
HOW TO BE THE CHURCH DURING A PANDEMIC



Transcendent Hope

If you want to live well in a world of senseless suffering,
you must have a transcendent hope.

Q#1 Why would God cause this pandemic?
If God is all-powerful and all-good, why is this happening?

Q#1 - Why would God cause this pandemic?
He didn't. God doesn't always get what He wants.

a. God is not evil, God is love & God is Jesus.
1 John 4:8,10 - But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love...This is real love —not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

a. God is not evil, God is love & God is Jesus.
John 14:9 - "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father!"
Colossians 1:15 - Christ is the visible image
of the invisible God.

Faced with the worst sort of suffering, we must remind ourselves God is no less beautiful than Jesus.

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- b. God created human & angelic beings to share that love.
- c. For love to be possible, God had to give us freedom to choose it.

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- b. God created human & angelic beings to share that love.
- c. For love to be possible, God had to give us freedom to choose it.
- d. Our freedom to choose love is also freedom not to.

Q#2 - Why doesn't God intervene every time any created being does something that will hurt others?
Free will means God gives us real authority over our lives.

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God limits His power for love.

Q#3 - If God limits His power, is He really sovereign,
all-powerful, and in-control?

Rather than using His power to take our free-will
when it goes evil, God uses love to defeat it.

Q#4 - What about a pandemic or other natural disasters?

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1. Human choice causes more "natural disaster" than we think.
2. Evil angelic beings cause more "natural disaster" than we think.

Ephesians 6:11-12

Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **cosmic powers** of this present darkness, against the **spiritual forces** of evil in the heavenly places.

Q#5 - Why is our culture today the worst
at handling suffering?

“In the US....I encountered a society that seeks to avoid pain at all costs. Patients lived at a greater comfort level than any I had previously treated, but they seemed far less equipped to handle suffering and far more traumatized by it.”

- Dr. Paul Brand, MD

Q#5 - Why is our culture today the worst
at handling suffering?

Without God, suffering makes
our secular salvation-scheme impossible.

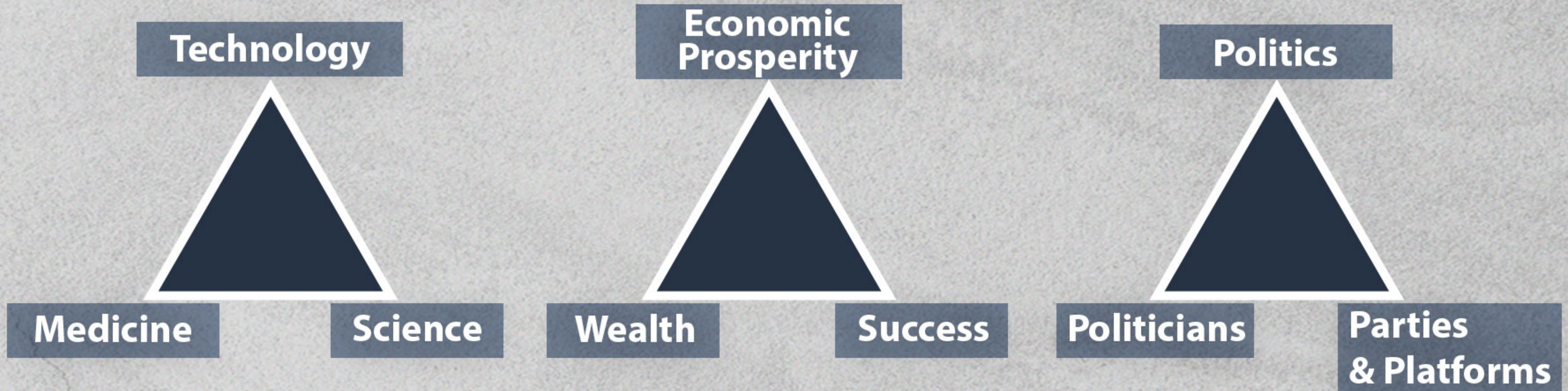
Secular Salvation - “live happy on my terms”

- Purpose
- The Good Life
- The American Dream
- The Pursuit of Happiness
- "Follow Your Heart"
- "Find Your Truth"
- "Look Within Yourself"
- "You Do You"

Q#5 - Why is our culture today the worst
at handling suffering?

All our secular saviors have proven
they can't stop suffering.

Secular Savivors



- They can make life better, but they can't make people better.

Why would an all-good and all-powerful God
allow ME to happen?

If God is really good, why hasn't He done something
about ME by now?

Q#6 - What does the Gospel teach us about suffering?

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

“Let me now remind you of the **Good News**
[euangelion - Gospel] I preached to you before.
... Christ **died** for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.
He was **buried**, and He was **raised** from the dead
on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.”