

Redeeming Leadership Today

Week 3: Morality

Raymond Chiu • NYCBC Sunday School • June 18, 2023

For class materials go to bit.ly/nycbc-redeeming



Agenda

- Introduction: Recap and questions
- Youth: The morals we grow up with
- Personal: Why our morals matter
- Global: Moral foundations theory
- Biblical: Is Jesus individualist or collectivist?
- Church: When the church has conflict
- Applied: Passions that war within us



Introduction



What we've covered so far

- “In a world where fallen image-bearers of God fight for safety and dominance, our anxieties about life in the world induce within us traditional views about purifying and protecting our own people, and these priorities appear to be addressed by leaders who fit the strong-man image. As demonstrated by biblical history, these innate fears, moral intuitions, and impressions—which are based on imperfect information—pose a serious challenge to our humanity and faith, leading us to idolize tyranny in our societies and churches. Yet we are blessed with a hopeful portrait of leadership through Jesus Christ that transforms our understanding of both leadership and followership and redeems our moral character, interpersonal relationships, and church governance.”

red – preference for tyranny

purple – traditional morality

green – fear of external threats



Recap of Weeks 1 and 2



The image is a screenshot of a BBC News article. At the top, the BBC logo is visible on the left, and navigation links for Home, News, Sport, Reel, Worklife, Travel, and Future are on the right. Below the logo is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner is a secondary navigation bar with links for Home, War in Ukraine, Climate, Video, World, US & Canada, UK, Business, Tech, and Science. Below this is a third navigation bar with links for Asia, China, and India. A grey bar with the word 'ADVERTISEMENT' is positioned below the navigation. The main headline of the article is 'North Korea: Residents tell BBC of neighbours starving to death', with a sub-headline '3 days ago' and a red share icon. Below the text is a photograph of two hands holding a white bowl, set against a background of barbed wire and a North Korean flag. At the bottom left, the author's name 'By Jean Mackenzie' and title 'Seoul correspondent' are listed.

NEWS

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North Korea: Residents tell BBC of neighbours starving to death

3 days ago



By Jean Mackenzie
Seoul correspondent

- Week 1
 - the challenge of authoritarianism
 - how leaders emerge to meet our needs
- Week 2
 - role of processing limited information
 - leader prototypes including tyranny

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-65881803>

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Recap of the path so far



The New York Times

9 Comments

Let He Who Is Without Yeezys Cast the First Stone

Should pastors wear \$5,000 sneakers? There's been soul-searching recently over materialism in houses of worship.

Give this article 673



Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX



The Rev. John Gray was included on an Instagram account showing well-known pastors in expensive footwear. "I don't think you can judge a man's heart based on their attire," he said. Rick Diamond/Getty Images

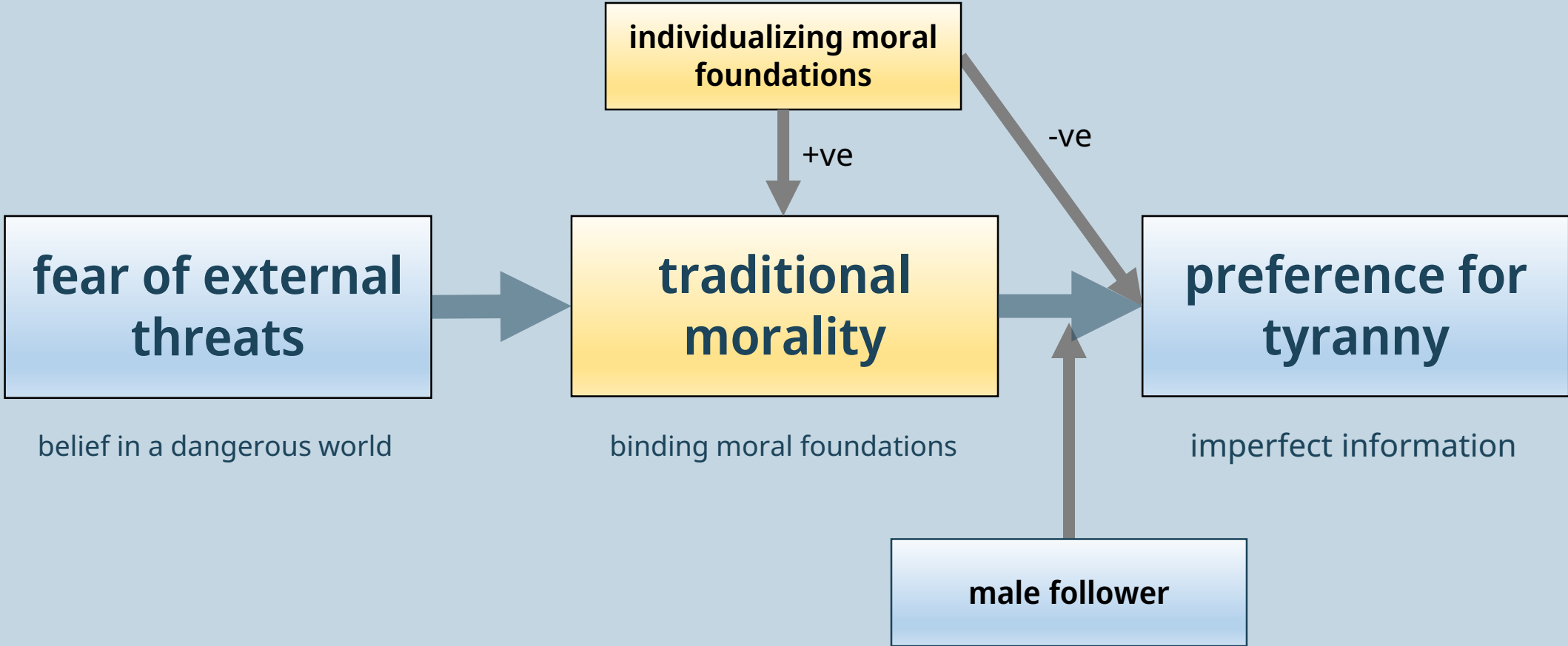
- One step does not necessitate the next
 1. Leaders are a product of our needs and wants, including yearning for kingship
 2. We judge leaders imperfectly due to limited information and distance
 3. We draw from traits that appear to signal effective leadership: for tyranny, domineering, pushy, manipulative, loud, conceited, selfish
 4. Acceptance of tyrannical traits perpetuate support for authoritarian rule
- The solution is a redemptive lens on creation

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/17/nyregion/preachers-sneakers-instagram-account.html>;

<https://julieroys.com/sbc-affiliated-seminary-accuses-former-president-of-excess-spending-1-5-million-on-home-renovations/>



Stepping through the model



Mirowska, Agata, Raymond B. Chiu, and Rick D. Hackett. "The Allure of Tyrannical Leaders: Moral Foundations, Belief in a Dangerous World, and Follower Gender." *Journal of Business Ethics* 181, no. 2 (2022): 355-374.



Redemptively respecting leaders

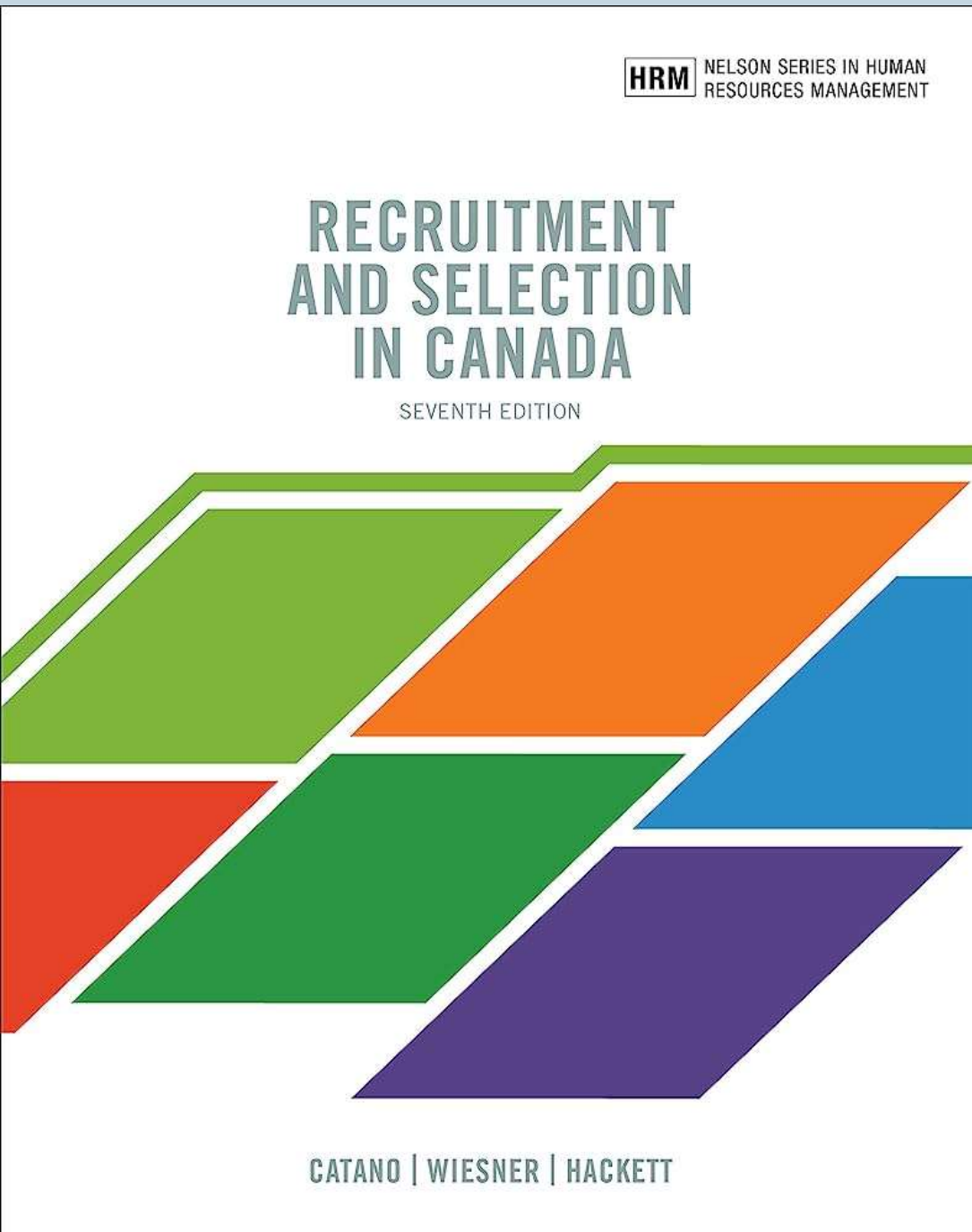
- How can we respect leaders?
- Seeing leaders in a different light
 - We understand and appreciate leaders more clearly
 - We see an opportunity to come alongside leaders
- Being honest and proactive about the future
 - Public exposure must be accepted and dealt with
 - Unprecedented opportunity for re-examination
- Support and pray for our leaders!
 - ⁶ Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. (Galatians 6:6)



[https://julieroys.com/3625-2/;](https://julieroys.com/3625-2/)
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/podcasts/rise-and-fall-of-mars-hill/mars-hill-mark-driscoll-podcast-things-we-do-women.html>



Redemptively selecting leaders



- How do we select leaders?
- Clarify the criteria you are aiming for
 - Knowledge: biblical? philosophical? topical?
 - Skills: shepherding? helping? administrative?
 - Abilities: relational? emotional? verbal?
 - Other: character? maturity? commitment?
- Use the best evidence-based method
- More on selecting and supporting leaders in Weeks 5 and 6

<https://retail.tophat.com/products/93980>

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Redemptively seeing God's authority



- Is God authoritarian?
- Suffering and death are part of mortality—how much prerogative does God have?
- What is the role and nature of His authority? Coercive? Capricious? Critical?
- How is His authority dispensed over time and space? Is it pervasive and frequent?
- What is His response to everyday faults and failings, e.g., through the sacrificial system?

<https://garystockbridge617.getarchive.net/media/peter-paul-rubens-the-last-judgement-wga20225-1bb0d3>



Redemptively seeing gender bias



- Does gender bias mean we should be egalitarian?
- How we see gender categories can inform our understanding and application of complementarianism

<https://jenikirbyhistory.getarchive.net/amp/media/think-of-her-as-your-mother-552500>



The morals we grow up with

Youth perspective





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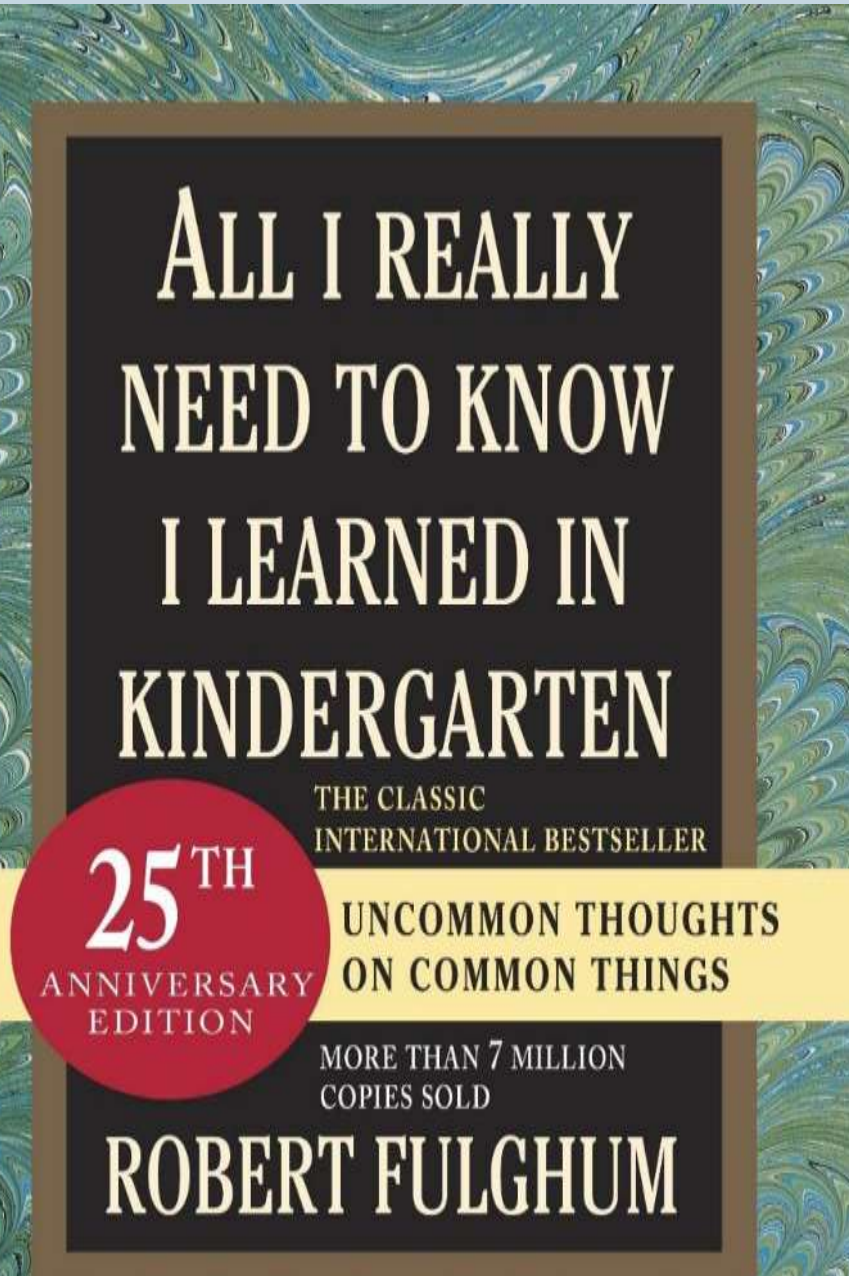
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The morals we grow up with (poll)

- In groups, share a moral issue or incident that has always been concerning to you since you were young (small or big ones are fine).
- When time is up, use a few words to describe your moral issue/incident in the poll under one of the two categories. (Read them first!)

<https://www.robertleefulghum.com/books/>



Why our morals matter

Personal perspective





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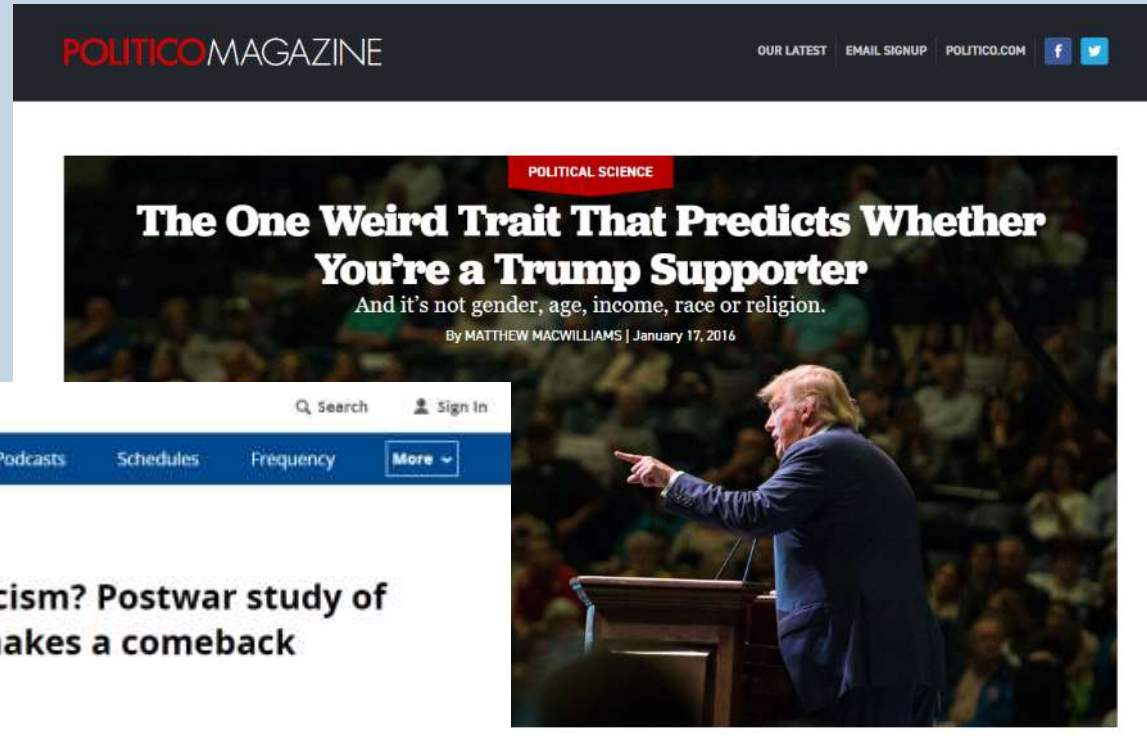
How do you rate on the F-scale? (poll)

- Answer in the poll. Is it more important to have a child who is:
 - respectful or independent?
 - obedient or self-reliant?
 - well-behaved or considerate?
 - well-mannered or curious?

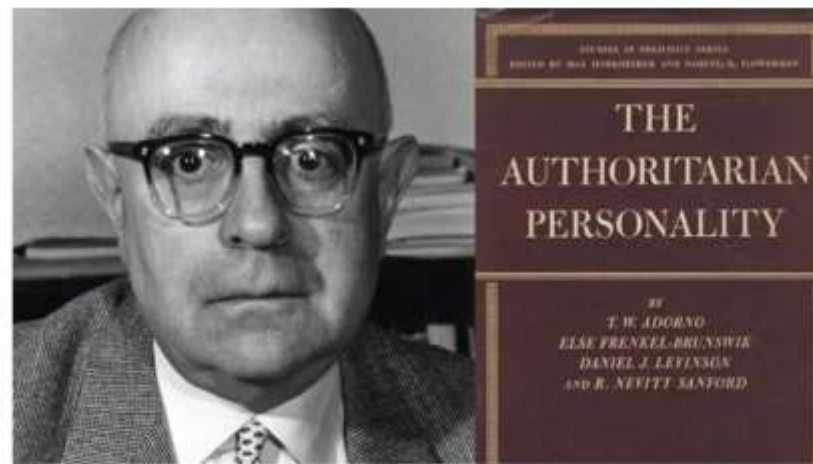
<https://www.adornostudies.org/>;
<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/01/donald-trump-2016-authoritarian-213533/>



Why our morals matter



- Choosing the first over the second indicates that you are “authoritarian” in terms of your beliefs and values
- In the U.S., this is the single most statistically significant variable that predicts whether some supports Trump, more than race, income, or education levels



<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/01/donald-trump-2016-authoritarian-213533/>;
<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/who-s-drawn-to-fascism-postwar-study-of-authoritarianism-makes-a-comeback-1.6403074>



Moral foundations theory

Global perspective



Jonathan Haidt

- A leading social psychologist and public intellectual
- Author of *The Righteous Mind*
- Promoter of viewpoint diversity and appreciation of religion
- Co-founder of the Heterodox Academy
- Main researcher behind moral foundations theory

<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/the-righteous-mind-9780141039169/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/05/social-media-democracy-trust-babel/629369/>

<https://heterodoxacademy.org/>

heterodox academy

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Great Minds *Don't* Always Think Alike

The Atlantic

May 2022 Issue

THE RIGHTEOUS MIND

WHY GOOD PEOPLE ARE DIVIDED BY POLITICS AND RELIGION

JONATHAN HAIDT

'A landmark contribution to humanity's understanding of itself' THE NEW YORK TIMES

WHY THE PAST 10 YEARS OF AMERICAN LIFE HAVE BEEN UNIQUELY STUPID

It's not just a phase.

By Jonathan Haidt

Illustrations by Nicolás Ortega

Illustration by Nicolás Ortega. Source: "Turrus Babel," Comraet Decker, 1679.



Moral foundations theory

TED Ideas worth spreading

WATCH DISCOVER ATTEND PAR



The moral roots of liberals and conservatives

4,360,444 views | Jonathan Haidt • TED2008

- The moral roots of liberals and conservatives (3:38-14:56)
 - https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_the_moral_roots_of_liberals_and_conservatives

<https://moralfoundations.org/>

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What are your moral foundations? (survey)

Rate these statements in the survey.

1. Compassion for those who are suffering is the most crucial virtue.
2. Justice is the most important requirement for a society.
3. Respect for authority is something all children need to learn.
4. People should be loyal to their family members, even when they have done something wrong.
5. I would call some acts wrong on the grounds that they are unnatural.
 - Strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat agree, strongly agree



The five moral foundations

- Individualizing foundations
 - focused on autonomy or individualism
- 1) Care: related to our ability to feel (and dislike) the pain of others; underlies virtues of kindness, gentleness
- 2) Fairness: related to reciprocal altruism; generates ideas of justice, rights, and autonomy

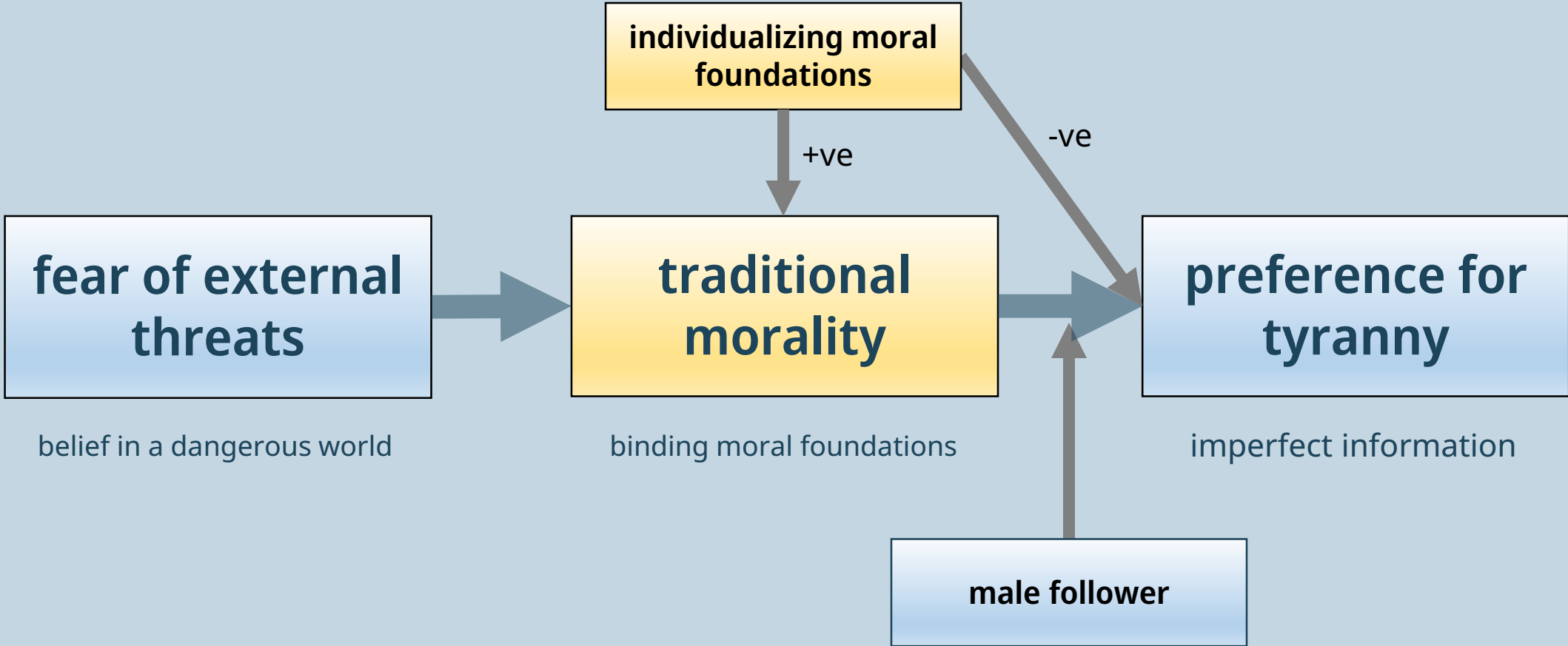


The five moral foundations

- **Binding foundations**
 - focused on tradition or collectivism
- 3) Loyalty: related to our long history as tribal creatures able to form shifting coalitions; underlies virtues of patriotism and self-sacrifice for the group
- 4) Authority: shaped by history of hierarchical social interactions; underlies deference to legitimate authority and respect for traditions
- 5) Sanctity: shaped by the psychology of disgust and contamination; underlies **religious notions** of striving to live in an **elevated, less carnal, more noble way**; underlies the widespread idea that the **body is a temple** which can be desecrated by **immoral activities and contaminants**



Stepping through the model



Mirowska, Agata, Raymond B. Chiu, and Rick D. Hackett. "The Allure of Tyrannical Leaders: Moral Foundations, Belief in a Dangerous World, and Follower Gender." *Journal of Business Ethics* 181, no. 2 (2022): 355-374.



How traditional morality leads to tyranny

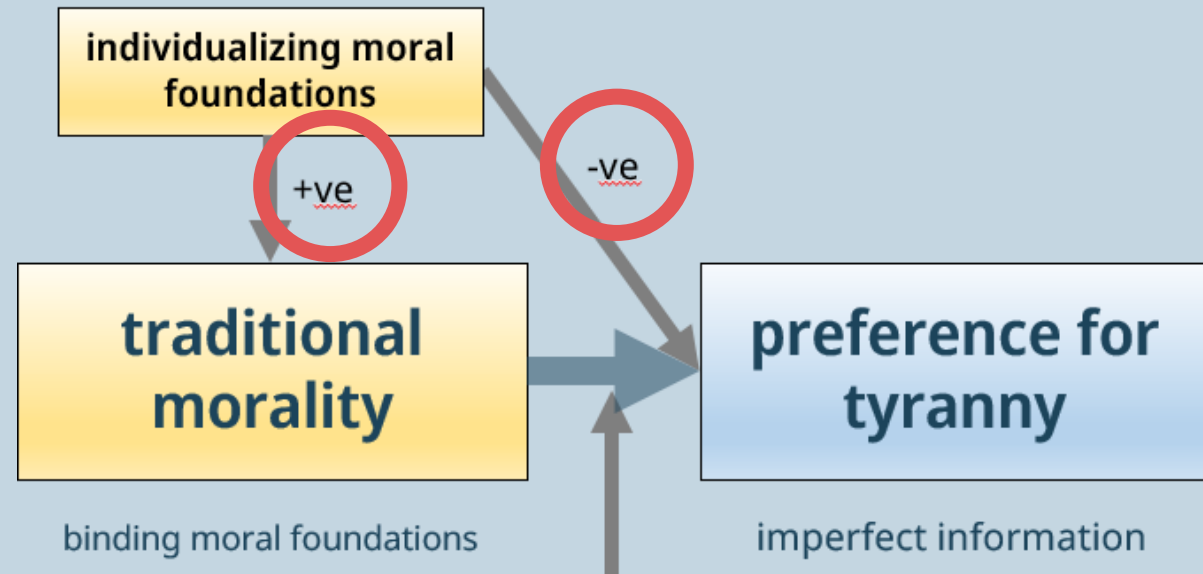


- Binding foundations are about the ties people have to groups and their protection and purity
- High-binding people see a tyrannical leader as useful for preserving the social order and suppressing subversion
- He will supposedly do whatever it takes to win and not back down

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/05/a-match-made-in-heaven/521409/>; Mirowska, Agata, Raymond B. Chiu, and Rick D. Hackett. "The Allure of Tyrannical Leaders: Moral Foundations, Belief in a Dangerous World, and Follower Gender." *Journal of Business Ethics* 181, no. 2 (2022): 355-374.



How traditional morality leads to tyranny



- Institutionalized religion is closely aligned with binding foundations
- Both liberals and conservatives value individualizing foundations
- Conservatives express them through the binding foundations
- This is also true in the model if you can see the unique effect



Moral foundations and Christianity

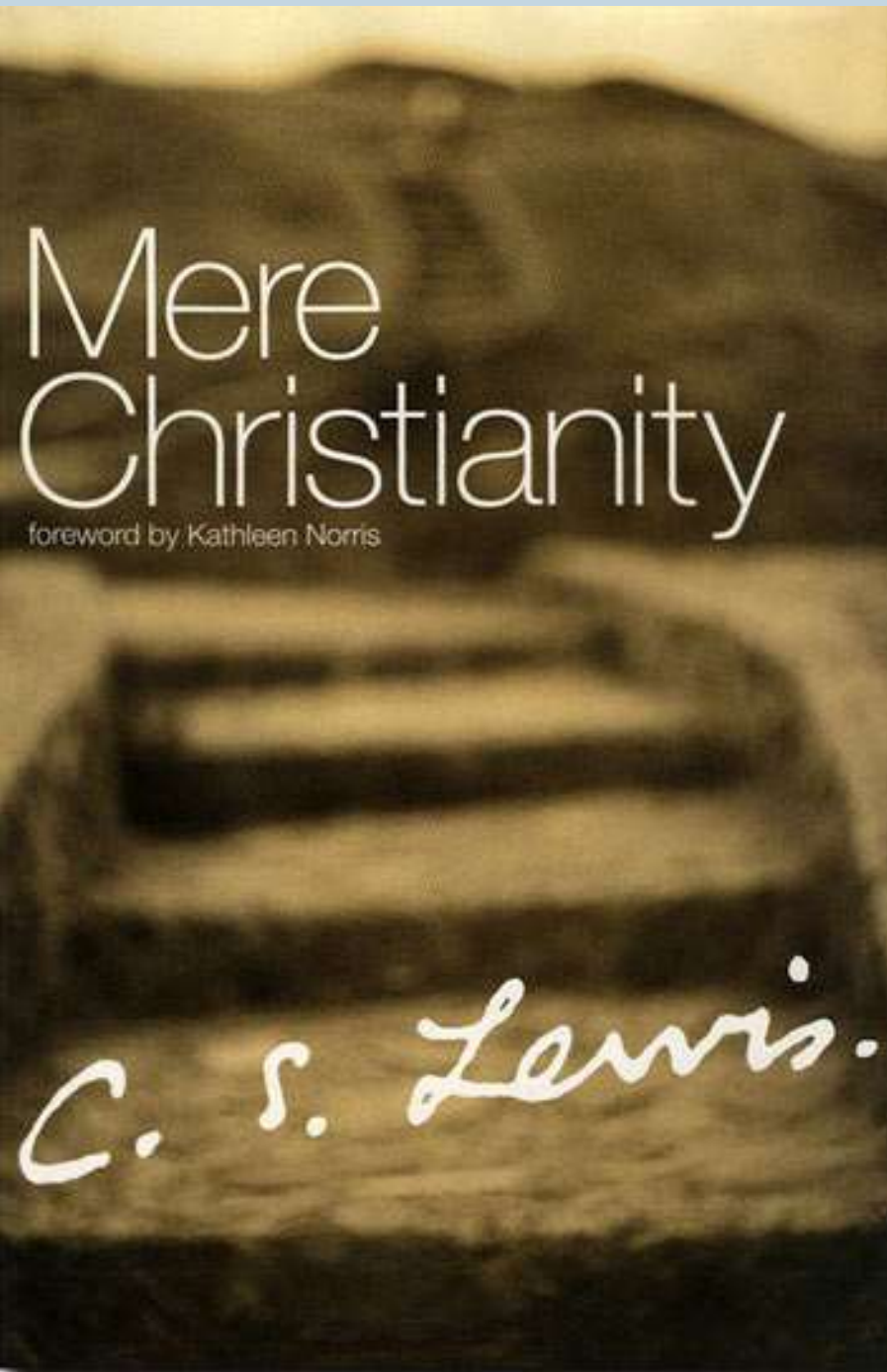


- “Our moral triggers are tripped every day as we navigate life with others. Have you ever had someone step in front of you in line? Or been cut off in traffic? Life becomes unlivable (sic) without the ability to recognize boundaries between what is good for our common life and what is not, between what is right and what is wrong.”

Bailey, Justin Ariel. *Interpreting Your World: Five Lenses for Engaging Theology and Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2022.



Moral foundations and Christianity



- Similarities
 - Breadth and depth in moral wisdom are part of the biblical witness
 - Sanctity or purity is recognized as an important moral intuition that is most tied to religion
- Differences
 - Morality is something universal yet independent from humanity (Lewis)
 - Formation of the moral mind is not merely evolutionary, it is made in the image of God
 - The Bible illuminates the effects of the fall the nature of moral maturity and character

Lewis, Clive Staples. *Mere Christianity*. C.S. Lewis Pte., 1952.



Is Jesus individualist or collectivist?

Biblical perspective





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Is Jesus individualist or collectivist? (poll)



- Answer in the poll whether Jesus is individualist or collectivist and explain why.

Robbins, Joel. "Dumont's Hierarchical Dynamism: Christianity and Individualism Revisited." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 5, no. 1 (2015): 173-195;
<https://freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-jesus-disciples/>



When the church has conflict

Church perspective



When the church has conflict

In groups, take one issue and discuss with your neighbours how desires for individualizing or binding foundations are manifest on either side.

Youth issues

- Obeying parents' choices for you
- Watching R-rated movies or shows
- Wearing revealing clothing
- Dating casually before courtship
- Consuming cannabis or alcohol
- Wearing tattoos and piercings

Church issues

- Requiring the sharing of possessions
- Requiring members to report sins
- Requiring abused spouses to stay
- Promoting marriage and childbearing
- Hiring women as junior pastoral staff
- Welcoming saved pedophiles to church



Passions that war within us

Applied perspective



Passions that war within us

THE PEACE MAKING PASTOR

A Biblical Guide to
Resolving Church Conflict



ALFRED POIRIER

- “But James says conflict starts not with him or her, but with us—with me.”
- “There is yet another important dynamic of desires to consider. We need to know how they can deceive us even when they are *good* desires.”
- “They turn bad when we start ‘serving’ them—when we treat them as *gods* and they rule over us.”
- “The evil is not in what we want but wanting it too much.”

Poirier, Alfred. *The Peacemaking Pastor: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Church Conflict*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006.



Passions that war within us

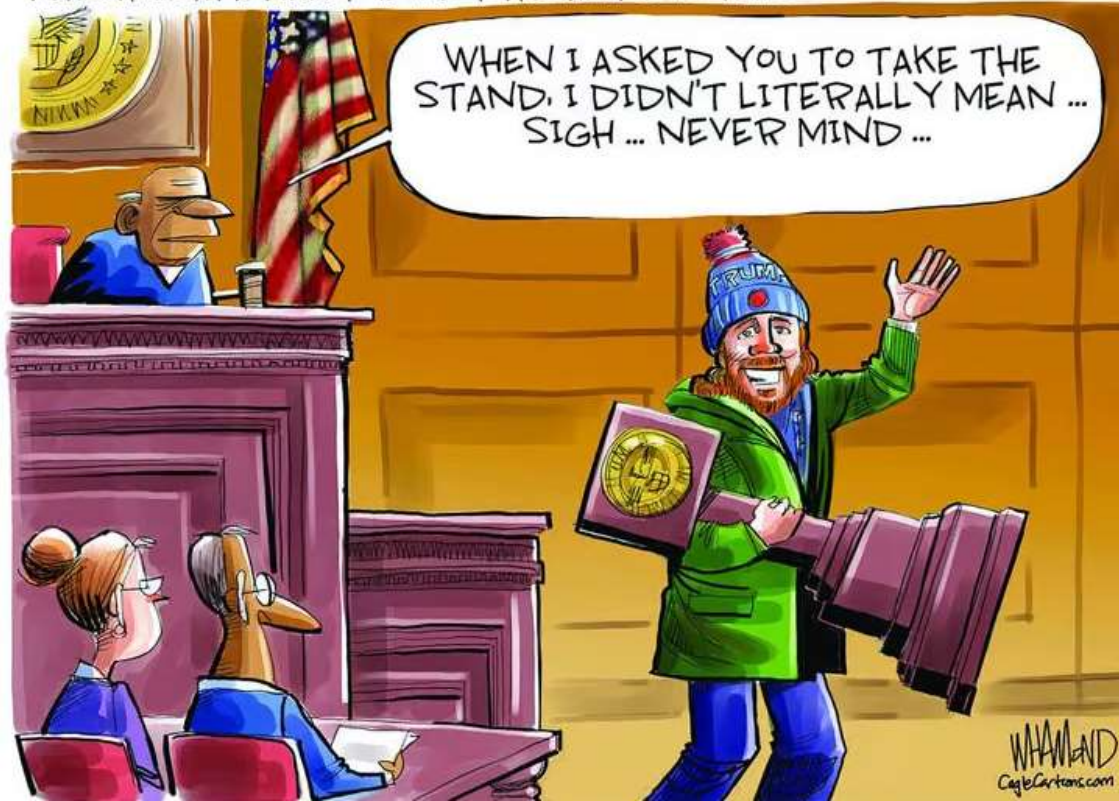
CHURCH LIFE | NEWS

Raymond B. Chiu • August 24, 2022 • 1 Comment

PASSIONS THAT WAR WITHIN US

Understanding the appeal of tyranny in our communities and churches.

MEANWHILE, AT A TRIAL FOR ONE OF THE CAPITOL RIOTERS:



- “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.” (James 4:1-2a)

<https://www.christiancourier.ca/passions-that-war-within-us/>

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Passions that war within us



- When we understand the power of our moral intuitions
 - we can begin to let the Spirit shape their tendencies
 - we can use them wisely, for redeeming creation
 - or we can use them unwisely, for tyrannizing others
- Christ will save the world from whatever we fear
 - not the power of Man or religion

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2022/september-web-only/christian-nationalism-cannot-save-world-politics-elections.html>;
<https://julieroys.com/leaked-letter-moore-sex-abuse-race-not-trump/>

bit.ly/nycbc-redeeming

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Coming up

- Week 1: Leadership | Why Everything Old Is New Again
- Week 2: Information | When Leadership Is All in Our Heads
- Week 3: Morality | How Our Deepest Convictions Drive Us
- Week 4: Fear | Why a Terrible World Is Reshaping Us
 - The COVID-19 pandemic has irreversibly changed how we approach life--could other anxieties about the world also affect the morals and leaders we endorse? We reflect on the most basic human response to life's frailties and biblical warnings about its power.
- Week 5: Tyranny | When the Strongman Captures Your Heart
- Week 6: Redemption | How Our View of Leadership Is Renewed



Q&A

Thank you for building each other up!





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