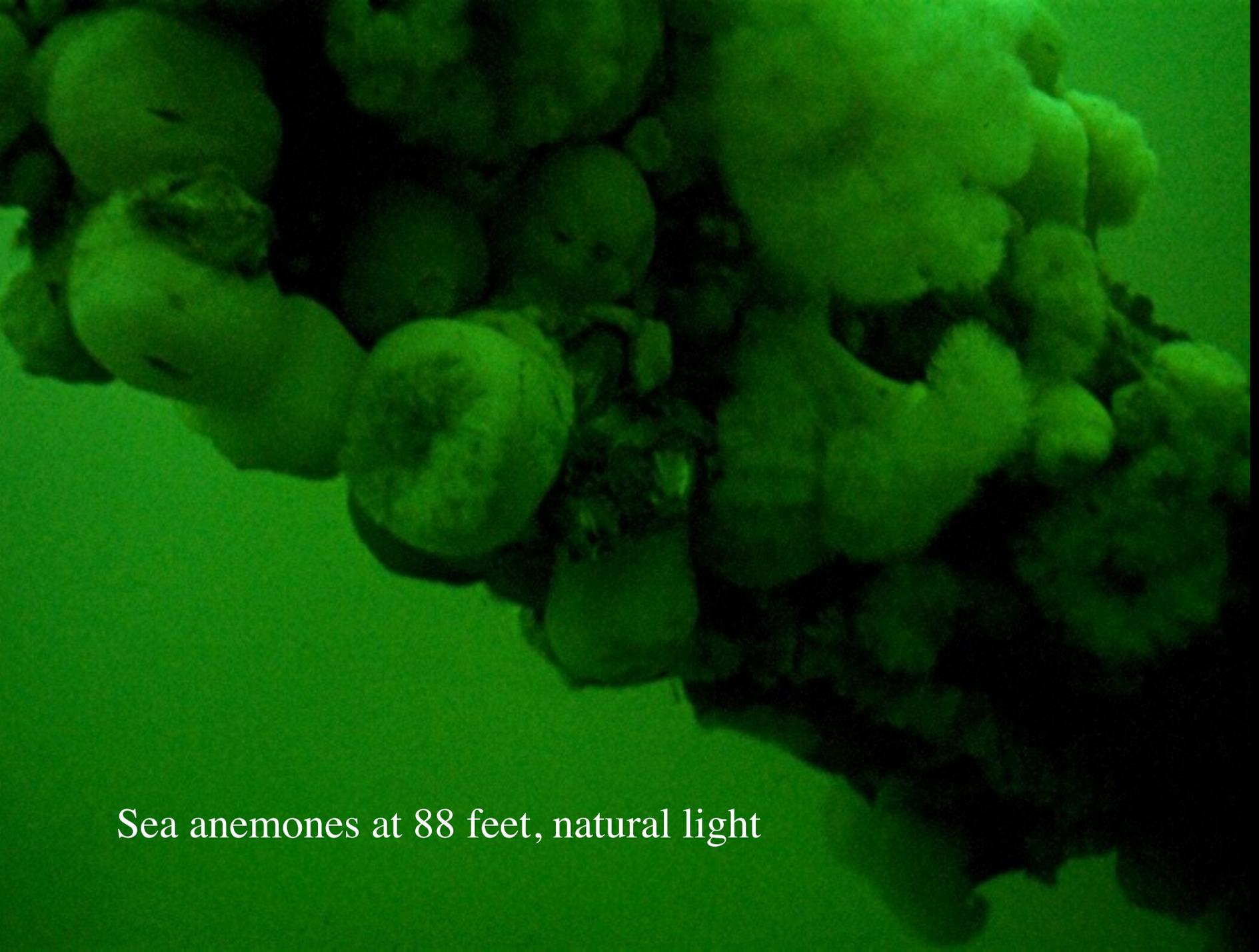


Christian faith emerging:
now what?
so what?



Sea anemones at 88 feet, natural light



Same sea anemones at 88 feet, with full spectrum light



What you see depends on
your available light.

Your available light depends on
your location.



**spirituality
through life's
stages**

Naked Spirit- uality

A LIFE WITH GOD
IN 12 SIMPLE WORDS

BRIAN D.
MCLAREN

Author of A New Kind of Christianity

William Blake - innocence, experience, higher experience

Soren Kierkegaard - aesthetic, ethical, religious

William Perry - dualism (a,b), multiplicity (a,b), relativism (a,b),
commitment (a,b,c)

James Fowler - primal, mythical-literal, synthetic-conventional, individual-reflective, conjunctive, universalizing

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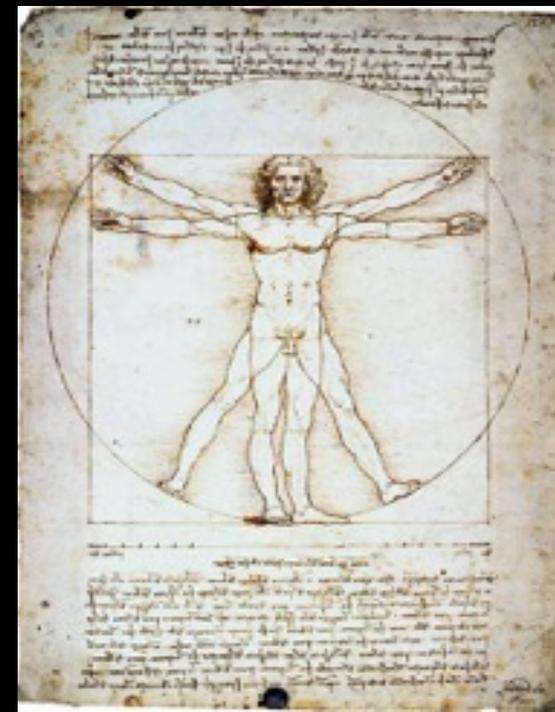
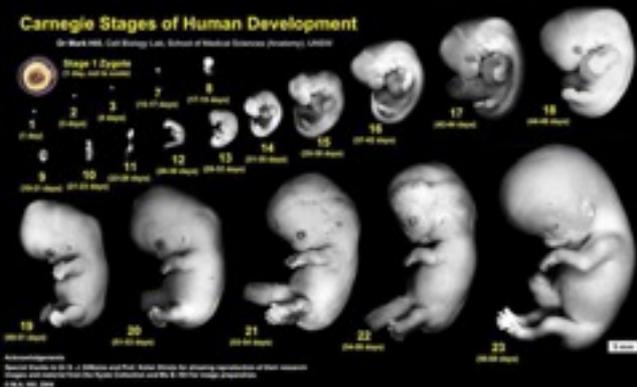
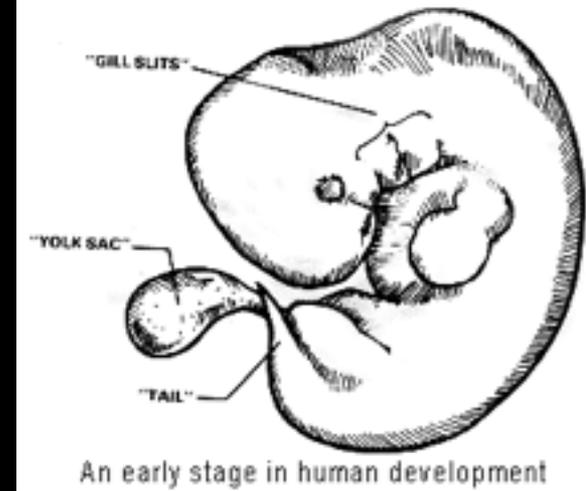
Paul Ricoeur - precritical/first naivete, critical, postcritical/second naivete

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Richard Rohr - first half of life, second half of life

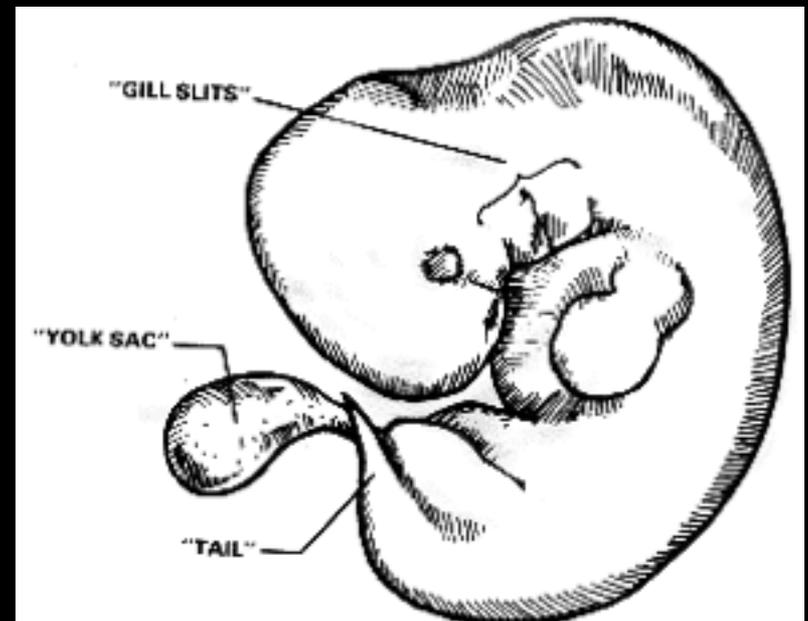


Four Stages of Faith Development



Stage 1

Simplicity



An early stage in human development

Stage 1

Simplicity

You're either for us or against us. It's all or nothing.

Stage 1

Simplicity

Focus: Right or wrong? Good or bad?

Motive: Pleasing authority figures, being an insider “us”

Perception: Dualistic

Stage 1

Beliefs

- everything is known or knowable; there are easy answers to every question**
- good authorities/us are the ones who know the right answers**
- the bad guys/them are wrong**

Stage 1

Authorities

**Godlike, God's representatives,
they know and give answers**

Stage 1

Simplicity

Life is a war.

Stage 1

Identity: In my leader or group.

**Relationships: Dependent or co-
dependent**

Stage 1

Simplicity

God is ...

**The Ultimate Authority Figure
or Ultimate Friend**

Stage 1

Key Moral Question:

What do our authority figures say?

Stage 1

Simplicity

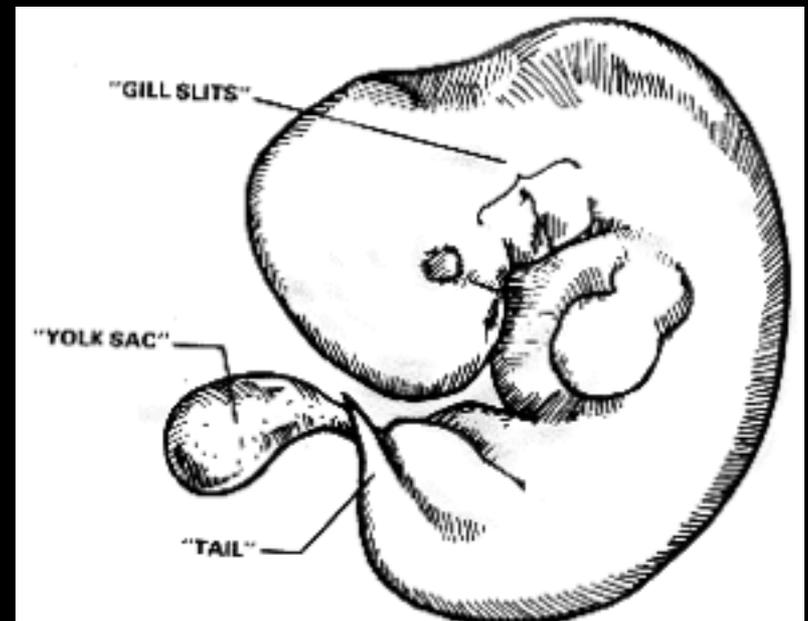
STRENGTHS: highly committed, willing to sacrifice and suffer.

WEAKNESSES: Also willing to kill or inflict suffering. Arrogant, simplistic, combative, judgmental, intolerant

Stage 1

Simplicity

Connection through awakening



An early stage in human development

Stage 2

Complexity



Stage 2

Complexity

There's more than one way to do things.

Stage 2

Complexity

Focus: Effective or ineffective?

Technique, winning, success

Motive: Reach goals, being effective

Perception: Pragmatic

Stage 2

Beliefs:

- anything is doable**
- there are many ways to reach the goal**
- authorities/us are the ones who know how to do it**
- the bad guys don't do the right stuff**

Stage 2

Authorities

Coaches. They help you grow and succeed with know-how.

Stage 2

Complexity

Life is a game.

Learn the rules.

Play to win.

Stage 2

Complexity

Identity: My cause or achievement.

Relationships: Increasingly independent.

Stage 2

Complexity

God is ...

The Ultimate Guide or Coach

Stage 2

Key Moral Question:

Does it help me succeed?

Stage 2

Complexity

**STRENGTHS: Enthusiasm,
idealism, action**

**WEAKNESSES: Superficial,
naïve, overly pragmatic**

Stage 2

Complexity

Connection through need



Stage 3

Perplexity

Carnegie Stages of Human Development

Dr Mark Hill, Cell Biology Lab, School of Medical Sciences (Anatomy), UNSW



Acknowledgements
Special thanks to Dr S. J. DiMarco and Prof. Kohel Shiota for allowing reproduction of their research images and material from the Kyoto Collection and Ms B. Hill for image preparation.
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Stage 3

Perplexity

Everyone has an opinion. Who knows who is right?

Stage 3

Perplexity

Focus: Honest or dishonest?

Authentic or inauthentic?

**Motive: Being honest or
authentic**

Perception: Relativistic, critical

Stage 3

Beliefs

-little/nothing is known or knowable; everybody has an opinion

-good people are honest about their questions

Stage 3

Authorities are ...

Controllers

The Enemy

**Trying to impose easy answers
on the naïve**

Trying to use the naïve

Stage 3

Perplexity

Life is ...

a joke

mystery

or search

Stage 3

Identity: In solitude, or among a small band of similarly alienated friends

Relationships: Counter-dependent

Stage 3

Perplexity

God is ...

mythic authority I've outgrown

mysterious reality I'm seeking

or opiate of the pathetic

masses

Stage 3

Key Moral Question:

**Is it honest, authentic, and
suspicious?**

Stage 3

Perplexity

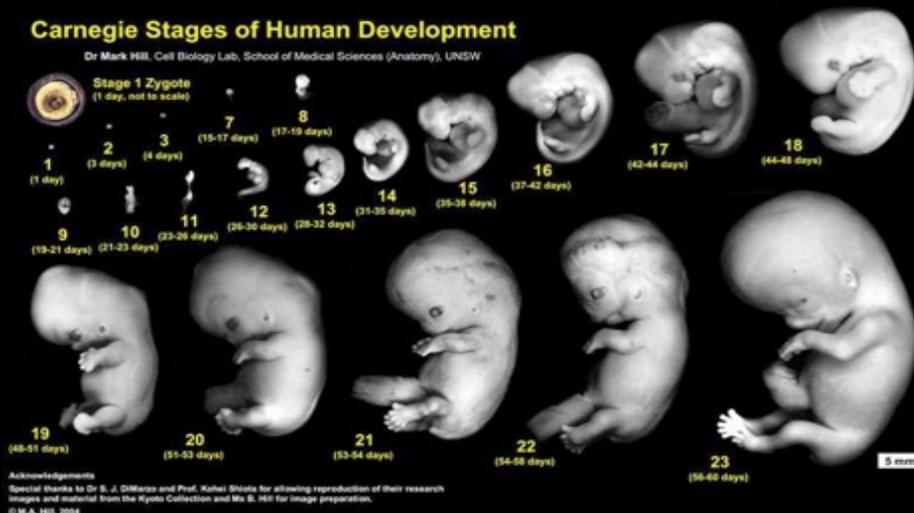
STRENGTHS: depth, honesty, sensitivity to suffering, perhaps ironic humor

WEAKNESSES: cynical, uncommitted, withdrawn, critical, depressed, elitist

Stage 3

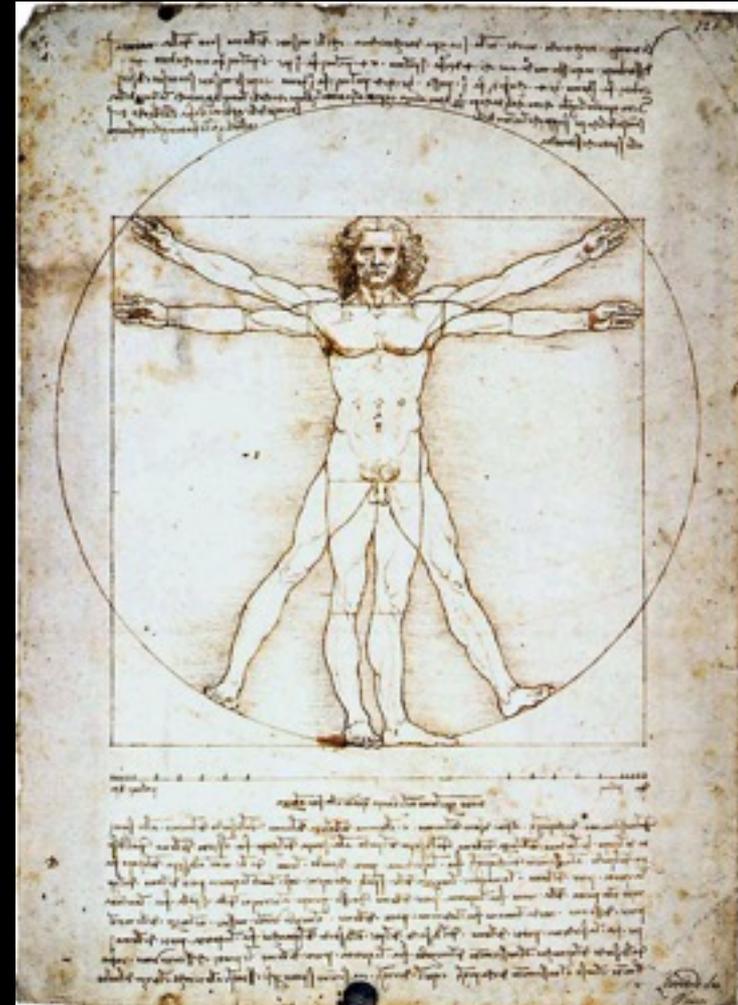
Perplexity

Connection through unknowing



Stage 4

Harmony



Stage 4

Harmony

**Seek first God's kingdom ... love
God, love neighbors ... in
essentials unity ... focus on a
few grand essentials**

Stage 4

Harmony

Focus: Wise or unwise?

Fulfilling potential

**Motive: Serve, contribute, make
a difference**

**Perception: Integrated,
synthesizing, sympathetic**

Stage 4

Beliefs

- some things are known, many are mysteries; life is a quest**
- there is no “them”**

Stage 4

Authorities

people like me

imperfect

sometimes doing their best,

sometimes dishonest,

sometimes sincerely misguided

Stage 4

Life is ...

**What you make it (with God's
help)**

Stage 4

Identity: In mutual relationships

Relationships: Interdependent

Stage 4

God is ...

**Knowable in part, yet
mysterious, present yet
transcendent, just yet merciful
(able to hold truths in tension --
“paradoxy”)**

Stage 4

Key Moral Question:

Is it appropriate to context, and conducive of the common good?

Stage 4

Harmony

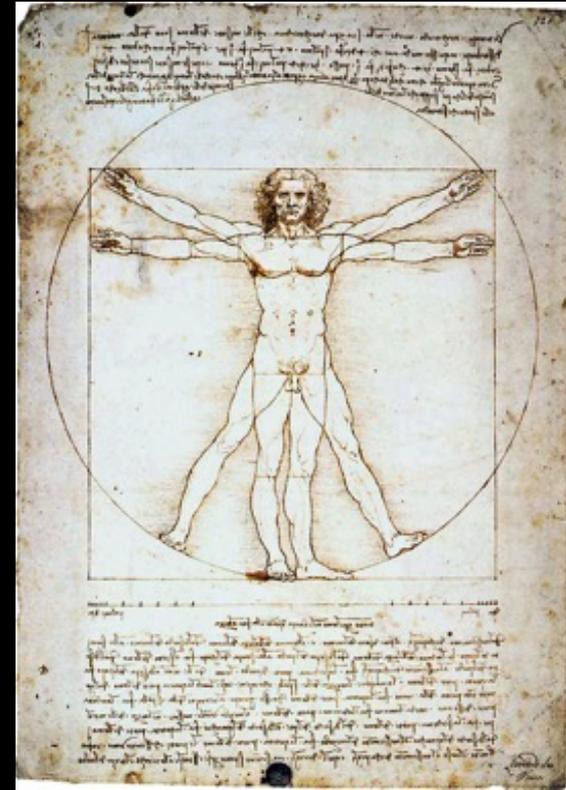
STRENGTHS: May exhibit strengths of previous stages, plus stability, endurance, wisdom

WEAKNESSES: May display weaknesses of earlier stages

Stage 4

Harmony

connection through affection



William Blake - innocence, experience, higher experience

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What happens after Stage 4?

**Harmony becomes the new
simplicity ...**

What happens after Stage 4?

**Harmony becomes the new
simplicity ...**

**which encounters new
complexity ...**

which enters new perplexity ...

which discovers new harmony ...

What happens after Stage 4?

Eventually ... one becomes less aware of stages and struggle and more aware of learning, life, love.

a never-ending journey

The spiritual journey could be seen as a constant purification of motive until I can finally say, “I have no other reason to do anything except love of God and love of neighbor. And I don’t even need people to know this.” When I can say this I have total and full freedom. I can no longer be bought off! Finally I realize that my life is not about me. It’s about Love.

Richard Rohr, Adapted from Francis: Subverting the Honor/Shame System
(CD, MP3 download)

An observation:

Cults and “bad faith” or “toxic” religion can be seen as groups which require people to revert to a Stage 1 status and stay there.

Stage 1 is easier for the leaders and followers ... in a way.

An observation:

Whole denominations or parachurch organizations seem to specialize in certain stages, and fail people in other stages.

An observation:

Leaders seldom (never?) lead people in a stage beyond their own.

1's lead 1's.

2's lead 2's and 1's.

3's lead 3's and 2's.

4's lead 4's and 3's (plus?)

An observation:

**Stage 3 is tough on everybody --
leaders and followers.**

A question:

How do we minister to people with such contrary expectations, needs, issues, and desires?

A direction:

Explore Jesus as teacher ... not just in content, but also in method.

An observation:

**Jesus models working with people
in each stage, and always brings
them farther on the journey.**

An important reminder

The goal isn't to rush through the stages to get to 4 as soon as possible.

Each stage has lessons to teach, and prepares for the next.

You don't move on until you're ready ... in the fullness of time.

**We need churches and ministries
that help people at all levels ...**

disciple \Dis*ci"ple\, n. [OE. disciple, deciple, OF. disciple, fr. L. discipulus, fr. discere to learn (akin to docere to teach; see Docile) + prob. a root meaning to turn or drive, as in L. pellerere to drive (see Pulse).] One who receives instruction from another; a scholar; a learner; especially, a follower who has learned to believe in the truth of the doctrine of his teacher; an adherent in doctrine; as, the disciples of Plato; the disciples of our Savior

Stage 0

Egocentricity

It's all about me.



Stage 0

Egocentricity

Focus: Like or dislike? Fun or not?

**Motive: Pleasing & comforting
myself**

Perception: Narcissistic

Stage 0

Beliefs

-I would be constantly happy if everyone would cooperate

-authorities exist to make me feel good

-bad people make me feel bad

Stage 0

Authorities

Exist for my benefit, serve my entitlement, are genii-like.

Stage 0

Egocentricity

Life is play or party.

Stage 0

Identity: In my likes and dislikes.

Relationships: Presumptive

Stage 0

Egocentricity

God is ...

**The Candyman, the Genii, the
Magic Lamp**

Stage 0

Key Moral Question:

does it make me feel good or bad?

do i “like” it?

Stage 0

Egocentricity

STRENGTHS: emotionally expressive, transparent, aware of own needs and desires.

WEAKNESSES: Largely oblivious to the needs and desires of others

Stage 0

Egocentricity

Connection through need.



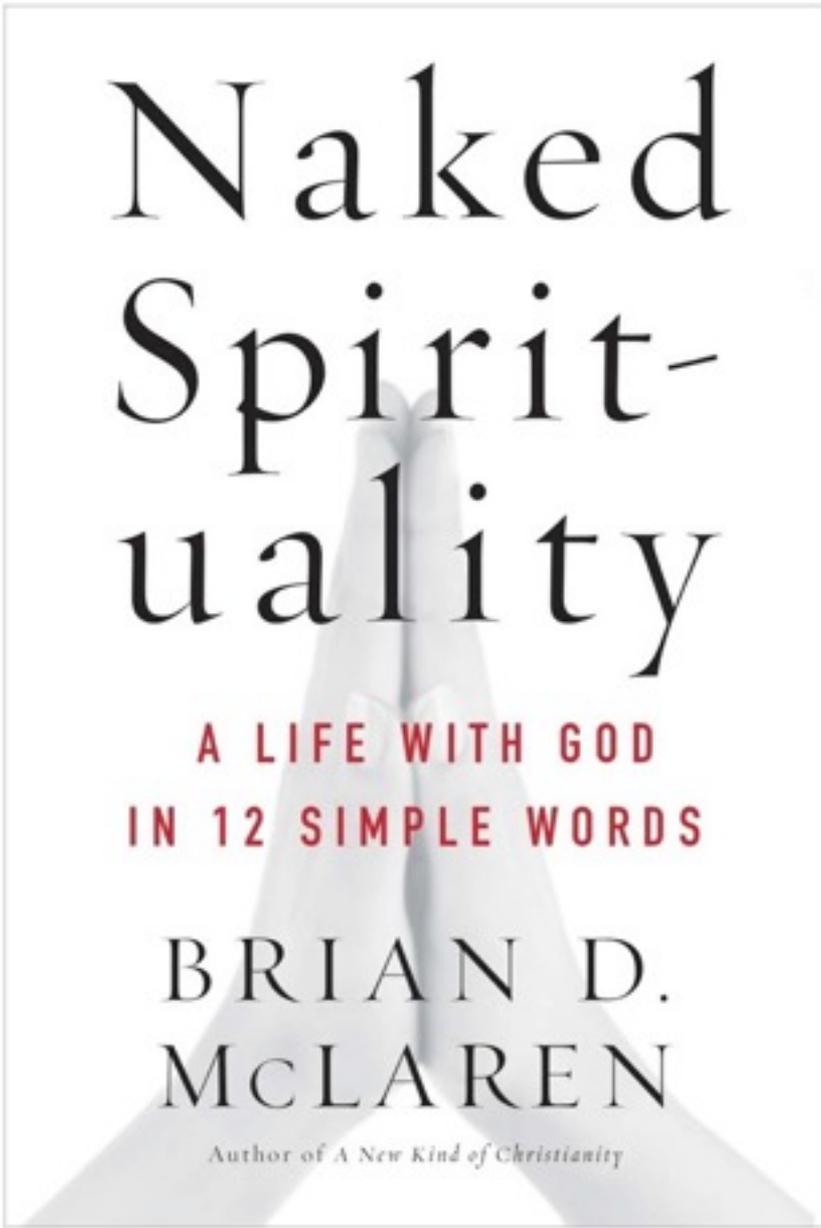
From selfish to true self

- 0. Egocentricity - One (me!)**
- 1. Simplicity - Two (us/them)**
- 2. Complexity - Three or more**
- 3. Perplexity - Fractions**
- 4. Harmony - One (all)**

NEEDED:

Faith communities that can practice harmony ...

- welcoming people where they are**
- creating space to learn the lessons of each stage**
- opening space to grow**
- providing models/mentors**



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