

preparing kids for a  
dangerous world

# a dangerous world

Climate change, white nationalism, extreme income inequality, and religious hostility - if these are the dangerous realities that our kids will face, how will we prepare them?



White “Christian” nationalism  
Climate denialism  
Kleptocracy/Oligarchy





Christianity has been the chaplain/enabler of 5 centuries of colonization by white Christian nationalists ... and environmental plunder by white Christian industrialists.

Can you see why the descendants of the colonizers/plunderers would emphasize

sin & forgiveness

God loves me, us, chosen (Christians)

God is like a King or Father

God will soon destroy the earth?

We wanted

personal forgiveness without corporate repentance

God love us - NOT THEM!

God is like a dictatorial king and autocratic father  
a planetary going-out-of-business sale

Don't the hours grow shorter as the days go by  
We never get to stop and open our eyes  
One minute you're waiting for the sky to fall  
The next you're dazzled by the beauty of it all  
Lovers in a dangerous time

These fragile bodies of touch and taste  
This fragrant skin, this hair like lace  
Spirits open to the thrust of grace  
Never a breath you can afford to waste  
Lovers in a dangerous time



When you're lovers in a dangerous time

Sometimes you're made to feel as if your  
love's a crime

Nothing worth having comes without some  
kind of fight

Got to kick at the darkness 'til it bleeds  
daylight

Lovers in a dangerous time.

# **Unacceptable alternatives in a dangerous time:**

Consumerist secularism vs. Fundamentalist religion

Consumerist religion vs. Fundamentalist secularism

Deadly religion vs. Dead religion

Strong/hostile vs. Weak/benign religion

Movement fundamentalism vs. Institutional lethargy

## **A Creative Alternative:**

A new kind of Christianity, a generous orthodoxy,  
progressive Christianity, just and generous  
Christianity

moving with parallel movements from other faith  
traditions

in a multi-faith movement for justice, joy, and peace



An important scientific innovation rarely makes its way by gradually winning over and converting its opponents; it rarely happens that Saul becomes Paul. What does happen is that its opponents gradually die out, and that the growing generation is familiarized with the ideas from the beginning, another instance of the fact that the future lies with the youth.

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- Max Planck

The reason an awakening takes a generation or more to work itself out is that it must grow with the young; it must escape the enculturation of old ways. It is not worthwhile to ask who the prophet of this awakening is or to search for new ideological blueprints in the works of the learned. Revitalization is growing up around us in our children, who are both more innocent and more knowing than their parents and grandparents. It is their world that has yet to be reborn.

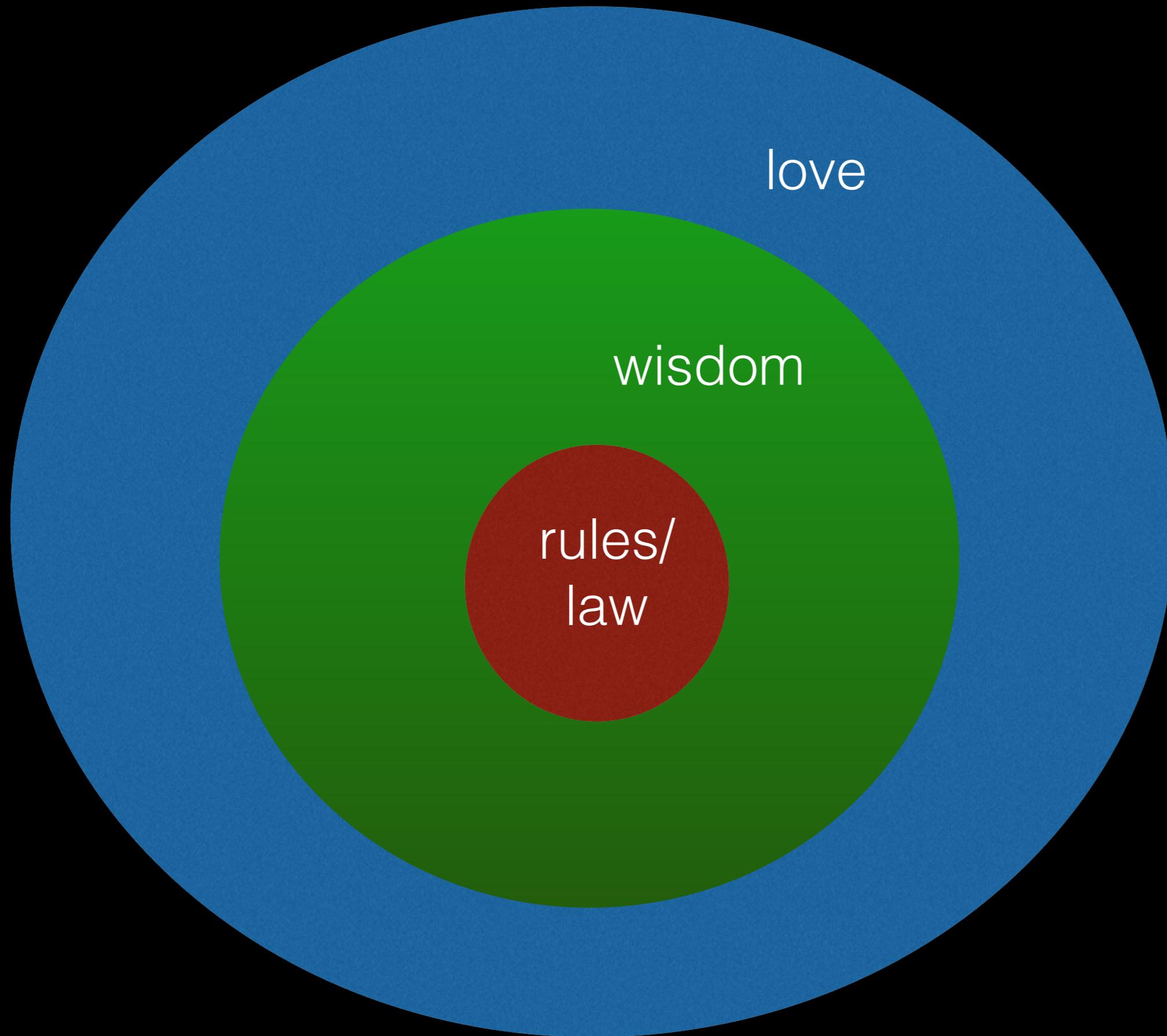
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- Wm. G. McLoughlin

**how do we prepare children for life in a  
dangerous time?**

4

**1. Help them identify as participants in a  
never-ending spiritual revolution/  
evolution of love.**



rules/  
law

wisdom

love

a curriculum of  
morality

# lines of moral reasoning (Jonathan Haidt)

1. justice

2. compassion

3. loyalty

4. purity

5. tradition

## lines of moral reasoning (Jonathan Haidt)

1. justice
2. compassion
3. loyalty - enlarging circle/ race, religion, etc.
4. purity - dirty = violent, wasteful, greedy
5. tradition - tradition of growth, evolution, maturity

a curriculum of  
wisdom

Wise goals/ends

Wise methods/means

Wise values

Wise decisions

a curriculum of  
love

neighbor

neighbor

family

friends

faith community

community

“public identities” - party, nation, race, religion

stranger, alien, outsider, outcast, other, enemy

self

self

self-understanding

self-discipline

self-care

self-control

self-reporting

self-giving

... through life's many stages.

earth/creation

God

(who is known through all other loves)

WARNING!

love of money

fear

bed-time stories

- 1. Help them identify as participants in a never-ending spiritual revolution/ evolution of love.**
- 2. Equip them as life-long Christian activists for this dangerous time.**

this dangerous  
time

lifelong

environmental

activism

lifelong  
solidarity with  
poor/other/  
vulnerable

lifelong  
agents of  
peace

lifelong

lovers of people  
(no exceptions)

# equip

experiential learning,  
observation/imitation, role play,  
simulation, scenario planning,  
examples (+/-), action/reflection

# Christian

way of Christ

way of saints\*

way of heroes

- 1. Help them identify as participants in a never-ending spiritual revolution/ evolution of love.**
- 2. Equip them as life-long Christian activists for these dangerous times.**
- 3. Assist their parents with tools for the most challenging work of life: good parenting.**

a progressive  
focus on the  
family?

practical

age-specific

psychologically informed

interactive

integrative

**1. Help them identify as participants in a never-ending spiritual revolution/evolution of love.**

**2. Equip them as life-long Christian activists for these dangerous times.**

**3. Assist their parents with tools for the most challenging work of life: good parenting.**

**4. Teach them the contemplative/spiritual practices that will sustain them through a lifetime.**

Self-Examination: Inner work (alone, aided)

Prayer: Journaling, practicing God's presence, group prayer, liturgical prayer

Solitude/Silence: sabbath, sabbatical, renewal

Soul Friendship: seeking counsel, queries, receiving giving rebuke/encouragement

Study: seeking good mentors, reading good books, living good questions

Church: joining or **creating/convening/hosting**

inner AND outer work

action AND  
contemplation

spiritual activism

a dangerous world

a great work

extraordinary people

you

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dangerous world

