

Session 1: Positively MEDIEVAL

People come to the church looking for solutions to their problems.

- The solutions the church offers have been more influenced by Western philosophical movements than the church realizes.
- For the past 400 years the church has been dominated by one particular philosophical system called **Voluntarism**.

What is voluntarism?

Voluntarism is a philosophical system that believes the most important aspect of being human is the will.

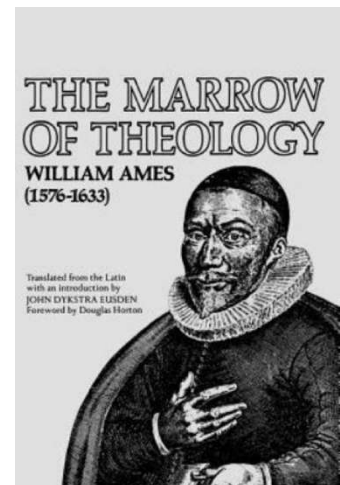
“The will is the principle and the first cause of all human operation, therefore, it follows that the first and proper subject of theology is the will.”

– William Ames

Human faculties are powers of the mind or soul. By the 19th century they were widely defined as . . .

- The Will
- The Emotions
- The Intellect

We are in the 21st century and the church is still using Medieval vocabulary to describe human anthropology. Anyone see a problem her~?

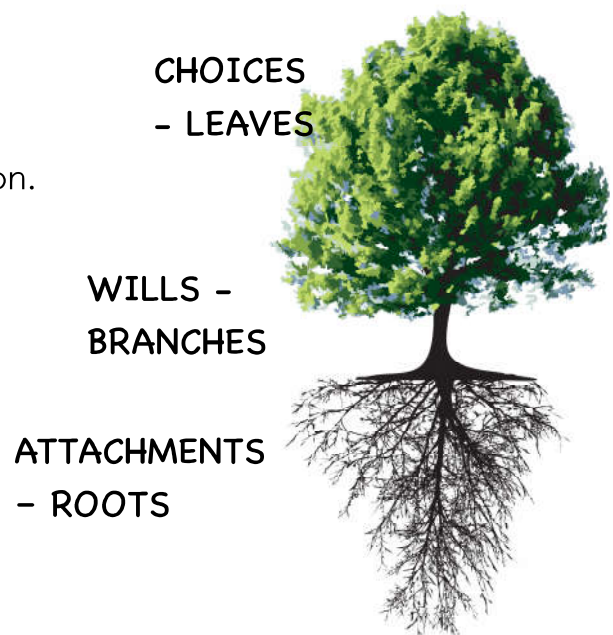


Brain Science Correction

- The brain is not anchored in choice.
- The brain has more than one will.
- Emotions are not a faculty but a function.

The Hesed Solution

- The brain is anchored in attachment.
- Our solutions must be anchored in attachment.
- Hesed is the Hebrew word for the goodness that flows from God's attachment to His people.



Session 2: 4 Good Ideas that neutralized Western Christianity

The Enlightenment launched a series of philosophical movements that have shaped the Western world.

NT Wright's Critique of the Enlightenment

1. The Enlightenment is an Epicurean Movement.
“... modern Western culture is not a new thing based on modern science, as is so often assumed, but an ancient worldview with some modern twists and footnotes.”
Epicureanism always tried to avoid sorrow: “Life is random and meaningless, so shrug your shoulders and get what pleasure you can.”
2. The Enlightenment created a Mythological Worldview.
 - a. Faust – Culture made a deal with the devil: You can have power, pleasure, and money as long as you do not love.
 - b. Frankenstein – Culture created a monster it could not control that is now rampaging across the world stage.
3. The solution to the Enlightenment debacle is the pursuit of freedom based on love.
 - a. Freedom based on love is a freedom to (and not just a freedom from)
 - b. Our delighted, sensitive, respectful, and curious exploration of creation is the response of love to the love we have received.
 - c. The resurrection of Jesus was nothing less than the launch of the new creation in which all wrongs would be put right. In this new world, the creator's love, which had always been displayed in the original creation, is displayed in all its glory.

- The church has historically offered four solutions with limited success and (in some cases) with great harm.
- - **Reason** – Let us help you think about your problem more rationally.
 - **Choice** – Let us help you make better choices by telling you what those choices should be and holding you accountable.
 - **Power** – Let us fix your problems by giving you an experience of power either by receiving the Holy Spirit or by casting out demons.
What happens when you empower bitter, angry people?
 - **Tolerance** – Let's not worry about fixing your problems. Let's just accept everyone as they are and not ask for change.

NT Wright - Postmodernity, aping its parent modernity in its protest against tyrannical narratives, has nothing to put in modernity's place except the celebration of ever smaller "identities," its only moral imperative being the scream of the victim. And neither modernity nor postmodernity has any idea what to do when the oil runs out, the ice caps melt, and the barbarians turn up at the gates

Session 3: Building a HESED Community

Story: Father Ubald

What if the measure of success we used for our discipleship ministries was our success in making disciples who love their enemies?



1. Lion and Lamb Training (Father Ubald and Connexus)

- a. One group for predators to work through repentance and healing of their own trauma and beliefs.
- b. One group for victims to work through forgiveness and healing of trauma.
- c. Uniting the groups in repentance and forgiveness.
 - i. Sharing words of repentance and forgiveness.
 - ii. Sharing stories of Immanuel.
 - iii. Learning relational skills.

2. The Pandora Problem

- a. Hate and the Brain
- b. Six Lessons Christians need to learn.
 1. Form healthy groups
 2. Combat self-justification
 3. Share healthy shame messages
 4. Share suffering
 5. Build loyalty around weakness
 6. Love enemies spontaneously

3. The Deeper Walk Trail Map

