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Making Sense  
of the World:

*The World of  
Worldviews*



➤ **What is the best life you can imagine for yourself?**

**THINK: what is your job if you have one?;**

**where would you live?;**

**what would you possess?;**

**married?;**

**children?; etc.**

➤ **What is the best life you can imagine for yourself?**

➤ **If you could trade places with anyone in the world, who would it be?**

**completely - you become them**



- 
- Identity
  - Meaning
  - Community



# Basic Truth #1

1. Everyone has a worldview

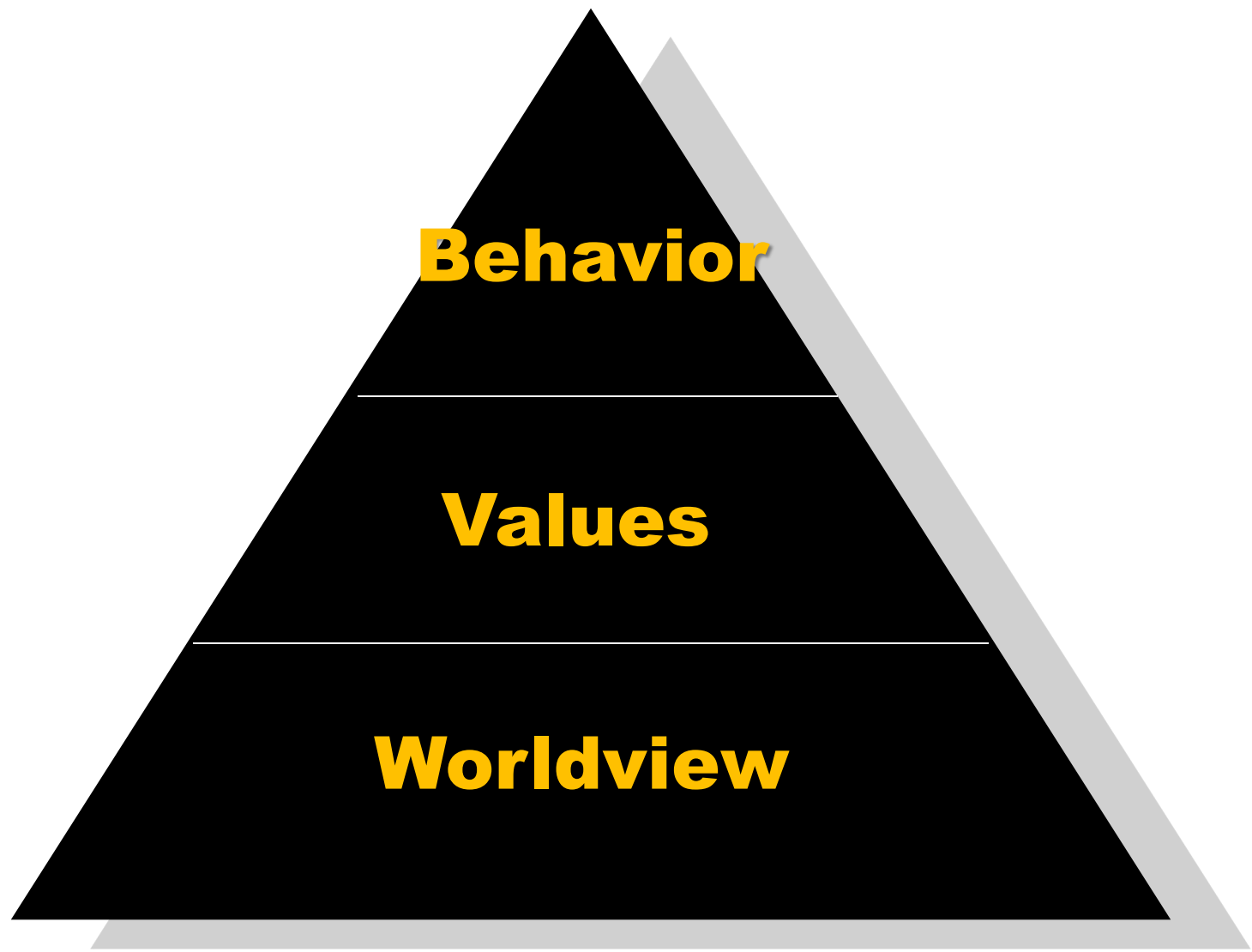


# Basic Truth #1

1. Everyone has a worldview

*Actually, a worldview has you.*

A worldview is first an *explanation* and *interpretation* of the world, and second, an *application* of this view to life.



**Behavior**

**Values**

**Worldview**

# Basic Truth #2

1. Everyone has a worldview
2. Your worldview is how you answer the ultimate questions of life

# *Ultimate Questions*

ORIGIN

MEANING

MORALITY

DESTINY

# *Ultimate Questions*

**ORIGIN:**        *Where did everything come from?*

**MEANING:**      *Why are we here?*

**MORALITY:**    *How should we live?*

**DESTINY:**      *Where is everything headed?  
(or, what happens when I die?)*



THEISM



Transcendentalism



NATURALISM





Ideas have consequences;  
Bad ideas have victims



# *Ultimate Questions*

**ORIGIN:**        *Where did everything come from?*

**MEANING:**     *Why are we here?*

**MORALITY:**   *How should we live?*

**DESTINY:**     *Where is everything headed?  
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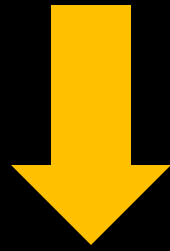
**Naturalism**



**Transcendentalism**

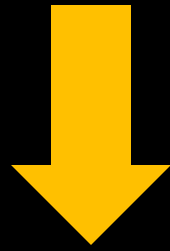
**Theism**

# Three Stories



*Three Worldviews*

# Story One



***There is no God,  
only the Universe***

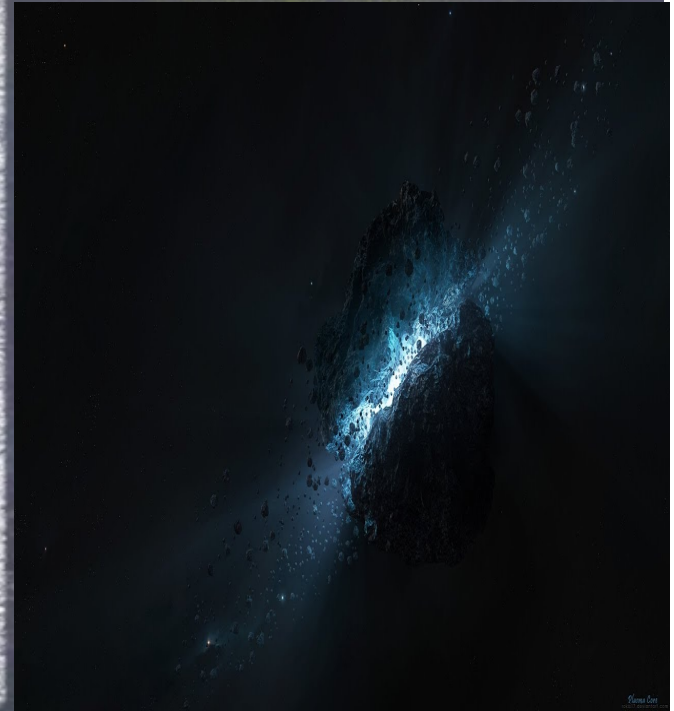
# Naturalism



**BIG BANG**



**EXPANSION**



**BIG FREEZE**

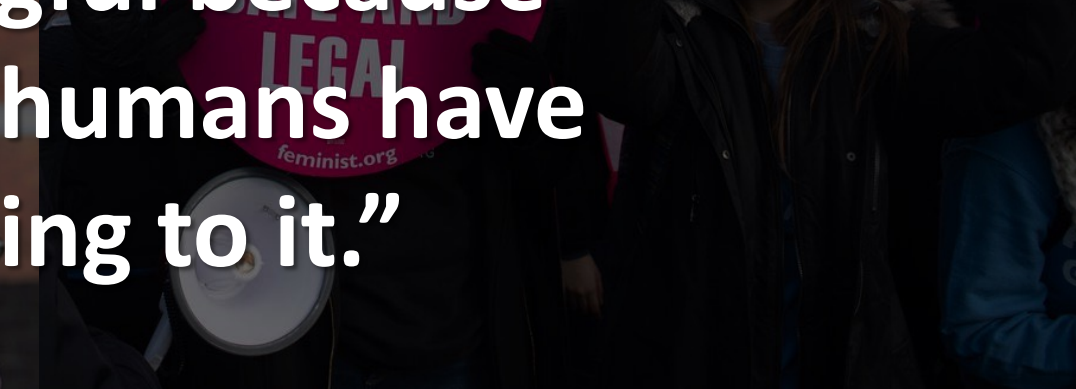
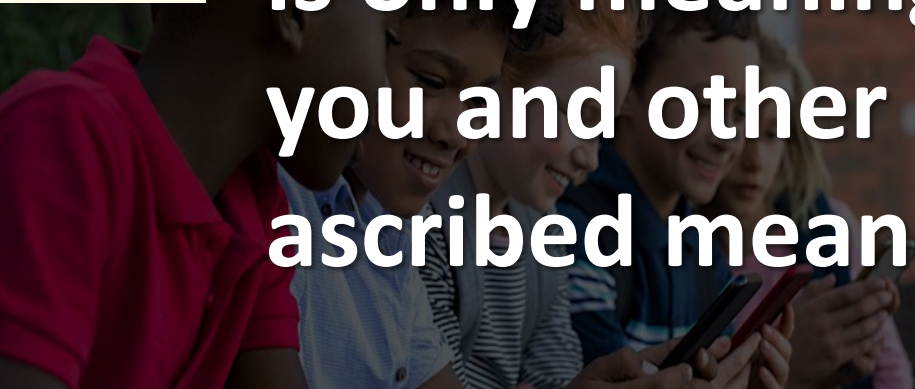
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR OF **SAPIENS**

Yuval Noah  
Harari



21 Lessons  
for the  
21<sup>st</sup> Century

“The neurons in our brain fire, which leads to our various decisions. The best bet as a human is to realize that you are just a collection of molecules and everything you think and do is only meaningful because you and other humans have ascribed meaning to it.”





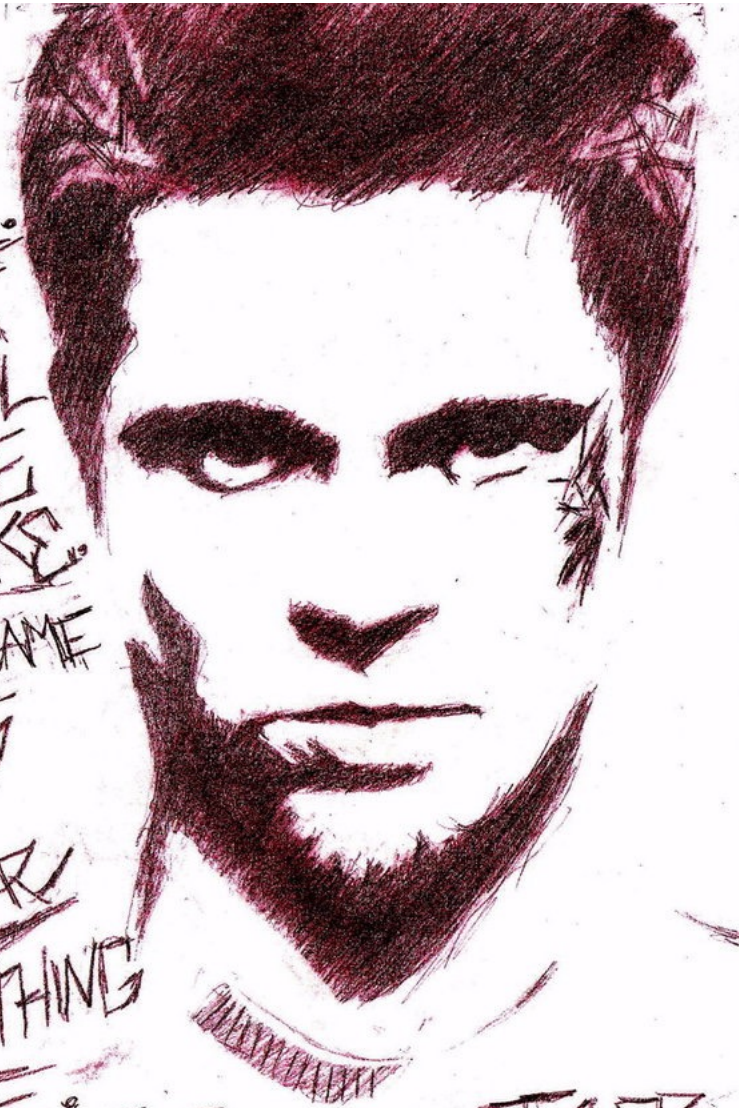
YOU ARE  
NOT  
SPECIAL.

YOU ARE NOT A  
BEAUTIFUL  
OR UNIQUE  
SNOWFLAKE.

YOU ARE THE SAME  
DECAYING  
ORGANIC  
MATTER  
AS EVERYTHING

ELSE.

WE ARE ALL PART  
OF THE SAME COMPOST  
HEAP.

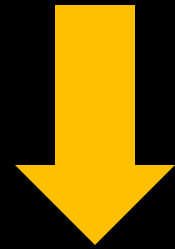


TYLER  
DURDEN

# Worldviews

Worldview	Origin	Meaning	Morality	Destiny
<b>Naturalism</b>	Natural means	?	Self-determined	Annihilation

# Story Two



***“God” is the Universe;  
The Universe is “God”***

# Transcendentalism



**“Brahma”**



**Creation of Physical Universe**



**“Brahma”**

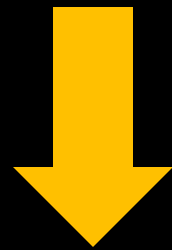
# Transcendentalism



# Worldviews

Worldview	Origin	Meaning	Morality	Destiny
Naturalism	Natural means	?	Self-determined	Annihilation
Transcendentalism	Derived from the "One"	Recognize "oneness"	Determined by unity/harmony	Rebirth; back to the "One"

# Story Three



***God created the  
Universe***

# Christian



CREATION



FALL



REDEMPTION



RESTORATION



# Christian



CREATION



FALL



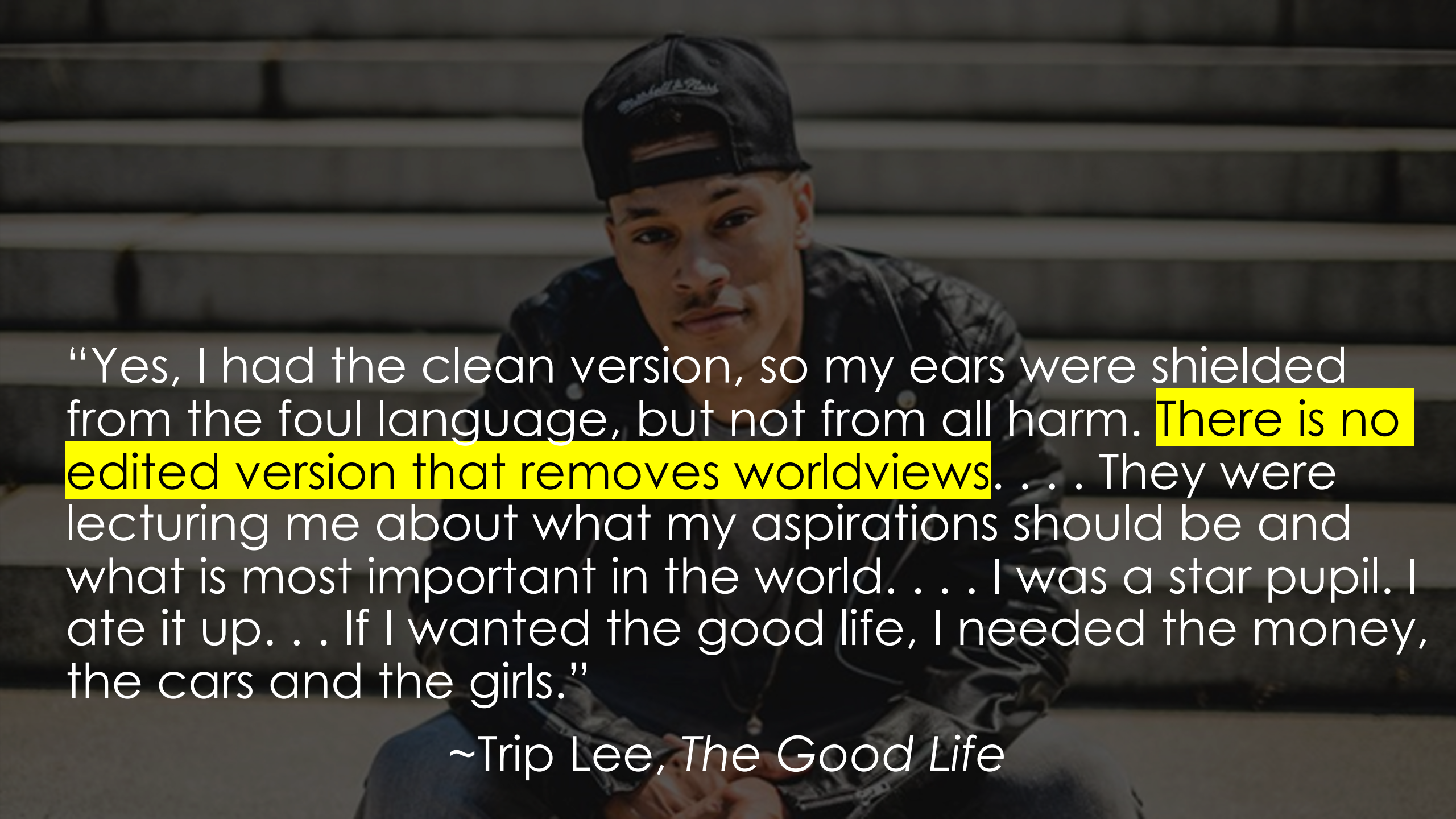
REDEMPTION



RESTORATION

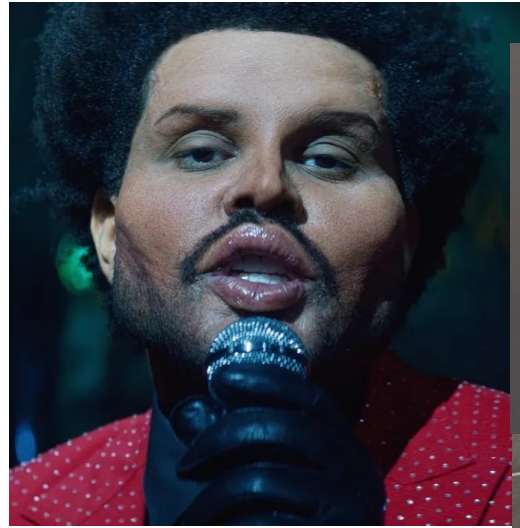
# Worldviews

Worldview	Origin	Meaning	Morality	Destiny
<b>Naturalism</b>	Natural means	?	Self-determined	Annihilation
<b>Transcendentalism</b>	Derived from the “One”	Recognize “oneness”	Determined by unity/harmony	Rebirth; back to the “One”
<b>Following Christ</b>	Created by God	Glorify/love God; love others	Determined by character/will of God	Determined by relationship with Christ

A young man with a serious expression is sitting on concrete steps. He is wearing a black baseball cap with a logo, a black leather jacket, and a dark shirt. The background is a blurred view of the steps and a wall.

“Yes, I had the clean version, so my ears were shielded from the foul language, but not from all harm. **There is no edited version that removes worldviews.** . . . They were lecturing me about what my aspirations should be and what is most important in the world. . . . I was a star pupil. I ate it up. . . If I wanted the good life, I needed the money, the cars and the girls.”

~Trip Lee, *The Good Life*





C O E X I S T

The image features the word "COEXIST" in a stylized, rainbow-colored font against a black background. Each letter is filled with a rainbow gradient (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) and contains a specific symbol: the 'C' has a crescent moon and a five-pointed star; the 'O' is a peace symbol; the 'E' is a female symbol; the 'X' is a Star of David; the 'I' is a yin-yang symbol; and the 'S' is a cross. The 'S' is notably larger than the other letters.

**IN THIS HOUSE, WE BELIEVE:**

BLACK LIVES MATTER

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL

**SCIENCE IS REAL**

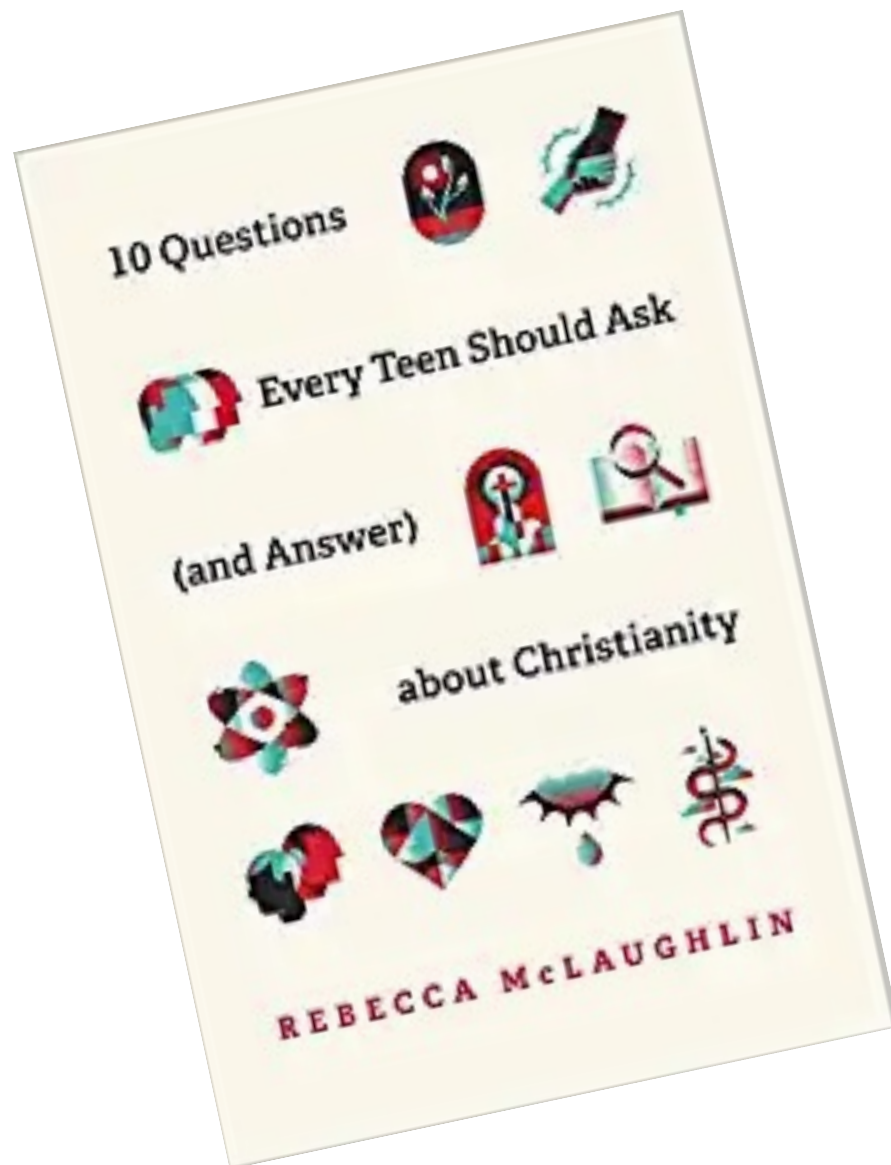
LOVE IS LOVE

**KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING**

A worldview is first an *explanation* and *interpretation* of the world, and second, an *application* of this view to life.



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**How Can I Live My Best Life Now?**

**Isn't Christianity against Diversity?**

**Can Jesus Be True for You but Not for Me?**

**Can't We Just Be Good without God?**

**How Can You Believe the Bible is True?**

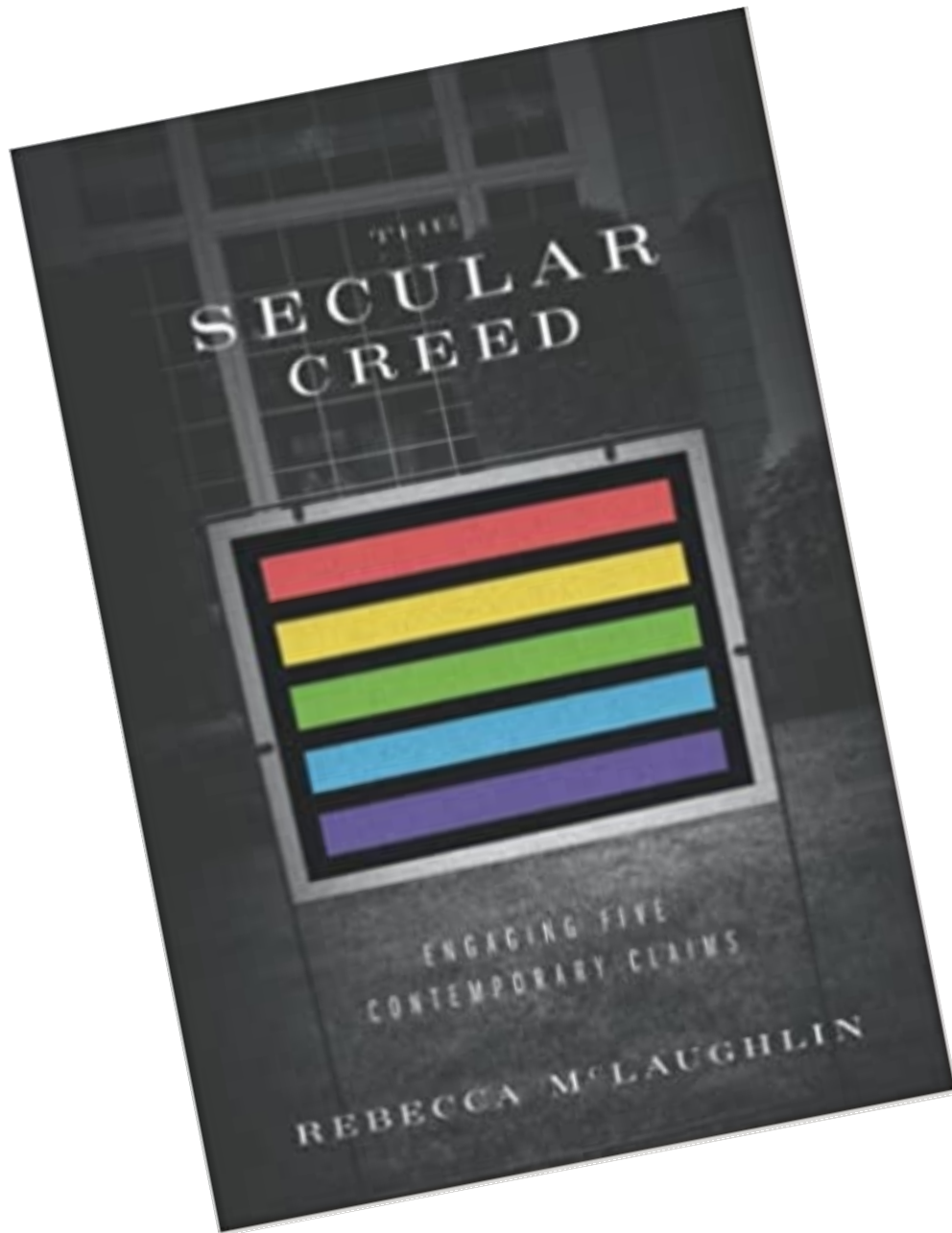
**Hasn't Science Disproved Christianity?**

**Why Can't We Just Agree The Love is Love?**

**Who Cares if You're a Boy or a Girl?**

**Does God Care When We Hurt?**

**How Can You Believe in Heaven and Hell?**



**“Black Lives Matter”**

**“Love is Love”**

**“The Gay Rights Movement is the  
New Civil Rights Movement”**

**“Women’s Rights are Human Rights”**

**“Transgendered Women are Women”**

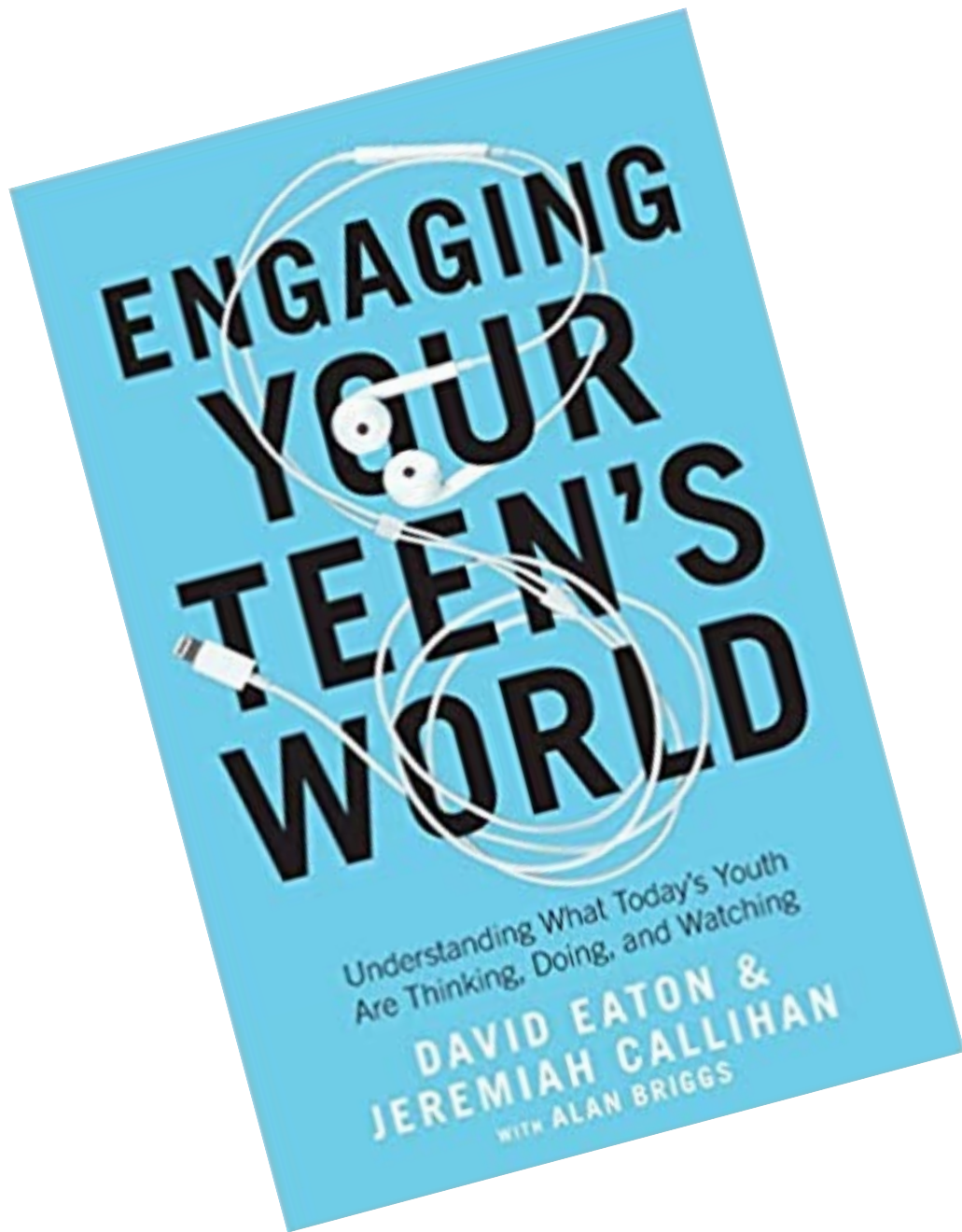


**Same-sex attraction**

**Same-sex relationship**

**Struggles with biblical teaching**

**Steps to following Christ**



**Why Engaging Your Teen's World Matters**

**How to Engage Your Teen**

**The New Sex Talk**

**Smartphones**

**Video Games**

**College**

**Depression and Anxiety**

**Drugs**

# Cultural Engagement: An Example

We are all  
seeking . . .

- **Identity**
- Meaning
- Community

We are all  
seeking . . .

- Identity

Who am I?



We are all  
seeking . . .

- Identity

Who am I?

What am I?



## **It's all about me . . .**

**“I had a crisis of faith. I thought you had to experience things if you want to know right from wrong. I’d go to Christian revivals and be moved by the Holy Spirit and I’d go to rock concerts and feel the same fervor. Then I’d be told, ‘That’s the Devil’s music! Don’t partake in that!’ I wanted to experience things religion said not to experience. . . When I got untethered from the comfort of religion, it wasn’t a loss of faith for me, it was a discovery of self. I had faith that I’m capable enough to handle any situation.”**

**~ Brad Pitt**

# The Image of God

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness. . .

So, God created humankind in his own image,

in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

(Gen. 1:26-27)



Every Person  
is made  
in God's  
Image

# What is the “Image of God?”

It is NOT what we DO-

It is what we ARE.

**We are created BY Him and FOR Him.**

# What is the “Image of God?”

God’s creative work gave us qualities separating us from the animals.

God created us with physical, intellectual, and spiritual capabilities to relate to Him.

We can create, communicate, steward, and rule over creation

# The “Image of God”- what does it mean?

- Every person is made in the Image of God

For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful,

I know that full well.



Your eyes saw my unformed body;

all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them,

they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.

Psalm 139:13-18

# The “Image of God”- what does it mean?

- Every person is made in the Image of God
  - Every person belongs to God

# The “Image of God”- what does it mean?

- Every person is made in the Image of God
  - Every person belongs to God
  - Every person has God-given value



# The Image of God in the Scriptures

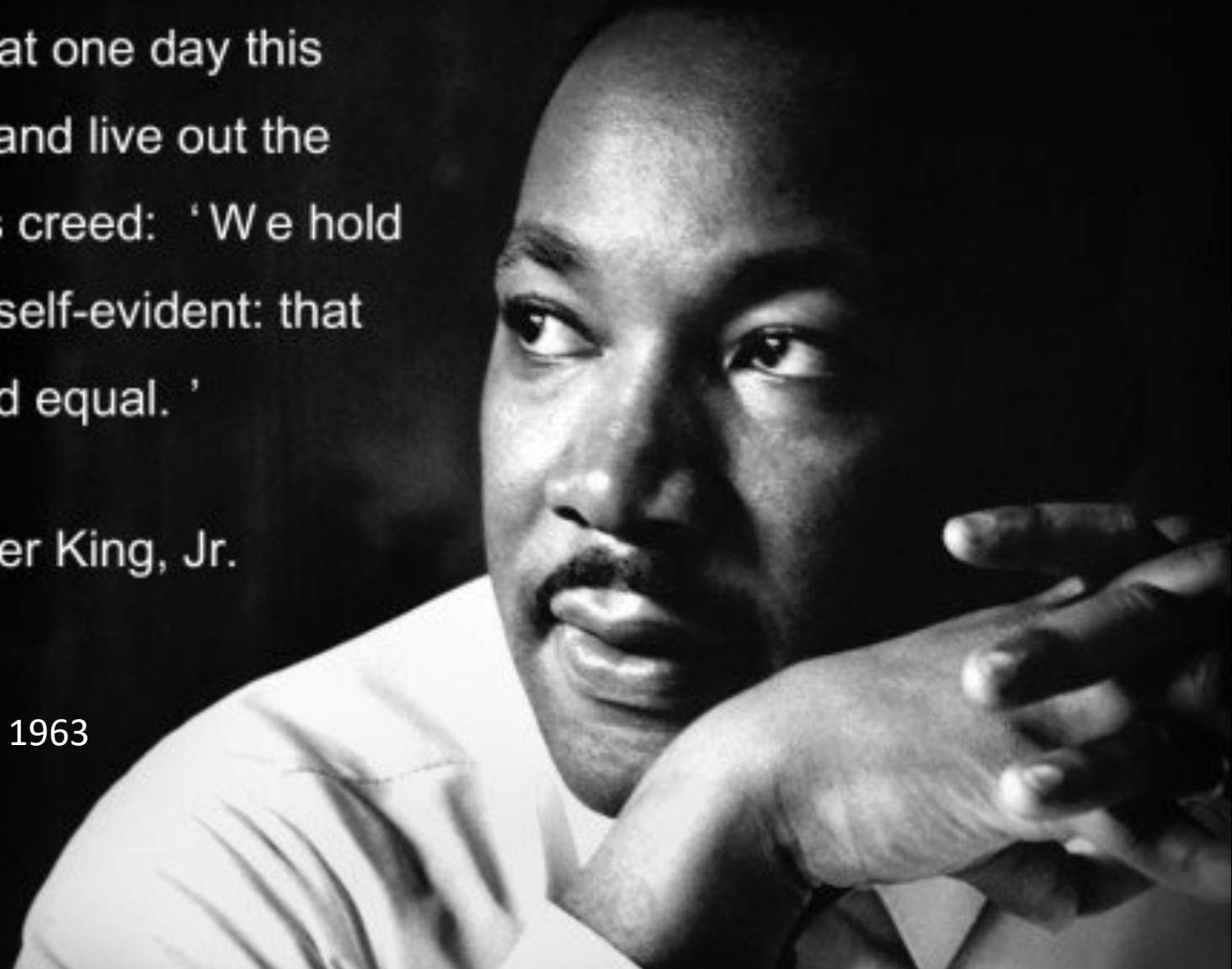
With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

James 3:9-10

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'

Martin Luther King, Jr.

August 28, 1963



There are no ordinary people. You have never met a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.



# The “Image of God”- Cultural Flashpoints?



# The “Image of God”- Cultural Flashpoints?

- **Personal Identity**

Who am I? What am I?

# *The Challenges: Culture Identity*

- \*We are identity-obsessed with no substantive core beliefs for purpose and meaning in culture.**
- \*The inherent search for self-identity is not met by asking, “Who are you?” but, “What are you?”**
- \*At this cultural moment, the two prominent sources for self-identity are sexuality/gender and race.**

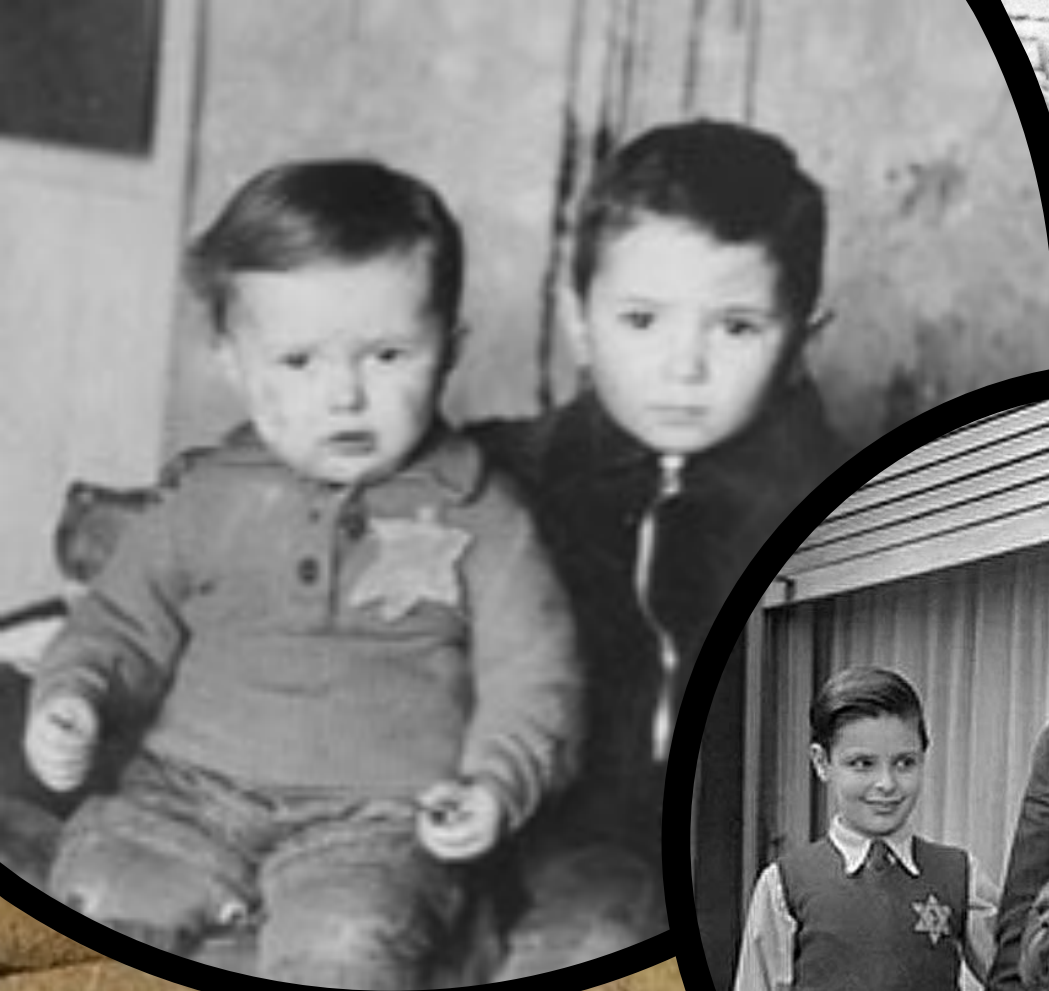
"The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become - because he made us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be. It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own."

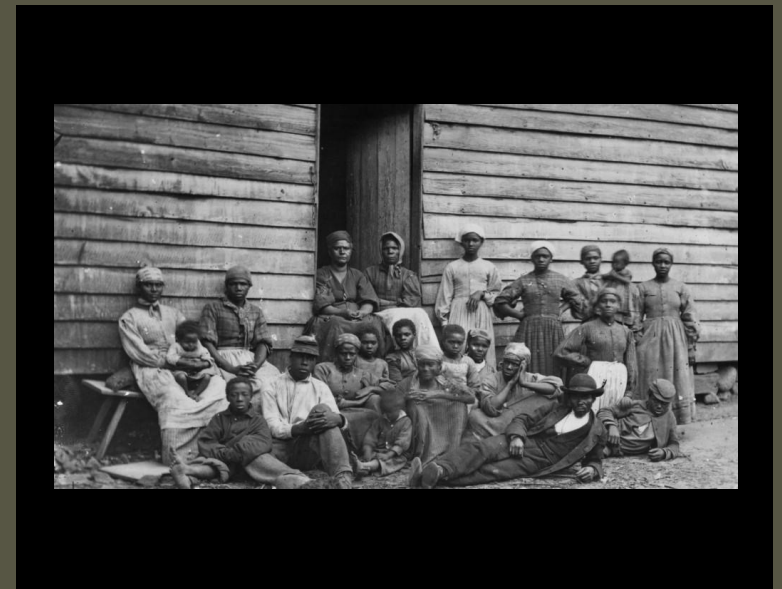
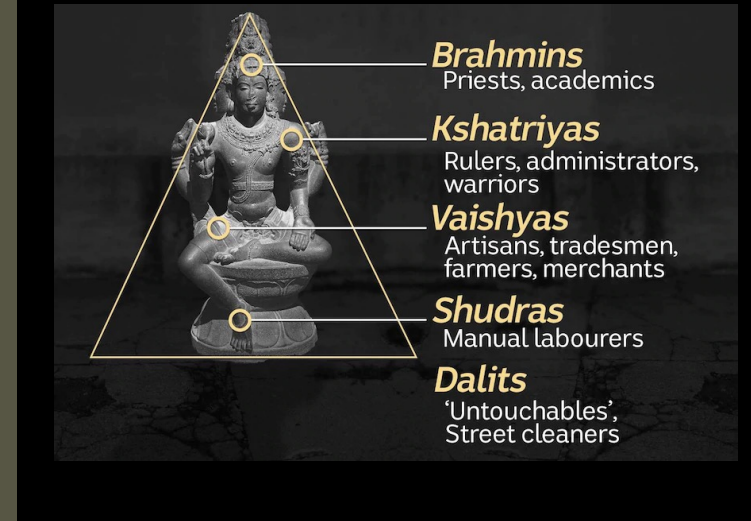
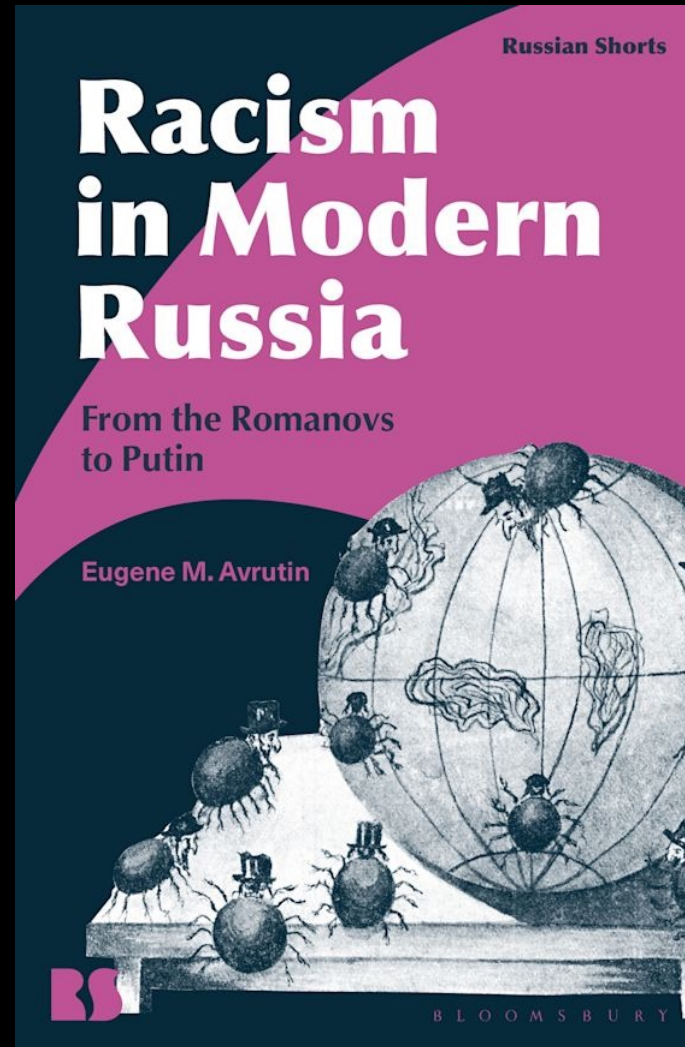
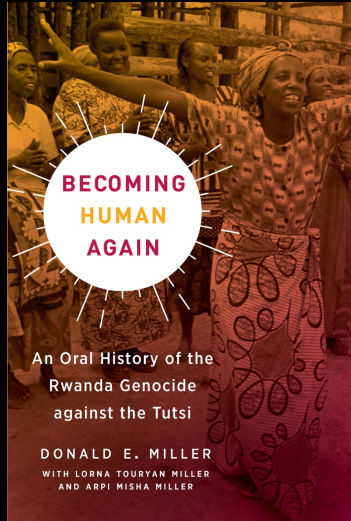


# The “Image of God”- Cultural Flashpoints?

- Personal Identity
- **Personal Equality and Value**

Gender, Social, and Cultural





# The “Image of God”- Cultural Flashpoints?

- Personal Identity
- Personal Equality and Value
- **Personal Life Issues**  
Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia

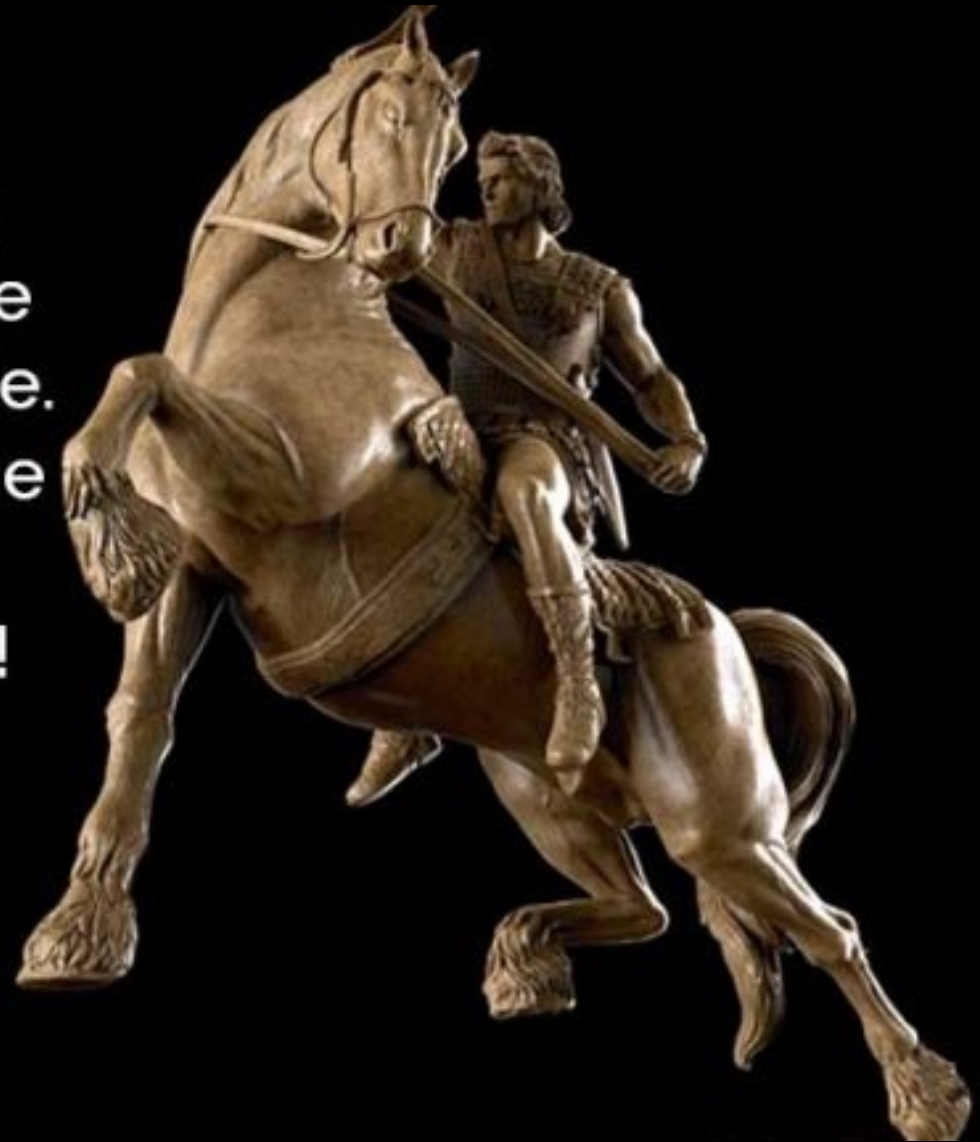
We are all  
seeking . . .

- Identity
- Meaning
- Community



**In growing numbers, youth today believe that life has no meaning or purpose, and their own life is meaningless.**

When my casket is being carried to the grave, leave my hands hanging outside. For empty-handed, I came into this world and empty-handed, I shall go! My whole life has been a hallow waste, a futile exercise, for no one at death can take anything with them!



~Alexander the Great

We are all  
seeking . . .

- Identity
- Meaning
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**Most youth develop significant  
“community” on social media**

# What is Social Media?

- Social Networking
- Photo Sharing
- Video Sharing
- Interactive Media
- Blogging/Community Building

# What is Social Media?





# Social Media – The Positives

A horizontal word cloud with various terms in different colors and sizes. The words include: including, infinite, art, direct, Brand, sources, help, blogs, transform, tweets, reviews, individuals, and Internet.

- Social Media can be a means for doing good
- Social Media can strengthen friendships
- Social Media can reduce feelings of isolation
- Social Media can allow for self-expression

A horizontal word cloud with various terms in different colors and sizes. The words include: generally, producers, include, aggregation, issues, consumer-generated, government, used, tools, mobile, Business, build, others, million, compared, time, typically, means, communities, like, physical, publish, enable, global, However, forms, and page.



# Social Media – The Negatives

- Inadequacy about your life or appearance
- FOMO
- Isolation
- Depression and anxiety
- Cyberbullying
- Self-absorption

dev  
desc  
thread  
U.S  
news  
small  
created  
research  
cor  
nov  
edit  
exa

issues government used mobile Business tools build others million forms

# Key Truths to Remember . . .

- . . . the platform is amoral (neither good nor evil)
- . . . what you read or communicate is either good or evil
- . . . whatever you post about yourself or anyone else is never lost
- . . . the internet sites you visit will always follow you

# Basic Truth #3

1. Everyone has a worldview
2. Your worldview is how you answer the ultimate questions of life
3. Your worldview is seen in how you live your life.



David Foster Wallace

Here's something else that's weird but true:  
in the day-to-day trenches of life, there is  
actually no such thing as atheism. There is  
no such thing as not worshipping.  
Everybody worships. The only choice we  
get is what to worship.

If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth. . .

Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure, and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you.

Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear.

Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.

But the insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they're evil or sinful, it's that they're unconscious. They are default settings.



David Foster Wallace

**The BEST question to ask  
if you want to know  
someone's worldview?**



> **What is the best life you can imagine for yourself?**

**> What is the best life you can imagine for yourself?**

**THINK: what is your job if you have one?;**

**where would you live?;**

**what would you possess?;**

**married?;**

**children?; etc.**

➤ **What is the best life you can imagine for yourself?**

➤ **If you could trade places with anyone in the world, who would it be?**

**completely - you become them**

- **What is the best life you can imagine for yourself?**
- **If you could trade places with anyone in the world, who would it be?**

**completely - you become them**

**Why do you think you answered these questions as you did?**

What the **heart** loves, the **will**  
chooses, and the **mind** justifies.

What the **heart** loves, the **will**  
chooses, and the **mind** justifies  
. . . The **mind** is actually captive to  
what the **will** wants, and the will itself  
is captive to what the **heart** wants.

~Thomas Cramner



ALEXANDER THE GREAT



**“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’  
and do not do what I say?”**

**Luke 6:46**





# Making Sense of the World: *The World of Worldviews*

