good. I don't feel I lived up to my potential that I was led to believe I had, prior to joining the military.

The biggest reason why I did not live up to my potential is that I have Schizophrenia and have had it since and because of my military service. I also think the military opened my eyes to what extent evil plays in this world. Most Americans would not believe how cruel people can be to one another and animals.

I think the key point where I had enough stress to trigger my genetic tendency towards Schizophrenia happened in my what they called at the time NBC training. This comes down to what civilians call a chemical suit and gas mask.

To motivate people to put one on fast enough and to test how good the seal is, the Army has everyone go through a gas chamber filled with tear gas. You then take your mask off while inside, for about 5 minutes. This happens during the mid point of Basic Training.

You are also exposed to tear gas later (in the open air) during Field Training Exercises, where you put together all your initial training. It is a very depressing form of camping. Later you go through the gas chamber each year, while in the Army.

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To some people this may seem inhumane, but it is very necessary considering the parts of the world we fight in and who we fight against. It is much more humane than people getting gassed with poisonous gases. Various parts of this training for chemical weapons take a large part of the time for the Combat Survival Training first learned in Basic Training. There is even an NCO (for example, a Sergeant) who in the Army is responsible for the NBC training in every unit.

We learn how to clean off skin and eyes exposed to chemical weapons. We train to give shots to ourselves or others, in case of nerve agent exposure. We practice shooting and do our specialities in complete chemical suits (what they called MOPP4 gear at the time). We needed to know how to recognize signs and grenades that signal chemical weapons. We also tested on how to put on the entire suit in a few minutes.

So being in the military made me too paranoid to take almost any risks. One of the things I learned from the military was to be very careful how I exposed myself to possible accidents or commit to any extensive responsibility. At this time I decided for sure I never wanted to be a leader. Our platoon, nicknamed Troopers, had a motto called "No Slack" which meant that you are never given any allowance for failure in any way.

When I look back on what happened to me during my childhood, I thought I would be an international businessman and specialize in distribution for big business. A good example of one of the most well known ones today is the current CEO of Apple Inc. In High School, I became an Eagle Scout after being in Boy Scouts (now called Scouts) 11 years and was elected to the Order of the Arrow and staffed at several Scout Summer Camps (one on the

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coast and one in the mountains). I started and was President of my own Political Club. I was President of Model United Nations in my High School and lead a committee in the regional Model UN conference, I won first place in a National Peace Essay Contest for my state and won a minor scholarship and trip back to Washington, DC.

I also was also in Cross Country and Track most of Middle and High School with one year I took off to be in Cheerleading as the Spirit Man and Yell King (of my High School). I took 4 years of advanced English literature, 4 years of Math, 4 years of French, and 3 years of Science in High School. I was treasurer of my Catering Club and was given an award for my Speech club and went to State competition in both Speech and Future Business Leaders of America.

In the military I had some success. I was told in front of my entire platoon that I would be the one promoted as the Drill Sergeant had only one she could promote but that I had already had that rank for being an Eagle Scout. I missed getting a gold coin for 95% grade in my Advanced Training classes by a fraction of a point, so my AIT Drill Sergeant gave me hers from her Drill Sergeant school.

I even tested out of an entire year of college, did so well at my job that they wanted to keep me (knowing that I had mental problems), and I was doing very well in my physical fitness. I went on a half marathon through Kole Kole Pass in Oahu Hawaii, where I was stationed. I got A's in the 2 civilian college classes I was studying at. The one I slept through the final but still got an A+ on the then 9 page essay final (no book).

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That is why I have not written much about my childhood. It makes my life as an adult sound sad in comparison. So now I never travel very far, I haven't had a job in a very long time, and do not lead anything or are even been a member of anything.

I have written a lot in the last 25 years - maybe 2,500-3000 book size pages and run a website for that long, but that doesn't sound very impressive. I tried various volunteer jobs and between my not having a car and not being able to be around bleach (my other disability from the military), there are basically no opportunities.

# Change Over Time

On thinking over my life from the period when I went into the military and became mentally ill, before and after, my life changed tremendously outwardly but also my thinking changed. I started out as a kid being overly silly and outgoing whereas after my period of difficulty became more artistic and very serious. I also suffered a very significant loss in understanding of cultural norms and my interpersonal behavior suffered as a result.

I had not only to relearn how to relate with other people but to get a sense of confidence and humor about life. It took many years to learn to express how I felt and how to learn how to lower my pain. I did though have a sense of purpose and this was to lower the suffering in the world and specifically to do so by writing and art. That was based both on my personal experiences and study of world religions.

Learning to deal with my illness had to start basically with little prior knowledge. There was little written that applied to me much because many of my issues tied together spiritual, mental, and physical problems I had. What ultimately I would like to do is to integrate Christianity with modern psychology. I believe I can do this well by continuing to deepen my knowledge of the Bible, which seems to center much around being aware of the context. This is because I believe that modern psychology comes from the Bible.

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Many of the issues I have had to deal with involve things common to younger adults and to those living in this era of time in America. There are so many distractions. I once thought and still think it too often that my life is very boring and unimportant because I have few outward signs of success in terms of money, power, or even recognition of any kind. But this is certainly not a sad thing, especially considering so many have so much less, that I have little to give evidence of my contributions to this world.

I guess it makes it easier to keep your heart right with God by not having the power to fix everything in this world. I see so many suffer so much many much beyond anything I have had to deal with and I would like to make a dent in it. It seems our problems escalate at a steep rate by the year and most people in this part of the world are actually making the problem worse and many don't believe it even exists.

It is always easier to fix world problems than personal ones though. I still struggle with many of the same problems as I did 10 or 20 years ago.

One of these is called paranoia, which is an irrational fear of people coming after you even though there is no evidence of it. It is a specific type of delusion. This is one of the major symptoms of Schizophrenia that is most disabling to me. This makes it almost impossible to trust anyone else.

One of the other major problems I continue to have is that I still do not know how to rest. I have recently come back to church for a variety of reasons, chief among them a change in why I go to church (for God now not my benefit) and as a bonus I have a great church too. Going to church regularly has given me much more peace with the world.

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I guess one of the problems I have resting is that I have a tremendous drive or ambition to contribute as much as possible. I also feel tired no matter how much I sleep because I am on a powerful sedative which is the main medicine for psychosis. It is hard to know how far to push myself. My dad says I need to let myself rest.

I find it very difficult to let things go without perfecting them indefinitely. I continue to get inspired to produce art and writing and I have trouble stopping when I get exhausted. This makes the paranoia worse as it is triggered, like many symptoms of chronic diseases, by stress. How do you tell yourself to stop helping others when you are partially responsible for the world's problems?

Another problem I have is that I am not focused enough on my daily needs. I have a hard time making myself stop to eat, sleep, or get out. I do not like being bothered when I am in the middle of creating. Many things I do can take 15 minutes or 8 hours, depending on my running into issues I could not predict. I have this fear of losing things and so I spend much time and expense in making sure nothing important is lost.

This basically means I am a workaholic and too ambitious. I have to find some way to be less of an alpha. I have this family trait that when I reach a certain point of achievement, I raise my expectations of what level is considered an achievement in my work going forward. At this point, I have very high expectations of myself and none of anyone else.

Some of the causes of these problems are isolation and need to distract myself from paranoia and voices. I have tried many years

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to find volunteer opportunities and I have basically comes up short, but I have found a good church in walking distance now. I am trying to get more involved there.

One of the things I think God is trying to teach me now is patience. That is one of my biggest obstacles to personal growth.

# Sin is Evil

## Personal Sin

Personal sins are sins between you and God and sometimes one or a few other people. These include sexual immorality, worship of a false god, and stealing and lying. Like in many other religions, evil starts in the mind or heart and overflows into speech and finally gives birth to evil actions. Catching it in your thoughts before it gets further down the road is much more effective.

There are several aspects that make sin wrong. The first one because it was revealed to us that it is wrong and God is a deity of order and so there must be some rules. Being perfect means He cannot accept being part of any wrongdoing or let them happen without consequences.

God designed us to be a certain way physically, mentally, and spiritually and so sinning also goes against what we were created for and how we were meant to work on many levels. God forbids us from doing something wrong because it hurts us by breaking the way we were designed to work.

Most of these rules are the same across governments and major world religions because they destroy families and societies when people engage in them. If people are dishonest and no one trusts anyone then because of theft and deceit the inability to engage in legal contracts unravels a society. Why own property or develop

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anything of value if you have a very low likelihood that you can keep it?

God doesn't allow the worship of false gods because they are not moral or good in any sense or have good plans for us. Read mythology if you do not accept this idea. Furthermore only God has the right to accept worship because He alone created us. Lastly, God admits He is jealous and does not want us to cheat on Him the same way people cheat on their spouses.

Sin is said to when fully formed result in physical and spiritual death. The same sin committed over and over again is similar in concept to what modern psychology calls addiction. Sin does not satisfy us so that we continue to do greater or different sins. The only thing that will satisfy us is God in our lives.

There are strong similarities in sins with the Bible comparing sexual sins to worshipping false gods. The underlying sin is deception and rebellion against God. God offered us a literal paradise and cleverly made it so we could have free choice and still not sin, but we destroyed this possibility by not following that one rule. Any of us would have made the same mistake.

God gave us the ability to resist sin but at the same time no one has ever lived their entire life without sinning. It is important to note that, although no one has or will ever live without any sin other than God Himself, everybody could keep from sinning if they chose to not rebel against God even at any cost.

Whenever we sin, we choose to sin and are always given a way to keep from sinning. We are always the responsible and guilty party. God has no connection with evil and does not tempt us to do evil ever for any reason.

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Only Jesus lived without sinning and since He was and is God that was enough of a sacrifice for God the Father to reconcile within Himself two of the primary aspect of who He is - merciful and perfectly just. Sin always costs and without Christ's sacrifice applied to our sins we suffer for the evil we have done in the underworld or hell.

God made His plan available to anyone so they could easily escape this fate. Hell was not designed for people originally and heaven is big enough for all people of all times. The sacrifices of the Old Testament were never what was going to save anyone. Although they showed remorse this way, as animals were worth a lot of money then, they would never be great enough sacrifice to redeem any one person, let alone the whole human race.

God was always interested in people's genuine life changes where they first did evil and then made a complete break of it and then felt guilty and asked for forgiveness much more than He wanted people to sacrifice animals. God does not like people who are unwilling to fully commit to Him. He would prefer people not be Christian in name only if their heart is not in it. This seems much like how when you get married often times the spouse doesn't want to accept being your second choice or backup plan.

## Group Sin

Group sins are committed on a vast scale by a whole major group of people like a community, a company, or a government. These include mass murder, destruction of the environment or financial crimes. There have been many evil things that have happened

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throughout history and they have mostly corresponding individual sins.

Throughout prophecy God constantly calls out those leaders who do not take care of widows and orphans. Furthermore Jesus clarifies, extends, and simplified this down to do what you want others to do to you. Loving and having peace with the people of the world is part of having peace with God and yourself.

We are to help those rejected by society but even to the point of our doing without and even for those who are our enemies. Jesus even makes a direct connection to Himself when He says when you helped those in need, you are helping Him as well.

Again Jesus continues to focus on the heart instead of the action. He talks about how it is better for those to give out of poverty than out of wealth. He also says that Mary's gift of crying at Jesus feet was more necessary than Martha's taking care of His needs for food and lodging.

Jesus Himself might be considered homeless in today's society as He had no regular job or place to live. Several times when they were to pay a tax, Jesus told them to follow it but He made it clear that the more important thing was to follow what God said for us to do. Jesus did not become a political or military leader even though many begged for Him to do so.

Jesus chose other people to start the first churches. Jesus combined the ideas of taking care of people's physical needs and their need for forgiveness of sins (the second was more important though.) He also was very peaceful in all His miracles. He even healed the person who one of the disciples injures when Jesus is betrayed.

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Jesus healed people and forgave them. His kingdom was to be based not on merit, opportunity, or status. The point was that ranks have no bearing in Heaven nor do they in the Church. There is to be no separation or distinction between anyone in the church. Even leaders are chosen by their spiritual maturity and not their outside rank or status. Christ was for radical equality too.

God's focus was on those suffering and suffered a very painful and humiliating death for even those who committed some of the most severe crimes. The two people on either side of Jesus also dying on crosses at the time admitted their guilt and Jesus innocence. Christ told them they would be with Him in heaven the next day.

This does not mean the rich and powerful cannot be saved but like all people's salvation only as a miracle can any of us conquer our pride and rebellion against God with divine intervention. The thing is that being rich, powerful, or famous does not give you any special place in Christianity. It gives you more distractions and makes thinking like God and making time for God harder. We should not spend our lives accumulating wealth even if it is to give to the Church.

The real obstacle to salvation is our unwillingness to follow rules and humble ourselves before God. We need not conquer monetary, physical, or virtual empires. We need to surrender our hearts to God. Society will only change once we truly embrace what God has planned for us. But this can be only accomplished one person at a time.

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# Long Term Church History

## Early Church Organization

Many people think that the Catholic Church was the earliest Church but according to historical record that would be either the Coptic or Syriac Church. There were originally supposed to be different churches, according to the major cities arranged geographically. Rome was the least important at first and only chosen because it was the western imperial capitol. The other major centers were in Antioch because it was an important commercial center, Alexandria because it was an important educational center and Constantinople because it was the more important eastern capitol of the Roman Empire (with Jerusalem being a merely symbolic one).

The Church of the East was centered near modern day Baghdad as it was the capitol of the Persian Empire. Because of rivalry between the Persian and Roman Empires, tolerance for Christianity in Iran would only exist if they made a clean break with the Church in the Roman Empire. They had to make up a heresy to do so and that is why they are not represented in some of the early church councils. Recently the Catholic Pope apologized to these Oriental Orthodox churches and admitted that they were doctrinally correct and the differences came from different explanations for the same doctrine (the Trinity) in different languages.

The Middle East was the center of most of Christianity, until the time of the Crusades. This was the halfway point in the history of

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Christianity. Doctrine was supposed to be determined by counsels, with a representatives from each of the regional churches. The Protestants did not exist, until about the time of the Renaissance - the 3/4 point of Church history. Similar to today, politics and religion were inseparable in a practical and public sense. A lot of things were changing at the time and the Church was too powerful and became corrupt about the time of the Crusades.

## Overview of Reformation

The Protestant Reformation was only part of a much longer struggle to reform the Church that started at the time of the Franciscan order (started by Saint Francis). There were struggles within the Protestant church up until about the 1990s to continue to further define what the church should be and what relationship the leaders and members were to have with each other and God. Along the way, there were major battles with Islam, Catholicism, and other Protestants that were sometimes full wars and sometimes mostly institutional, spiritual, or political conflicts.

There is a recurring theme within the Protestant Churches about trying to be just like the Church at the time of the New Testament. It is hard to get much information on this time period in Church history outside of the Bible because of the intense persecution. What we do know from the Letters to the Churches from Paul and the other Apostles is that most of the same problems we have today in the Church were also problems at that time as well.

The issues the Protestants brought up look like issues relevant for their time and place in geography and history. It made the

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Church powerful enough to survive against the major Islamic empires of the Early Modern World and later Modern Atheism which came out of the European Enlightenment. It is very important to stick to the fundamentals and at the same time adopt as many cultural elements that are consistent with the Gospel message.

The Reformation was successful, unlike other similar reform movements because there was a long standing feud between the Holy Roman Empire and the Pope. The pope was called the anti Christ as early as 1200 AD centuries before being described that way by Reformation leaders. France at the time was fighting for its very existence and the real power in Europe was with the Habsburgs not the Pope.

## Reformation Politics

The Habsburgs controlled at one time all of both the Spanish and Portuguese Empires at their height, as well as what is now Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Belgium. The French made three major decisions to deal with this. They funded the Protestant movement in the Holy Roman Empire, they made an alliance with the Ottoman Empire, and they made most of the Protestants in France leave, many of which ended up in British and Dutch colonies.

One of the reasons why the English and Dutch both did so well is that they united for over a hundred years. The Dutch managed to pull the Portuguese into the biggest religious war ever so that they took some of the best parts of the Portuguese colonies including South Africa and the Indonesia (the spice islands). The Dutch and English avoided many wars in Europe and controlled

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their finances better. If these things and many more very lucky things hadn't happened at just the right times there is no way the British would ever have become a world power.

Money and wars are very related as most the money in governments has traditionally been spent on wars. At the same time that France allied with the Ottoman Empire, the Ottoman Empire was invading Europe from the other side. A coalition of mostly Catholic armies from the Habsburgs Empire and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth held them back over hundreds of years. Ivan the Terrible and Vlad the Impaler were very helpful as well. At two different times, the Ottoman Empire laid siege to Vienna, which was the eastern capitol of the Habsburg Empire. The next logical country to invade would be France.

There were many major wars between the Protestants and Catholics until the 19th century when Napoleon destroyed the Catholic Church by looting all its money from Europe to finance his campaign to destroy Spain and Portugal and create modern Germany and Italy. At the end of the Napoleon Wars, the Austrian Habsburgs convinced the British that a cease fire between European countries would be best for everyone in Europe. The peace broke as World War 1 started.

Since then some missionaries mostly from the United States and the United Kingdom spread the Gospel to several former slaves and then they brought the Gospel to millions in Africa. Today, the center of the future church is in Africa and Asia. There are now missionaries going back to Europe to reintroduce the Gospel to the some of the same countries that brought the Gospel to them. Ironically, the little left of the Church in Europe is mostly Catholic. Also the biggest Churches in Africa are not Evangelical

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or Pentecostal but independent of major Western denominations as well as a large number being Catholic or Anglican.

### Reformation Doctrine

Doctrinally the major differences between most Protestant and most Catholics historically has been related to the fact that the Catholic Church had inherited a lot of cultural things from the Roman Empire that were no longer relevant to Northern Europe. The Roman Empire was notorious for never compromising, it was very elitist, and was very patriotic. Translating the Bible to the emerging languages of the what would be the dominant World Powers for the next several hundreds years helped make these countries independent of each other.

Getting rid of the previous bureaucracy allowed them to further distance themselves from other rival powers and win friends with the local population and inspire patriotism to get more conscripts to fight in their wars. By making the faith an inward and personal one they were no longer bound by what someone in Rome told them to do. They could continue to then make changes indefinitely, without having to be bound by previous decisions by starting new churches.

So what is a good Christian to do about this? Learn your culture well and understand the Bible well. Combine them in appropriate ways. Traditions are good but they should not become more important than the Bible.

You can only go so far with doctrines developed by different churches. Pray frequently, get involved in the Church, study the Bible, spread the Gospel, help people in need and define your

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faith through action. Let God be your Lord and let Him make you into a better person.

# Tolerance and Christian Faith

Many Christians in America see Christianity as opposed to toleration. Actually, modern toleration comes from something written by John Locke called a Letter Considering Toleration and he gave a very Biblical argument for toleration. John Locke was trying to persuade Christians to tolerate those of different Christian denominations because trying to convert someone by force is not effective. This is because in Christianity someone must truly believe and follow Christ of their own free will in order to be saved.

This idea of allowing someone to choose something, even if you disagree with them is a sign of maturity and is generally respected in what many call a free country. If you do not have toleration of religion, then how do you have free religion? And if people are verbally fighting each other over religion this is both ineffective in spreading the Gospel and conversion is not achieved. To win an argument does not convince people to believe you and give up their beliefs. This whole approach of debating religion just gets people angry.

God saying you should do something means something, but a person saying you should do something that you do not know and respect accomplishes nothing. It boils down to an American obsession with transferring the ideas of selling things to the concept of conversion. Let me get to the point - God will give people the time necessary to decide on where they will spend

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eternity. If people do not like the people in the Church, they may very well choose to spend eternity somewhere else.

This rushing around to get everyone's money or everyone's attention to do everything in mass is a very negative concept. People that change their views quickly and easily are very likely to never commit to any one idea. Christ and Paul writing about His ideas talked over and over again about not being lukewarm.

We want people to make a very major change in their life and commit to it for their entire life. We need to give them some time and space. Think of it like a marriage - what kind of counselor would recommend people get married who have not spent time together?

This is deeper problem with the Church in America. Preparing people for debate by training them to argue both sides of the argument just makes legal fees higher and does nothing to help find the truth. Trying to transfer ways of working in the world to spiritual things does not bring success in winning souls for Christ.

God is not limited by anything other than what He chooses to limit Himself by. This almost always directly correlates to human will. Unfortunately God also allows us to rule ourselves as we are unwilling to let Him rule us.

We have to let this all be led by God and opportunities He provides or blocks. We need not use statistics or raise lots of money. God already knows and has all that.

Even with that knowledge and that power it is ineffective because it doesn't convince people to love someone. And the more you use the same thing for both God and money, it ties together the

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ideas of God and money. You can't fool all the people all the time when you are so obvious about it.

If you use business idea, you will end up with a business. If you try to make money, you will end up a business. If you advertise, you turn into a business. The means determine the ends.

People are tired of ads because they are everywhere and they are very subtle. People can now spot an ad a mile away because they are so prevalent. People are now saturated with knowledge. Providing arguments no longer convinces anyone of anything (and likely never did), because they can see people are tricking them. They no longer trust groups of anything.

The Church in America can and will grow but Americans are now going through another existential crisis and this is the one with who we are as a country. I think most will agree now we are just an accidental blip in world history due to a war between England and France both ended up losing. It shows how effective being somewhere gets you the rights to live there.

Most people in America have not taken sides in most conflicts and have instead tried to go the frontier to start over again. One of the reasons I think drugs took off when they did because people couldn't escape the conflict so they decided to just drop out of society. And this criticizing of others morality is just toxic because we have different ideas of what it moral but we also are both flat out obviously wrong on so many areas.

People are tired of the arguments, the wars, the memberships, the politics, and the money. Stop associating God with these things and let God be the God people want. It is telling so many people respect Jesus Christ but not the Church. Sure they don't

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understand or believe everything about Him correctly, but the Church does not either.

If you want to change someone's mind, be willing to change your mind as well. If you want people to act genuine, then it is a good idea to treat them as individuals. The Church of the future will be won one person at a time.

This is a lesson about numbers. Have we not learned that God can multiply people easily? In Africa very few people who were exposed to the Gospel converted but they in turn converted millions and the Church is probably strongest in Africa now. Just in my lifetime communism has been thoroughly defeated and we have moved on to several other conflicts in the meantime. Nothing every changes until it does and then something major happens.

For people who claim to have so much faith, why is going to prayer the last option that so many in the Church employ? It is hard to accept because I do think the Church has great faith even in America. It is like the disciples of Jesus that cannot connect the dots. The world will always be perplexing and constant threat if we can't learn how it works.

America has made the world one system and one empire effectively. We have won and made the world in our image. If you don't like the way the world is going, look in the mirror.

We are still feeling the fallout of World War 2 and what we did to win it. We copied NAZI technology, ideas, and culture so that we would never again have to use people instead of technology to win wars. Winning one war always sets us up for another. When will we ever learn?

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# How To Be Effective

What is an effective way to bring God's kingdom to earth from a biblical point of view? God has all the resources and power He needs and only relies on us to the extent that He chooses to. The only limits on God are the limits He places on Himself.

God is big on free will and human choice in general. This is because He wants some of us to choose to serve Him rather than all serve Him because we have no sentience. Furthermore we find out throughout the Bible and likewise with Jesus on earth that God's kingdom is very different from the governments of this world. Christians are members of both worlds.

God not only values freedom but justice as well. God is perfectly good. To reconcile justice together with our bad behavior enabled by allowing us free choice God has made this possible because of His mercy and suffering for us. If we ran the world, every one who did something we consider bad would be punished severely for every infraction.

Instead of being pragmatic or “realistic” about how humans turned out, God decided to sacrifice Himself so we would not have to bear the full consequences of our actions or inactions. God is not willing to leave us to our own evil. He has made a way for everyone without regard to anything people find important.

What God wants of us is to be part of Him in heaven by having us turn away from our evil and accept His forgiveness, learn more about Him though mixing His ideas in our heads via the

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Bible, and treat Him and His creation with respect. Basically Christianity is about a person (who is also God) and it is a devotional religion. This means that Christianity is more like the Bhakti movement in Hinduism or the Sufiists in Islam than Science or most of modern Western Philosophy. This means in many ways the lifestyle of a monk is closest to what God would want our lives to be like.

We can do everything under the sun that is good, but the most vital things are turning from evil and drawing near to God. The biggest obstacle to this is the technology of the modern world. The big challenge seems not in knowing how to live but getting pulled in more than one direction. And witnessing today is a very delicate matter because so many people associate Jesus with hell.

We have made a bad situation for ourselves in fighting internal fights at any cost we ended up showing the world an ugly side of us. Most people in America today associate the words Christian, Evangelical, Fundamental, Republican, and Conservative as the same thing. This is not just an oversimplification. Most people who are Christian in America today are conservative Republicans. We are known to others by many things but mostly in our opposition to abortion and accepting gay people as psychologically normal and fit for church leadership.

I am not for dodging anything in the Bible, but do we want to be known as the above if we had only a short time with someone? Maybe we need to change our focus onto something that is more essential to the faith and less needlessly offensive to the non-believers in this country. If we truly do have a limited time left as some believe and we all have little time because none of us live really long in the grand scheme of even human history, we need to prioritize.

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I think that maybe it would be good for the Church to actually tone down the intensity of the political involvement and the amount of media exposure they have. Do not get pulled into debates and do not sponsor candidates from any organization that uses one of the words I described above.

Instead, put our time and money in fighting the cultural battles in Europe, where most the ideas start. To be accepted within this circle we need to have good knowledge of the humanities which means studying world religions, world history, world philosophy, world literature and world arts.

The future of the Church is going to be in Africa and Europe is becoming a backwater economically. The reason why we forfeit these cultural wars is because we have so little presence in the academic world. Whenever we seem to get a foothold, we get so aggressive that we never build large scale networks in these institutions. This is more an American thing and a modern thing than a Christian thing.

America currently has essentially no philosophical schools that it created on its own, it has no interest in learning other languages on a large scale, and art has basically no place in the life of most Americans. We then let Hollywood and science fill the void. And we end up with what makes the most money with the least amount spent which means it is loaded with violence and sex.

So maybe we should think more about how monks live as an example than how politicians, sports figures, or celebrities live as examples of a life of faith and devotion. We could also learn more about our beliefs by picking up a non-fiction book rather than watching a Hollywood movie or play an online game.

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He has shown you, O man, what is good. What does Yahweh require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 WEB