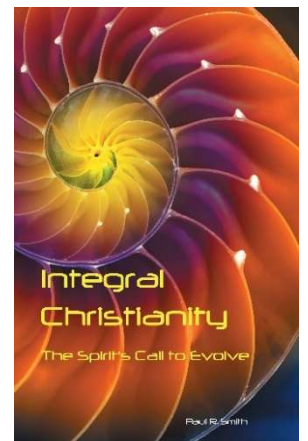


Supplemental images and narrative to
Is Your God Big Enough? Close Enough? You Enough?
Jesus and the Three Faces of God
by Paul Smith

PREQUEL

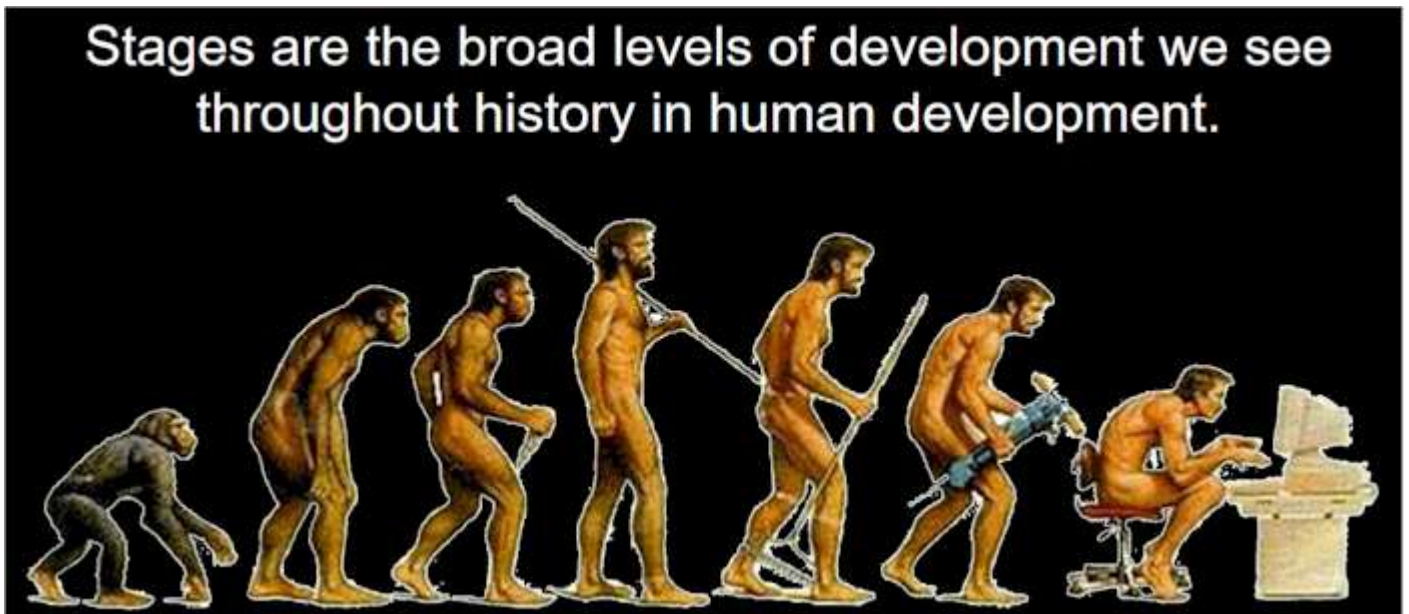
A BRIEF REVIEW OF EVOLUTIONARY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

My first integrally based book was *Integral Christianity: The Spirit's Call to Evolve*. In it I outlined six basic stages of development humankind has gone through in its evolutionary ascent. This forms the foundation for my current book.



HUMANKIND EVOLVES IN STAGES

Stages are the broad levels of development we see throughout history in human development.



Stages are also the various periods of life each person goes through as they age,



"I was wondering when you'd notice there were a lot more steps!"

Our reflections about God grow in breadth and depth as we evolve through stages of increasing complexity and inclusiveness.

Jesus pointed to at least three stages:

PAST

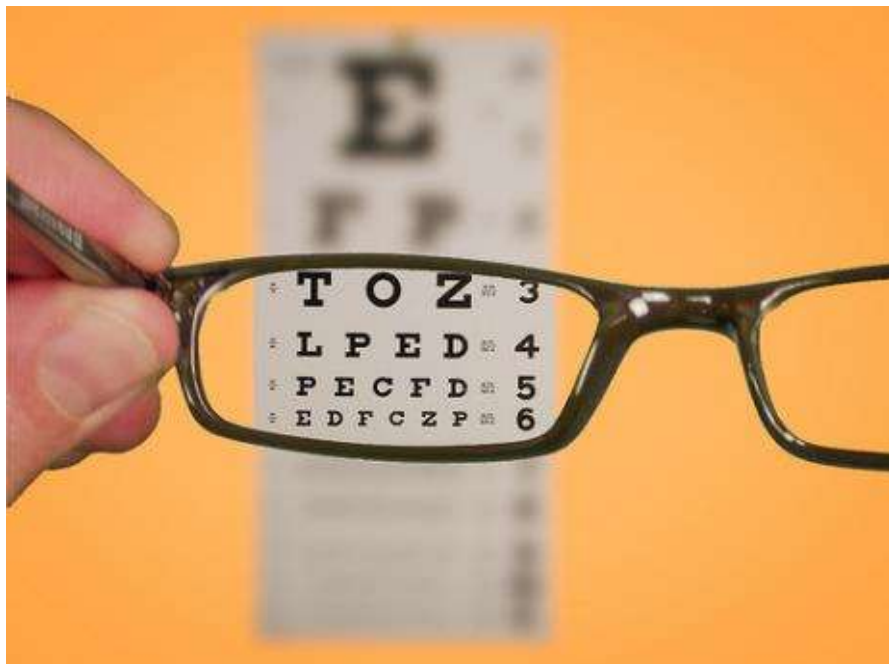
“You have heard
it said . . .”

PRESNT

“I say to you . . .”

FUTURE

“I have more to
teach you but you
are not ready yet”



A stage of development is the pair of glasses through which we view the world.

There are 41,000 different kinds of churches!



Why are there so many different kinds of churches?



SIX EVOLUTIONARY STAGES

THE SPIRAL OF LIFE

Post-integral

Integral

Postmodern

Modern

Traditional

Warrior

Tribal



TRIBAL STAGE CONSCIOUSNESS



Tribal
Consciousness
5%-10% world
population

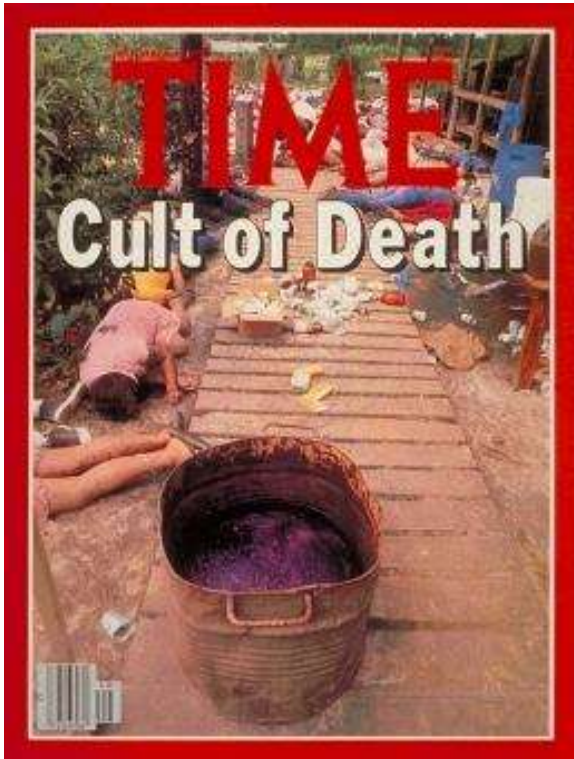


Associated today with superstitions and fantasy in adults.



The close-knit family is an outstanding strength.

We are a close-knit family



Tribal stage gone pathological

Jonestown, South American Jim Jones
The People's Temple – 918 died in 1978



Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Warren Jeffs

WARRIOR STAGE CONSCIOUSNESS



20% of world's population



Associated with tribal warfare such as in some Middle Eastern countries. And in personal development seen in the terrible two's



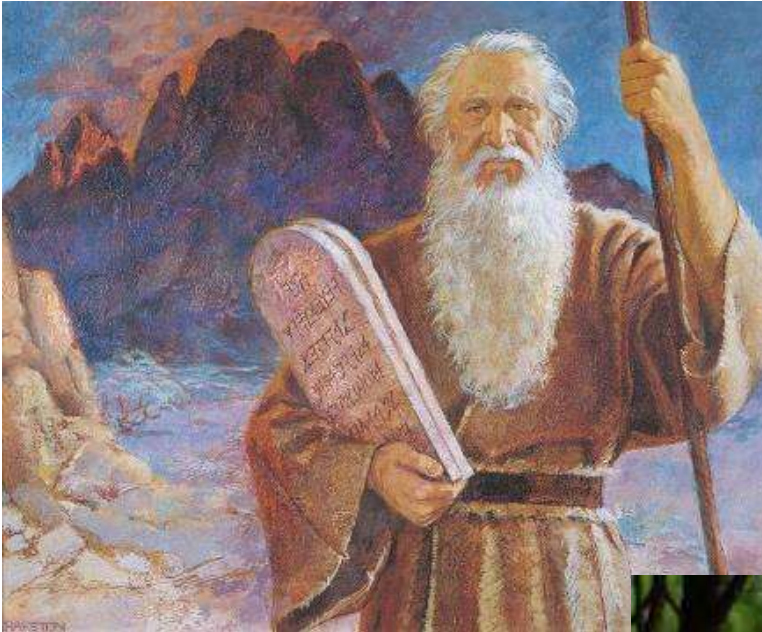
The warrior stage is seen in fundamentalism.



TRADITIONAL STAGE CONSCIOUSNESS



40% of world's population are at traditional stage
90% of world's religions are at the traditional stage.

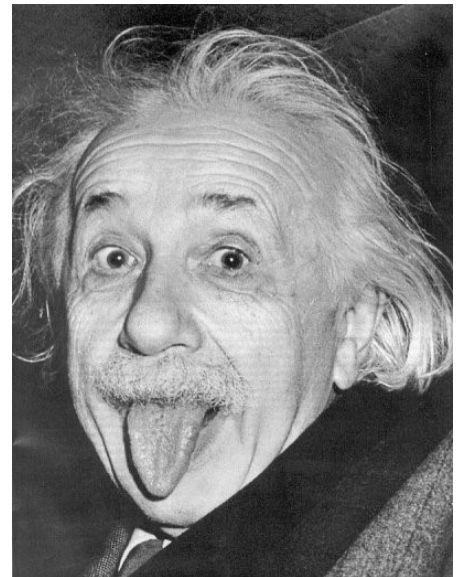
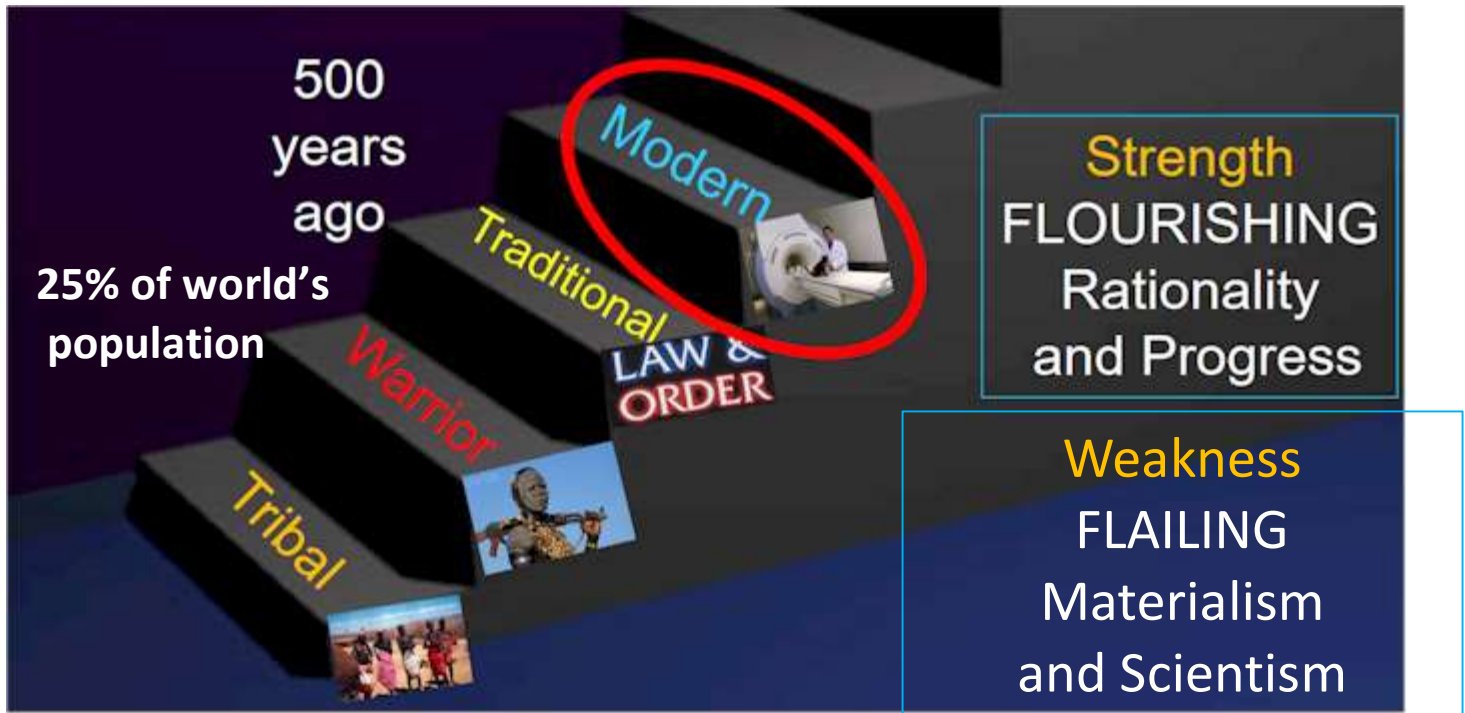


Moses and Ten Commandments

The Boy Scouts



MODERN STAGE CONSCIOUSNESS



STRENGTHS of Modern Stage

The Modern Stage is more inclusive, loving, complex, just, and moral than the traditional stage.

In the modern stage, slavery has been abolished in every civilized country.

The beginning of worldwide human rights.

Scientific and material advancements.

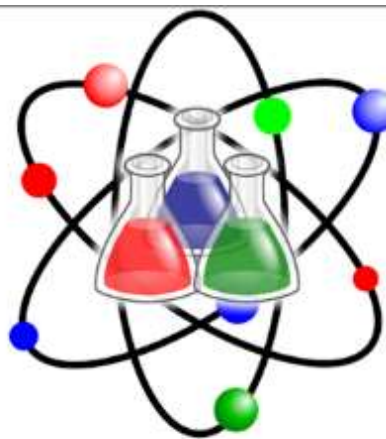


MATERIALISM

Spending Money You Don't Have
On Crap You Don't Need

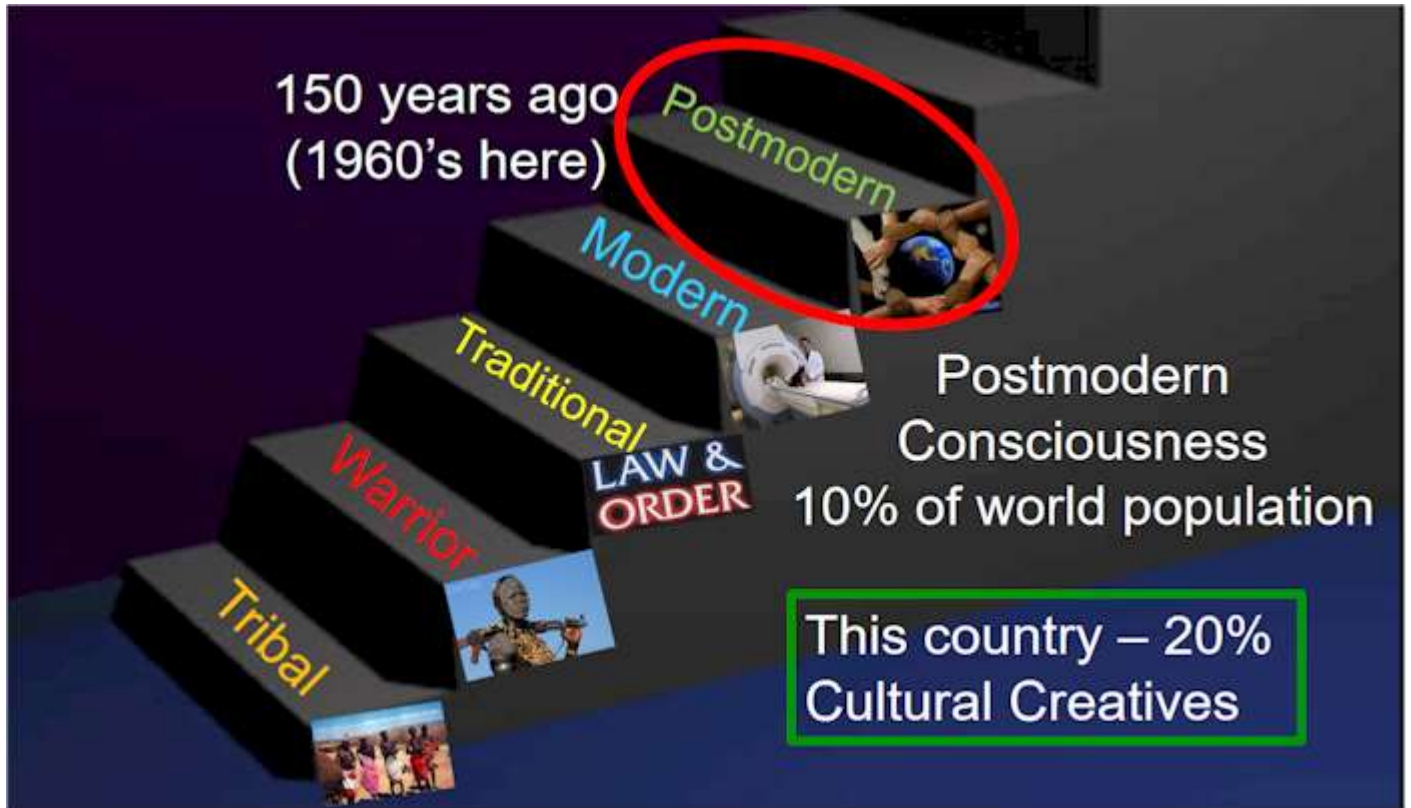
scientism

belief that science has
all the answers to life

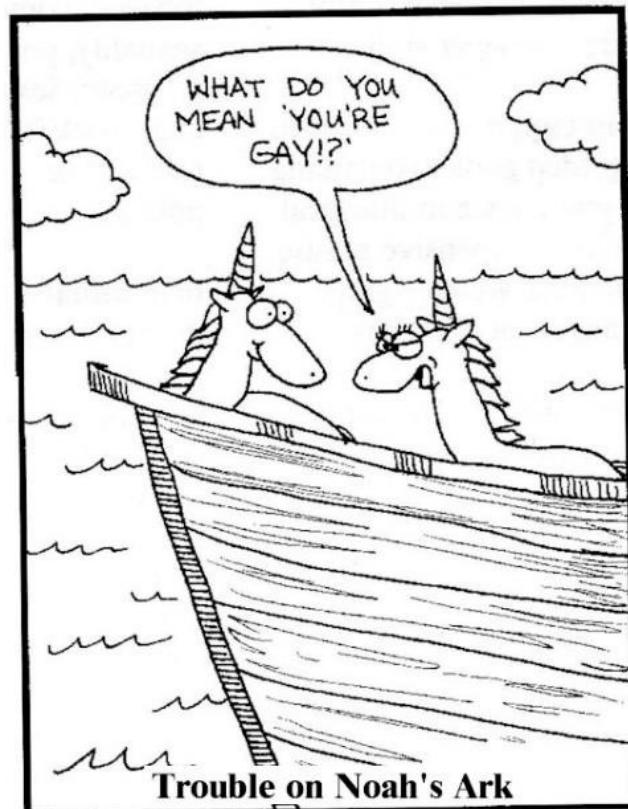


Science

POSTMODERN STAGE CONSCIOUSNESS



A Postmodern Cartoon



STRENGTHS of Postmodern Stage

The Postmodern stage is more inclusive, loving, complex, just, and moral than the modern stage.

It is the home of the environment movement, liberation theology, diversity, and justice movements.



Mysticism is once again acceptable



The mysticism of St. Francis resulted in a life given to healing the world and its inhabitants. This points to the reality of his visions, rather than fantasy.

However, the postmodern stage does not always distinguish between prerational mysticism and post rational mysticism. The first is fantasy.. The second is a closer look at reality.

Life of [Francis of Assisi](#) by Josep Benlliure Gi

WEAKNESSES of Postmodern State

Weakness: My truth is just as good as your truth.



POST-MODERNISM

You may have two degrees,
but I read on article once on Wikipedia.

POSTMODERNISM

All truth is relative.*

***(Except this statement.)**

Weakness: Nothing is true for everyone.

(Except for this statement!)

There is my truth and your truth. So let's not look for anything beyond that.

Weakness:
Looks down
on all
previous
stages.



The primary culture war clash today is between traditional, modern, and postmodern stages. Here is some more about postmodernism since it can be a challenge to see its effects.

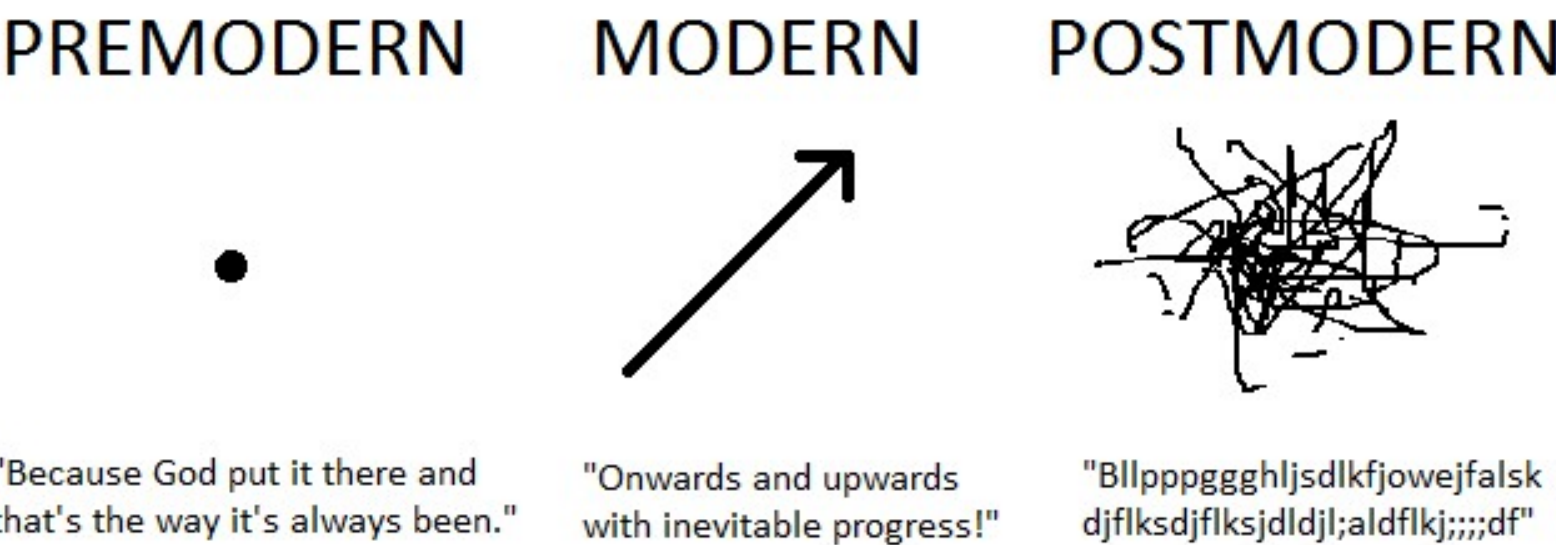


We've finally found out that we can
discover truth by a group hug.



Postmodernism tends to believe all truth is
relative. Each person and group has its own
truth which is just as good as anyone else's.

PREMODERNISM	MODERNISM	POSTMODERNISM
Objective Ultimate Truth	Objective Ultimate Truth	Objective Ultimate Truth is Unknowable
Supernatural	Anti-Supernatural	Mystical
Authority from God (or gods)	Authority from Science & Human Reason	No Ultimate Authority



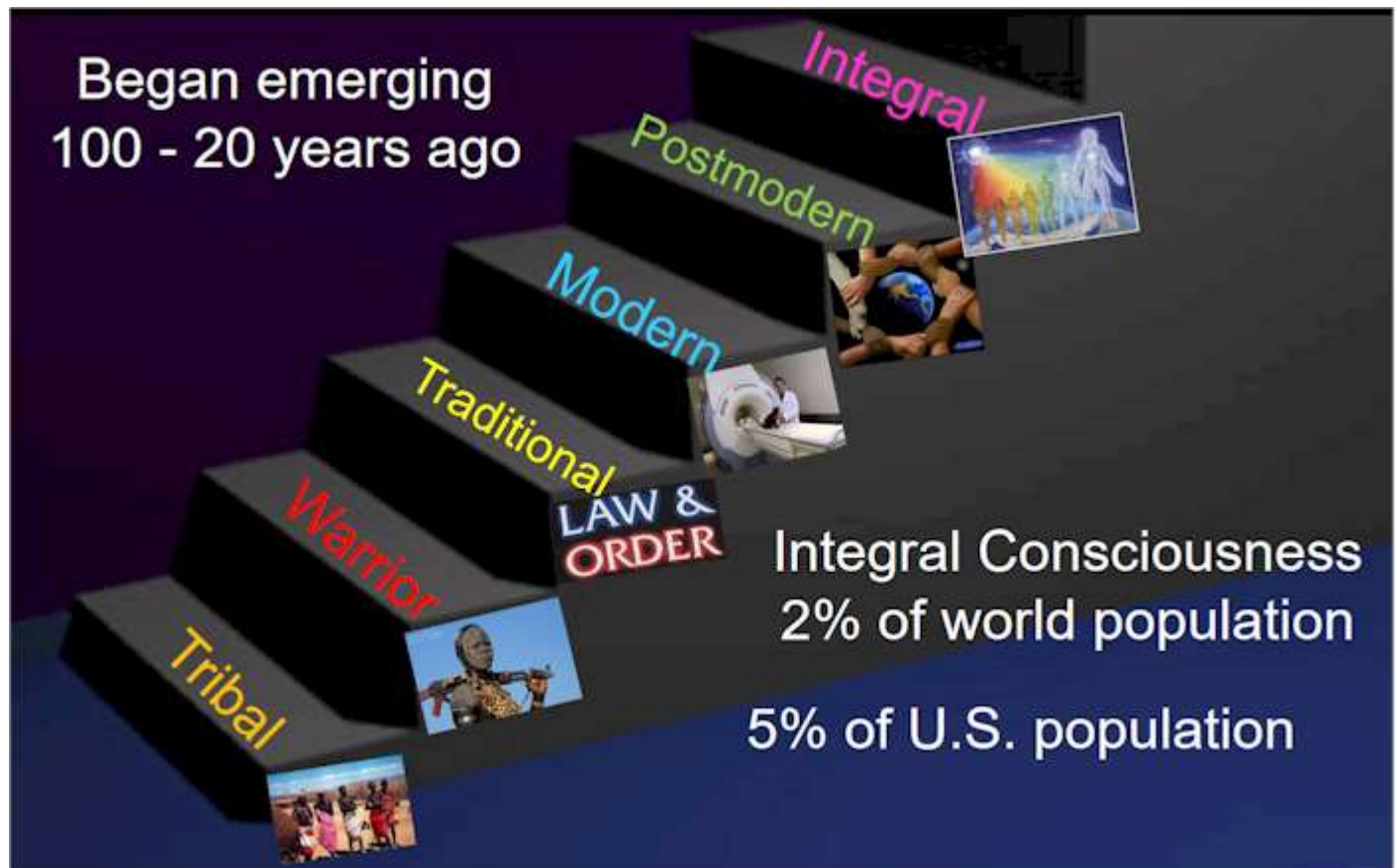
Rene Magritte's This Is Not a Pipe



This painting tries to get at an important postmodern contribution to understanding: This painting itself is not a pipe; it is merely an image of a pipe. A word is not the thing" and "The map is not the territory." The postmodern worldview brought the importance of realizing that "perception always intercedes between reality and ourselves."

Integral puts it this way: Everything we experience as real is also shaped by our worldview.

INTEGRAL STAGE CONSCIOUSNESS



THE FIRST STAGE TO UNDERSTAND AND
LOVE ALL PEOPLE
AT ALL STAGES

Integral embraces spirituality at a more evolved stage.

The Integral stage is more inclusive, loving, complex, just, and moral than the postmodern stage.

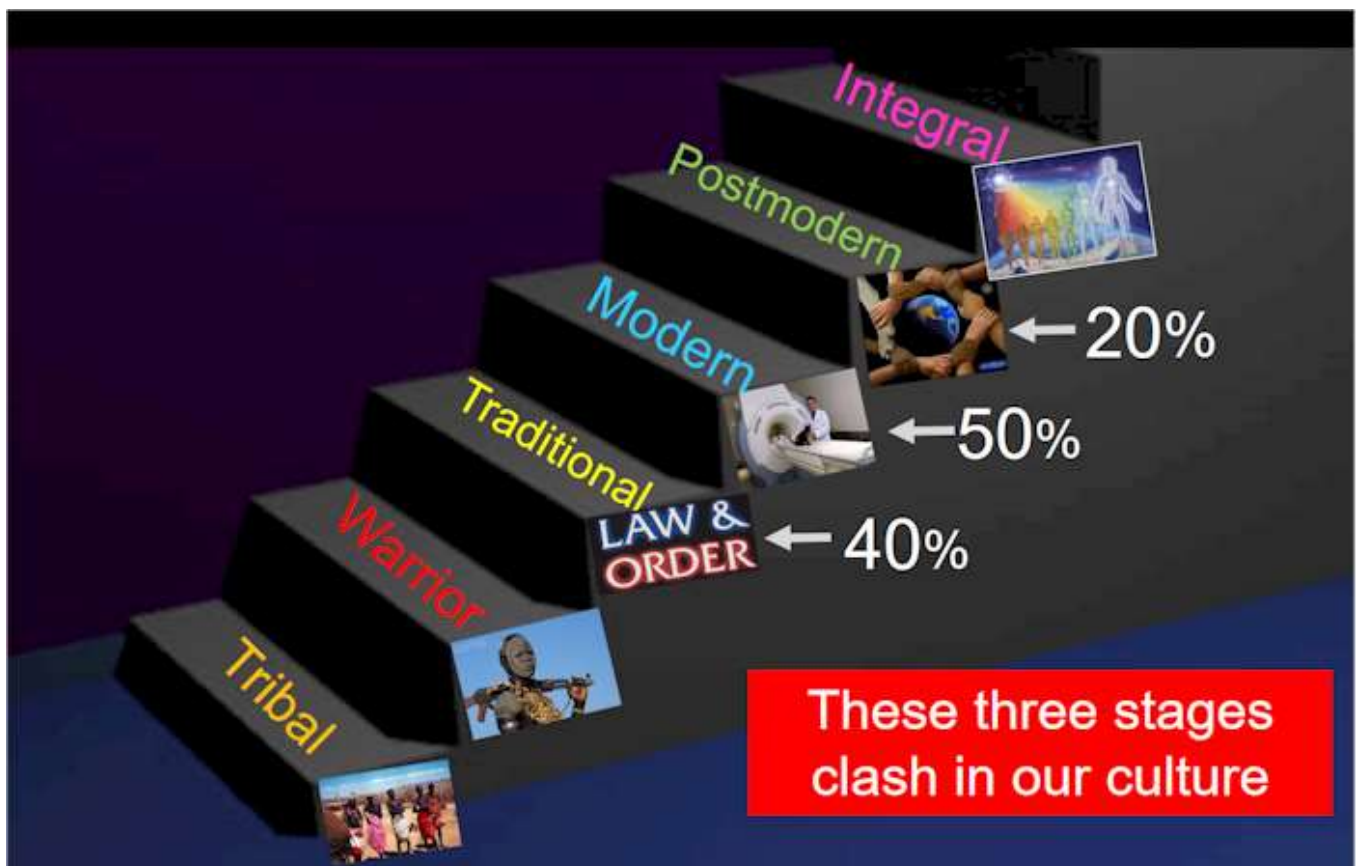
Previous stages reject past stages and resist the next stage.

Integral acknowledges the right of all stages to exist, is able to understand their viewpoints, and works for a world where people at all stages can live together peacefully.

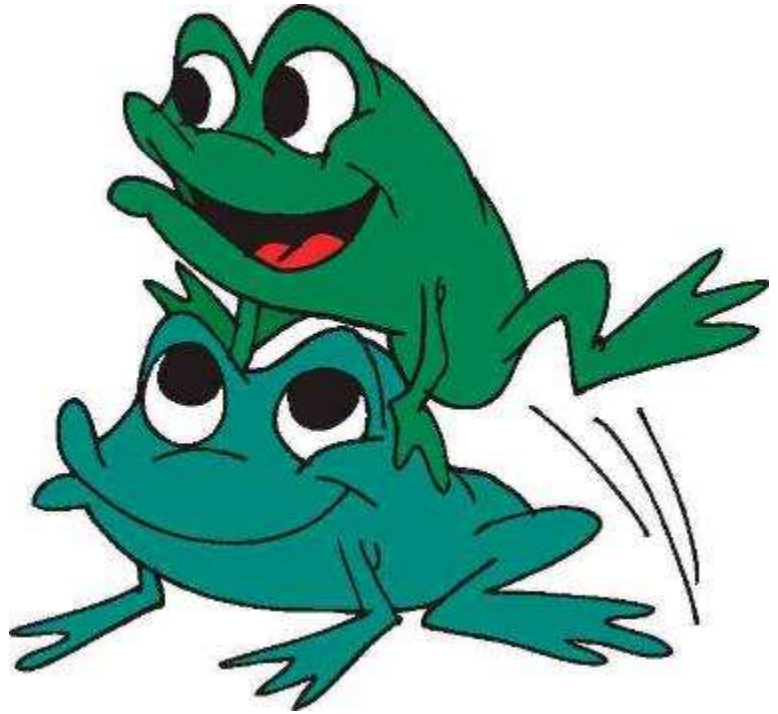
The integral stage of consciousness eagerly awaits the next, more evolved stage.



Evolution is a divine spiritual impulse



Stages can't be skipped.
They can only be gone through to
arrive at next stage.



If we see this, then we can stop
seeing others as ignorant, dumb,
or deliberately bad.

We can only see what our stage of consciousness, our worldview, allows us to



see.



On the cross Jesus said, “Abba God, forgive them for they know not what they do.” He was able to hold this forgiving position because he was coming from the awareness that people can only know what their stage of spiritual evolution allows them to know.



The integral approach is a spiritual philosophy of evolution that emphasizes the evolution of consciousness and culture as a central factor in the process of evolution overall. It posits including the best of all the previous stages, transcending the worst, and welcoming the next.

GOD at different stages

God is reported to have killed in the Old Testament over 300,000, not including entire cities and, in one instance, the entire population of the earth except for Noah and his family.

Tribal and Warrior God

God is vengeful.
Only keeping the law
or believing in Jesus
will save you from
God's wrath.



Traditional God

God is sometimes loving
and sometimes angry.



Modern God

God is difficult to find.
Not small and inside us.
Not big and out there.
God must not exist.



Postmodern God



God is revealed in many traditions and spiritual paths.

Integral God



The Integrated Future of Religion

There is no need to change religious or spiritual paths if you have one. Just move to the most evolved version of that path available if possible. Find God there by whatever name or form by transcending its worse and including its best. As you evolve, you will find great harmony with others in their own religions and spiritual paths that are also evolving.

The more the many varieties of spiritual and religious paths evolve, the more they will move together in mutual respect and encouragement — becoming a mighty arrow of love and healing pointing to the health and healing of the world by many names and in many forms.



The Integral God of Christianity looks at the traditional Trinity in a three-dimensional way.

In the Christian path, the God experience becomes more and more available by following Jesus' path of reflecting about God, relating to God, and resting as God.



Reflect about God

Infinite Being in
whom we live
and move
and have
our being



Relate to God



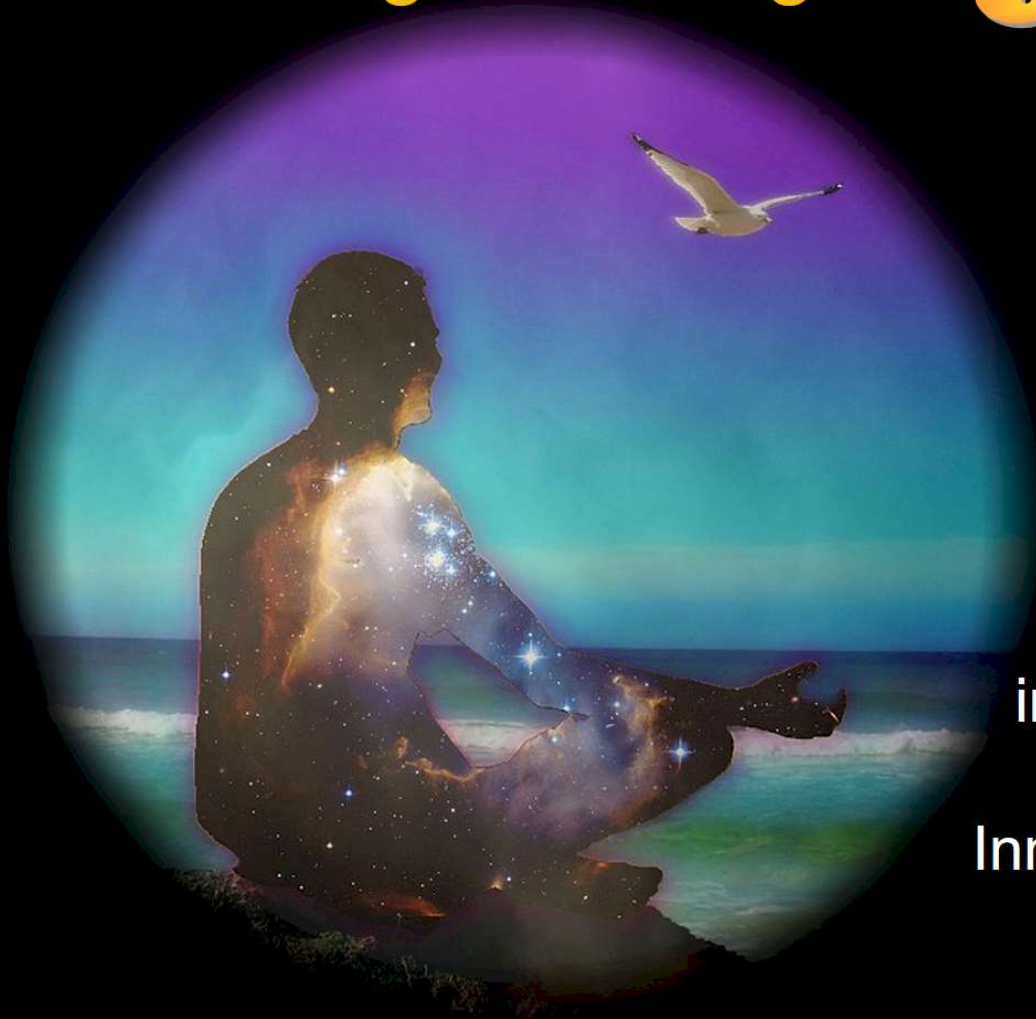
Rest as **GOD**

We are all “participants in the divine nature” because our DNA is divine.



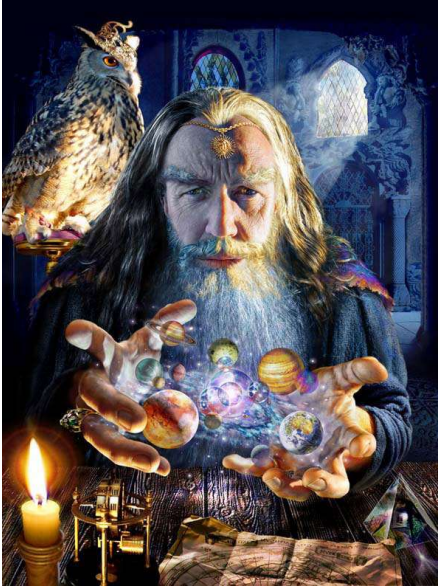
We can rest
in our deepest Self as the
Inner Face of God . . .
Being Itself expressed as Us

Integral resting as **GOD**



We can rest
in our deepest Self
as the
Inner Face of God . . .
Being Itself
expressed as Us

Jesus through the stages



Tribal Jesus

Jesus is a magical divine being who performed magical interventions on earth.



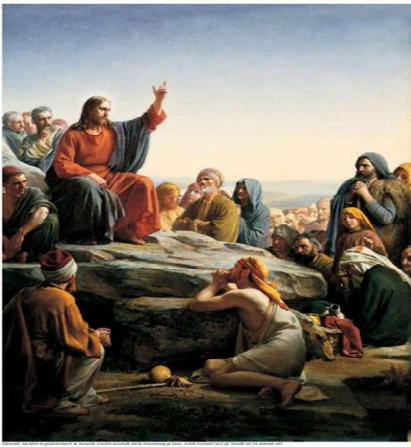
Warrior Jeesus

He fights the devil and evil wherever he finds it.



Traditional Jesus

The one and only Son of God who came to save us from our sins and God's wrath by dying on the cross.



Modern Jesus

Monumental figure in history, a wise teacher who was crucified.

Postmodern Jesus



Black Jesus



Jesus and Krishna



Jesus and Buddha

Jesus is one of many enlightened masters who came to show us the way to become spiritually awake

Integral Jesus

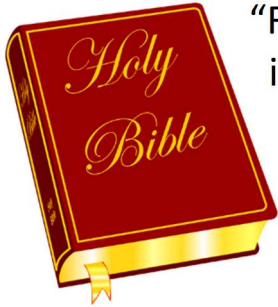


God is *defined by* Jesus
but not *confined to* Jesus.

Jesus modeled for us what it means to be fully human and fully divine in this world. He is present with us now to show us that we, too, are divine spiritual beings on a human journey.

He is with us now to guide, heal, and offer his transforming friendship.

The Bible in stages



"For Christians, the Bible is the most important book in the world."

Marcus Borg

There are at least six Bibles, each one a different interpretation from the stage or worldview of the person or group.



They might be labeled this way:





The Mystical stages



Tribal and Warrior

Mixture of magic, fantasy, superstition, and genuine mystical experience.

Traditional

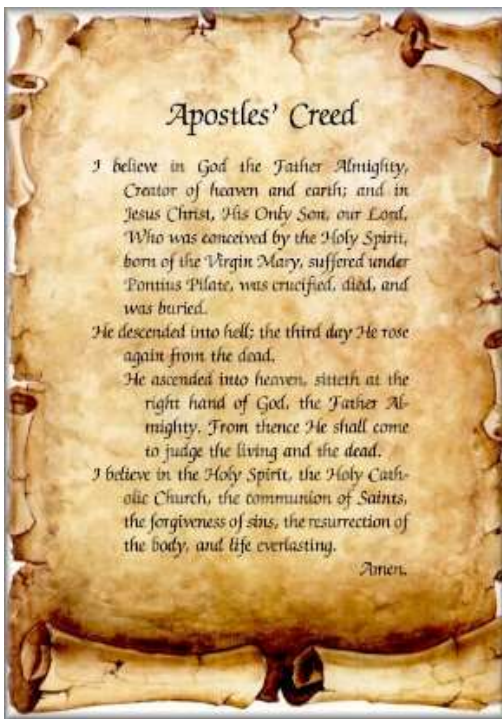


The mystical is limited to people and events in the Bible and some of the saints down through the centuries. One is not expected to have mystical experiences readily available to them today.

The traditional level tends to replace mysticism with beliefs and rules. Instead of experiencing God, we are encouraged to believe in God and keep the rules.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
FOLLOW
The RULES**



We keep trying to fill our emptiness with more beliefs and more rules. This leads an increasing number of people to leave behind what it means to be traditionally religious.

Modern stage and mystical experience



There's a crazy religious person in there, hallucinating. And I've got a prescription for you!

Postmodern and mystical experience



Revalues the mystical as the exploration of the non-physical universe through psychic, esoteric, or spiritual avenues, often without distinguishing between the magical and the mystical.



The Integral Stage and the mystical

The Integral worldview embraces the mystical as the direct experience of God's presence in its many forms.

Stage views of HELL

Tribal, Warrior and Traditional Stages View of Hell



Literal place of torment and punishment for not believing or acting in ways demanded by a vengeful God

Modern View



The word Jesus used translated “hell” was Gehenna, the garbage dump outside of Jerusalem. Jesus used it as a figure of speech to indicate destructive, tortured living.

The Valley of Gehenna today, a beautiful park in Jerusalem. Looks like the eternal fire went out!



Postmodern

There is no eternal hell. Hell is here and now in what we create by our wrong actions and wrong thinking. The term hell would not be used in a postmodern church, but the idea might be framed in terms of alienation. It is psychic estrangement from God and/or others.



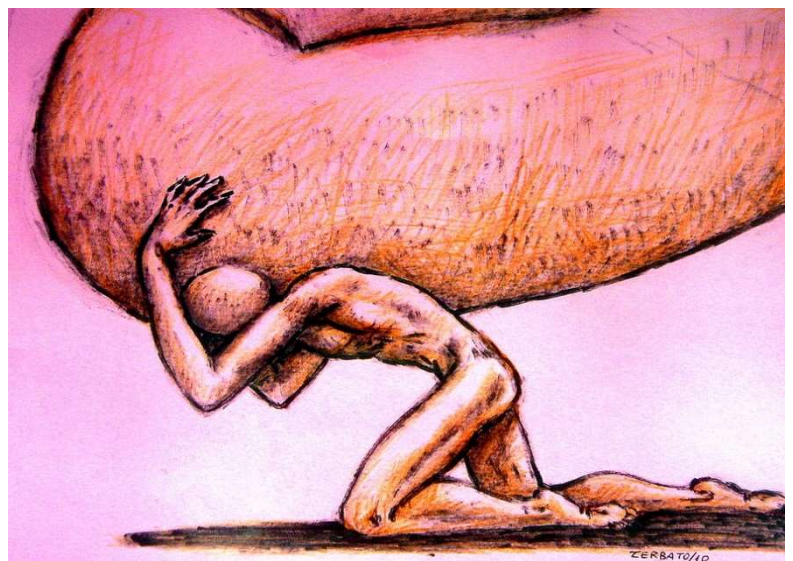
Integral

The integral Christian, in my understanding, takes seriously the fact that Jesus talked about hell more than anyone in the Bible. However, he did not connect the figure of speech of *Gehenna*, the town garbage dump of rotting things and unending fires, with a literal place. Every passage where he talked about hell, he connected it with being unloving, not with



unbelieving. He pointed to hell as oppressing the poor, needy, and vulnerable.

Hell was Jesus' radical commentary on those who oppress others in the world here and now. Garbage dump hell comes from alienating our True Self and manifests in all those things that are not loving. Hell is garbage dump living.



The Weight Of Oppression by Paulo Zerbato