

# ✿ Religion in Society or

✿ what's a nice boy like me doing in a place like  
this?

✦ As lay leaders in Christian ministry,  
the question becomes: **how do you  
live out your ministry?**

✦ In order to decide that, you will need  
to answer this central question:  
**what is the role of religion in  
society?**

✦ Is religion a highly individualized relationship with God that focuses on **my own salvation after death;**

✦ or

✦ is religion concerned with the larger community - with **the in-breaking of the kingdom of God here and now?**



**YOU HAVE TO  
EDUCATE RELIGIOUS  
BODIES THAT SOCIAL  
JUSTICE IS FAITH IN  
ACTION.**



✿ And I hope you are  
saying to  
yourselves, of  
course it is BOTH!

✦ But truth be told, most mainline churches focus on the personal, individual relationship with God, and the question becomes.....

✿ Is that the best  
way to help usher  
in the Kingdom of  
God?

❖ Recently, Franklin Graham visited Hawaii.



✿ He's well known for many things, but one stands out.

✦ Recently, in response to police violence involving African-American people, Graham said he has the solution:

OBEDY THE  
POLICE!!!

---

..... and all  
others in  
authority.....



✿ A very individualized response to what he perceives to be very individualized incidents.

✿ Which to many white people makes sense, because white folks aren't often arrested for driving or walking, **while white.**



✦ But others see  
such police  
violence as a  
systemic  
problem....

✿....so that “obey the police” sounds like “obey your slave master,” “obey unjust uses of power;”

✦ because many black people, including our former president, have experienced arrest for driving or walking...

♣ **while black.**

---



One's viewpoint is determined by one's standpoint.

---

✿ I once had a case on Maui.

✿ A developer hauled in tons of dirt to fill a ravine for a housing development.

❖ As a result, a neighborhood of mostly retired folks had a huge wall made out of dirt hovering over their homes; creating dust and dirt and a daily mess.



✿ The developer checked progress from a parking lot a mile above the work site, and everything looked and smelled just fine.



One's viewpoint is determined by one's standpoint.

---

✿ And finally there is this story.

✿ Billy Graham told Martin Luther King, Jr. that if people's hearts changed their behavior would also change.

A CHANGE  
IN  
BEHAVIOR  
BEGINS  
WITH A  
CHANGE  
IN THE  
HEART.





✦ Dr. King replied that the law, the structure of things, must be changed, since heart-change can be fickle.



**CHANGE  
AHEAD**

Today's class is called Structural  
Analysis.

or, what's a nice boy like me doing in a place like this?

---

✦ Before you nod off,  
Structural Analysis is  
not about your house  
falling over.



✿ Instead, it is a way of  
looking at the world  
in a different way.

✦ We begin with a reflection on religion and society; taking a look at two giants of history: Freud and Marx.

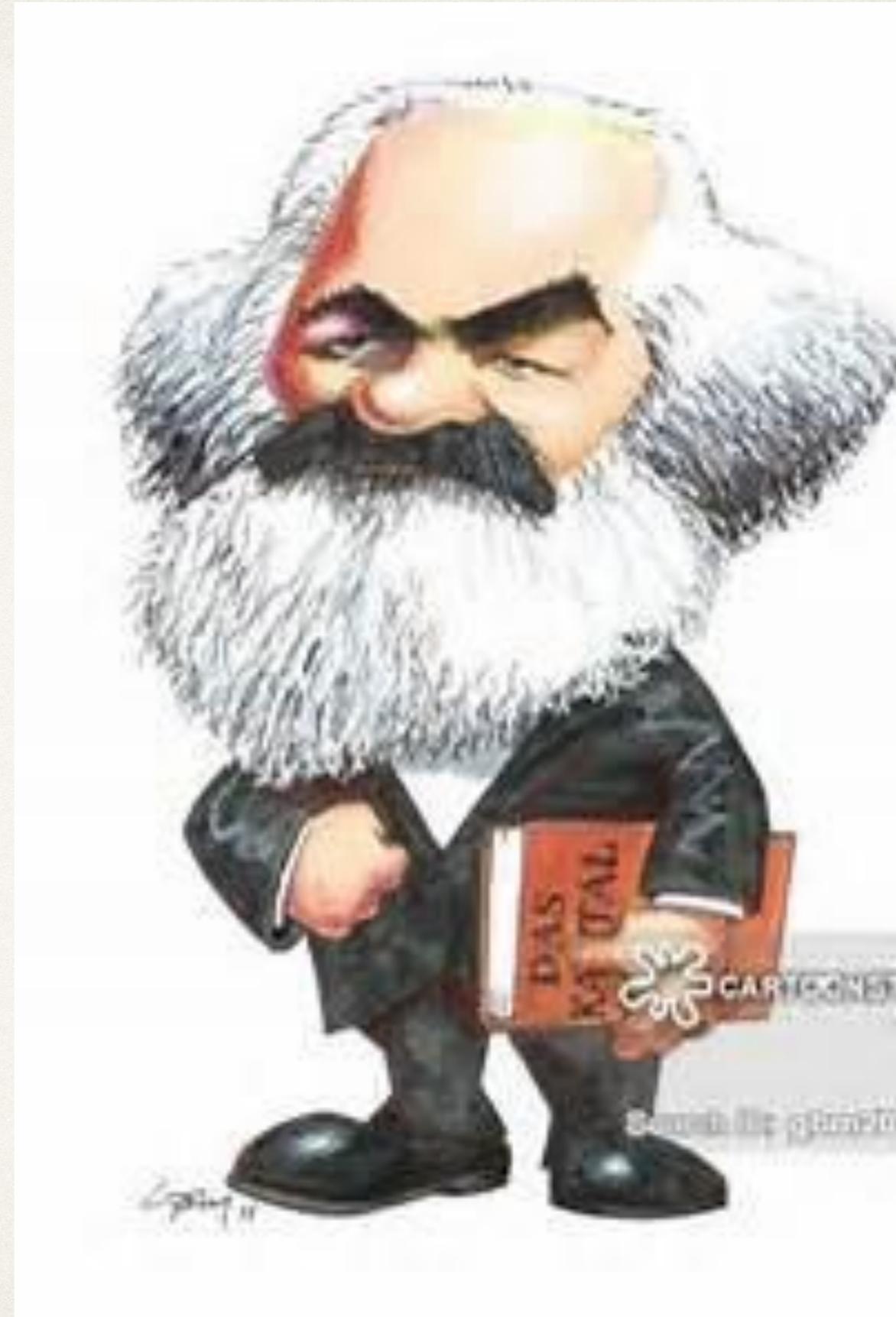


GROUCHO  
MARX



THIS Marx!

---



✦ Marx's focus:

✦ the structures of society

✦ classes in society

✦ the power of labor and money

✦ how social structures impact personal relations and our world view.

- ✦ Freud's focus
- ✦ the individual, the microcosm.

✦ Let's look at some efforts to effect social change; those trying to change social structures and those focused on the individual.

✿ A Jesuit University,  
accused of “elitism,”  
offers scholarships to  
poor students.



✿ A student from the poorest area of the city qualifies and becomes the class valedictorian.



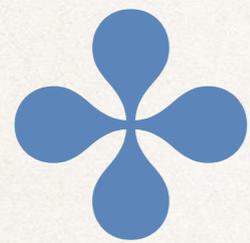
# TOP OF THE CLASS

© Can Stock Photo - csp8536263

- ✦ Upon graduation, Microsoft offers him employment.
- ✦ He and his family move out of the poorest area into a gated community.



\* What do you  
like about this  
story?



What do

you dislike?

✦ Who benefits  
from the  
university's  
action?

✿ How effectively did  
the university  
address the  
accusations of  
elitism?

✦ Did the university's  
action effect social  
change?

✿ St. Vincent de Paul  
sent wealthy  
women to minister  
to the poor in Paris.



✿ As they left on their mission he said,

✿ “Pray that the poor forgive you the gifts you give them.”

✿ What do you think about this strange advice for people who, out of the goodness of their hearts, want to help needy people?

✿ What does St  
Vincent's  
admonition mean?

✦ In St Vincent's view,  
who actually owns  
whatever wealth we  
may have?

✿ How do the rich women react to this admonition?

✿ When you give to charity, how do you feel about yourself?

✿ Whose money do  
you give when you  
give to charity?

✿ How should those  
who receive charity  
respond?

✦ When the Nazi's occupied Paris, Albert Camus approached, without success, religious congregations to join in the French resistance against the Nazis.



✦ “Is there not something in your faith that would motivate you to join us?” he asked.

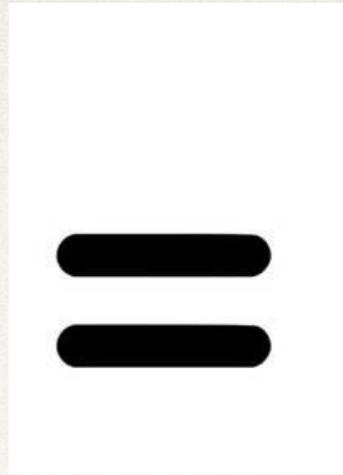
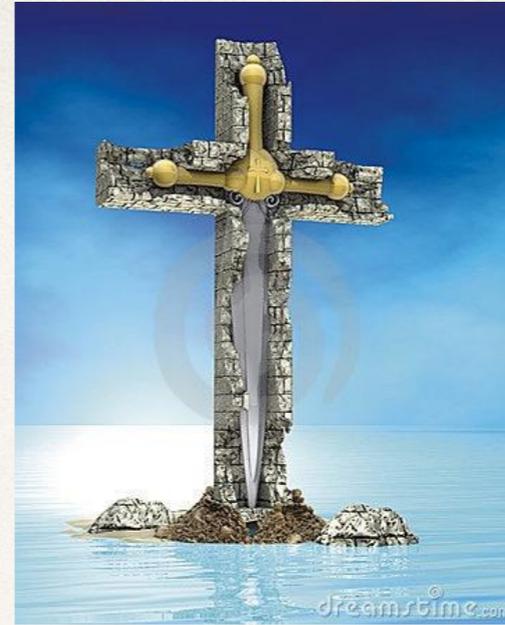
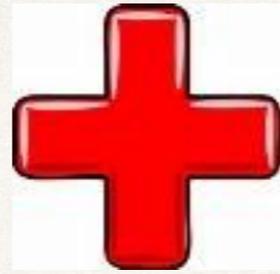
✦ Thus his remark, “Saints were in monasteries while the world went to hell.”



**✿ If Camus asked you, “Is there not something in your faith that would motivate you to join us?”  
— what say you?**

✿ If your daughter asked you what Camus' quote means, "Saints were in monasteries while the world went to hell," what do you tell her?

- ✦ Spanish missionaries accompanied the soldiers in their conquest of the Philippines and much of Latin America.
- ✦ The Sword and the Cross came together.



✿ When the oppressed sought freedom, the missionaries preached that revolution is immoral.

✿ How have war and religion intersected over the course of your lifetime?

✦ To what extent has religion been used to maintain a social order that benefits a few at the expense of the many?

✿ To what extent  
has religion been  
used to stimulate  
social change?

So: Is religion more often a ferment or a stabilizer for society?



✦ What is the primary function of religion: to promote personal salvation in the after life

✦ or

✦ to work toward the kingdom of God being realized in the present?

-- and if it is both —

---

- ✿ does one lead to the other?
- ✿ Meaning, if we become holy, will society be better or do we become holy by making society better?

❖ Mary Douglas says:

---

❖ “There is an unbreakable relationship between a group’s perception of its place in the world and its understanding of its relationship with God.”



♣-what is she talking about?

✦ Have you ever changed  
social or cultural or class  
groups?

✦ Please explain.

✦ Did your  
perception of God  
change as a result?



END OF PART ONE  
*Yayyyyyyyyy!!!*

✦ MARX and FREUD

✦ THE STRUCTURAL

✦ VS.

✦ THE PERSONAL

✿ Both Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud are major contributors to our understanding of how change happens.

✿ Both were Jewish  
and contemporaries  
– both had a dislike  
for established  
religions.

✿ Freud wrote a book about religion - “The Future of an Illusion” – and lived to see the Archbishop of Vienna embrace Hitler as the Nazis marched into Vienna.



✦ Marx is famous for his remark about religion as the opiate of the people. Yet – at least from one viewpoint, both were prophetic.

✿ (NEXT CLASS: how  
religion's greatest  
prophets are its worst  
enemies.)

✦ Freud discovers the inner workings of the psyche – the unconscious. “People are wounded by memories they themselves do not remember,” he says.



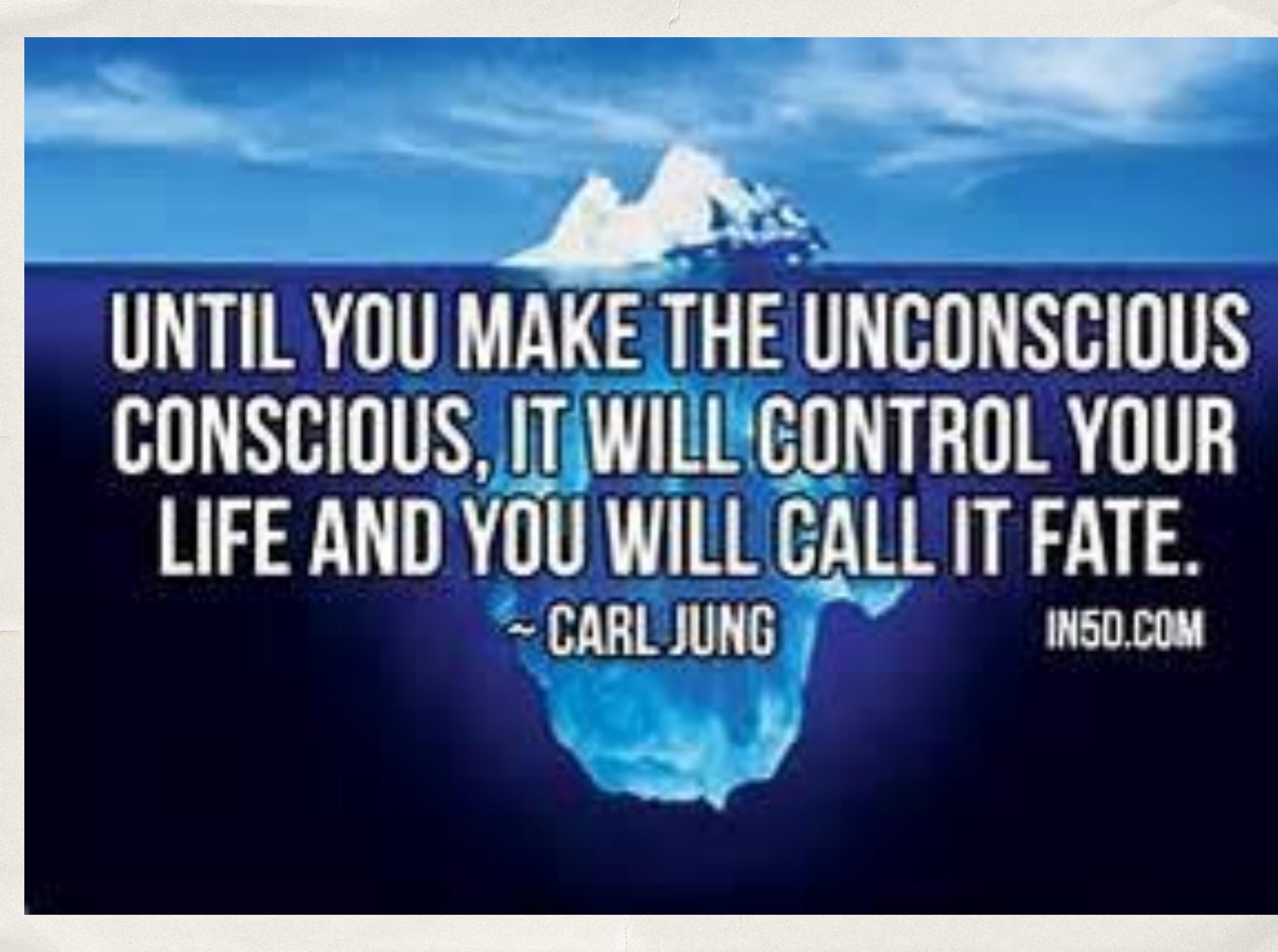
**10%**

**Conscious Mind**



**90%**

**Subconscious Mind**

An iceberg floating in a blue ocean under a blue sky. The tip of the iceberg is above the water, while the much larger part of the iceberg is submerged below the surface. The text is overlaid on the submerged part of the iceberg.

**UNTIL YOU MAKE THE UNCONSCIOUS  
CONSCIOUS, IT WILL CONTROL YOUR  
LIFE AND YOU WILL CALL IT FATE.**

**~ CARL JUNG**

**INSO.COM**

✿ His role is to help people  
make the unconscious  
conscious – a role  
psychologists and  
psychiatrists still play today.

✿ Simply put, Freud's theory of social change is: "if you want to change society, change the individual – make them better people."

✿ If you're a Freudian, what does your ministry look like in terms of:

✿ — how you spend your day?

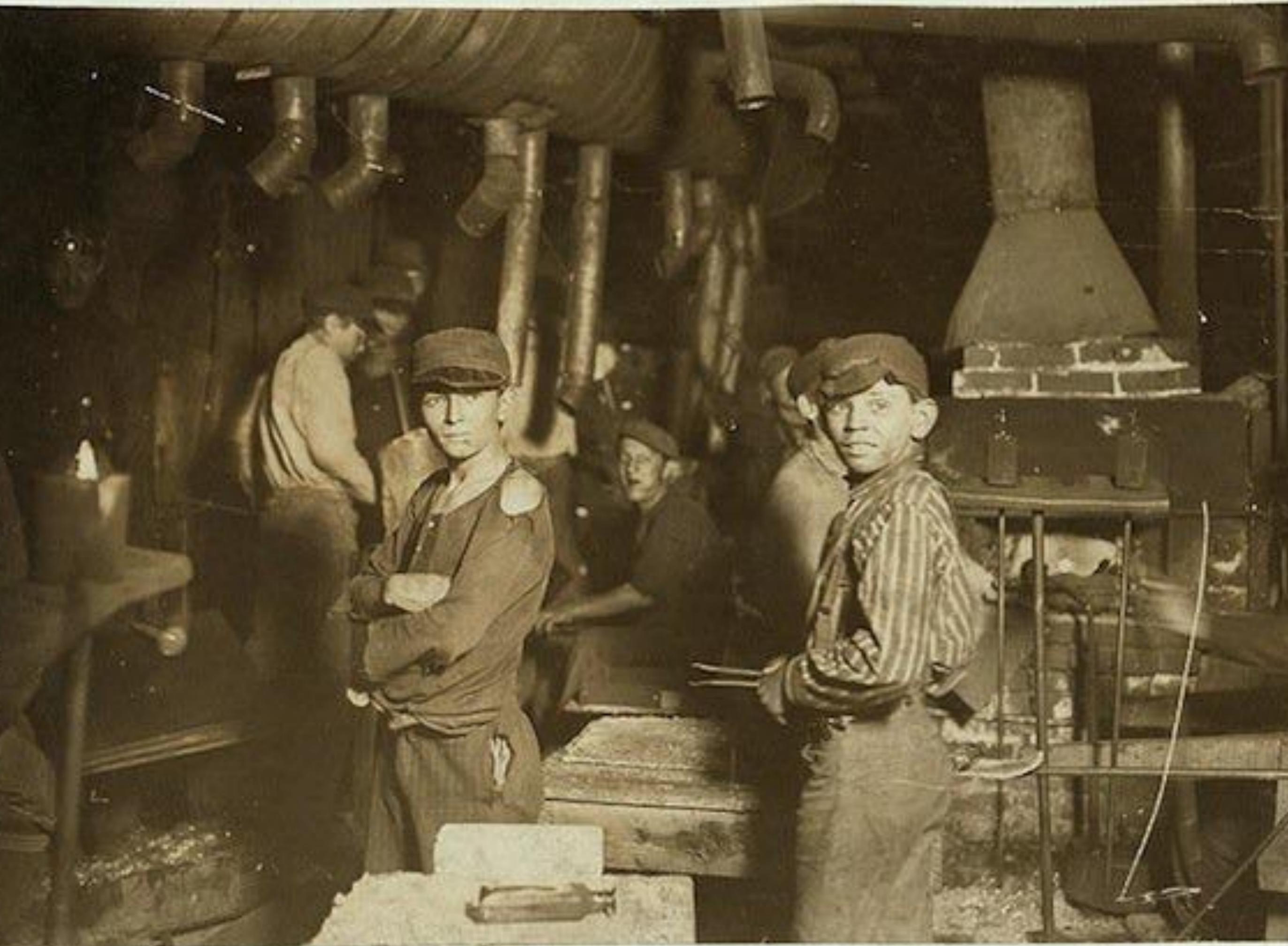
✿ — what does your understanding of the sacraments look like?

✿ — what does

Bible Study look  
like?

✦ Karl Marx lived  
mostly in England  
as it industrialized.

✿ He saw children enslaved  
in factories in order to  
contribute to the  
enrichment of a few elite.



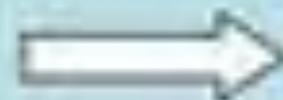
✿ Keenly aware of the damaging effect of structures on human life, Marx argued that in order for people to change, social structures must change.

✿ —What does he mean when he talks about social structures?

# CHANGING SOCIAL STRUCTURES – KEY CONCEPTS

- Social Divisions

*Those substantial differences between people that run throughout our society. Social division has at least two categories each of which has distinctive material and cultural features ... social divisions are not natural' – Social Divisions, Payne, G. 2nd edition, 2006, page 4*



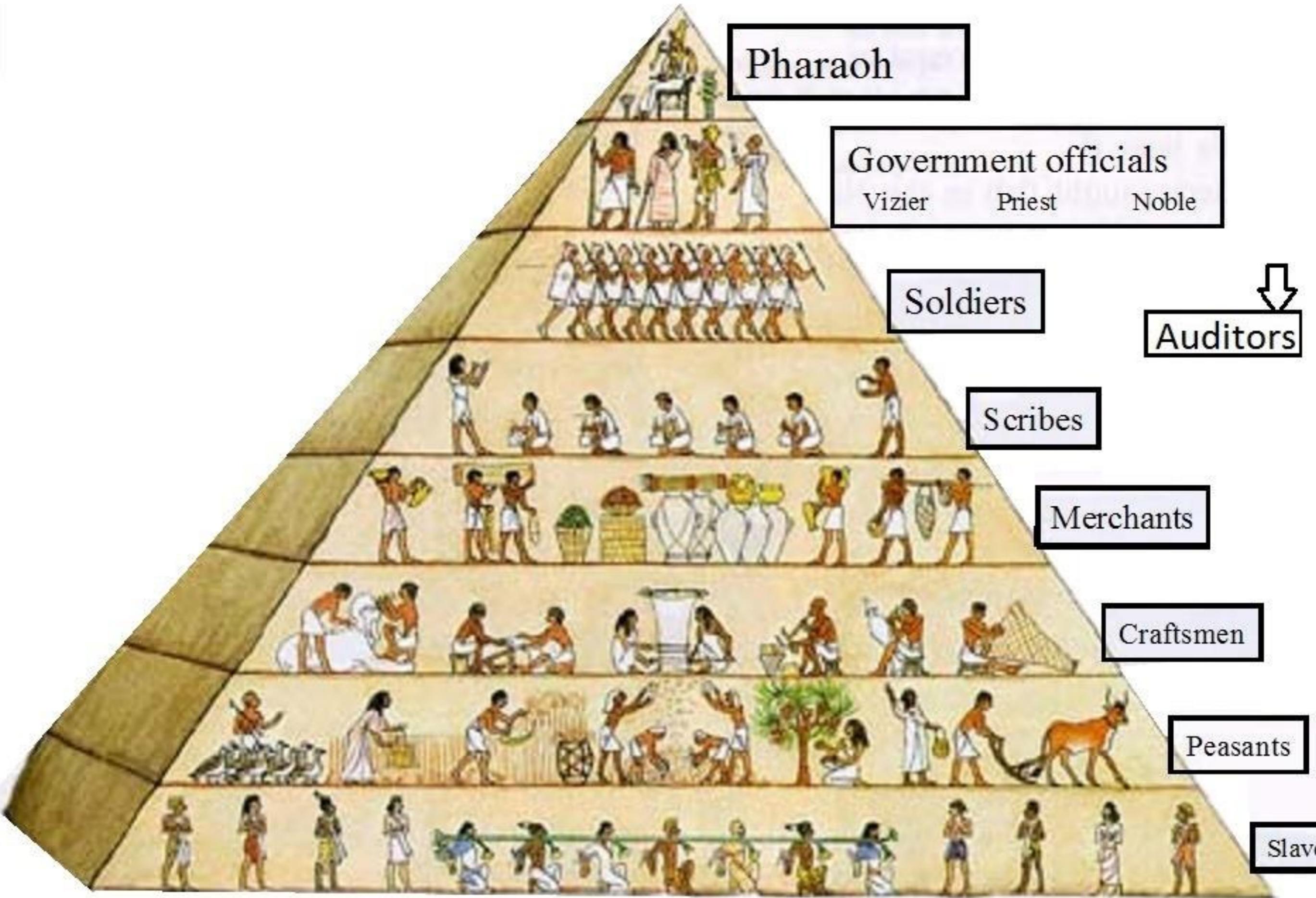
Social Stratification - CLASS



GENDER



RACE and ETHNICITY





**CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLD**

**YOU KNOW**

**I'M RIGHT**



✦ How are social  
structures  
created?

✿ Of course you can have  
bad people in good  
structures and good  
people in bad structures.

✿ But with the limits  
of time and energy  
we all have: let's  
discuss the direction  
of change --

✦ should we concentrate on  
motivating individuals to become  
good

✦ or

✦ concentrate on structural change  
that will lead people to become  
better?

✿ The individual approach looks like retreats and workshops or the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous,

✿ **contrasted with**

✿ Christian inspired social movements such as immigration reform, labor unions, women's rights and civil rights.



- ✦ Speaking of the church in the developed world, which do you say is the primary model: Freud or Marx?
- ✦ Neither or both?
- ✦ Explain.

✦ Even the newer testament  
and the life of Jesus, and  
the early Church has the  
possibility of a “Marxist”  
or “Freudian”  
interpretation --

✦ Yet, Jesus has been  
predominantly looked  
at as a “man for all  
seasons” and mostly  
“a-historical.”

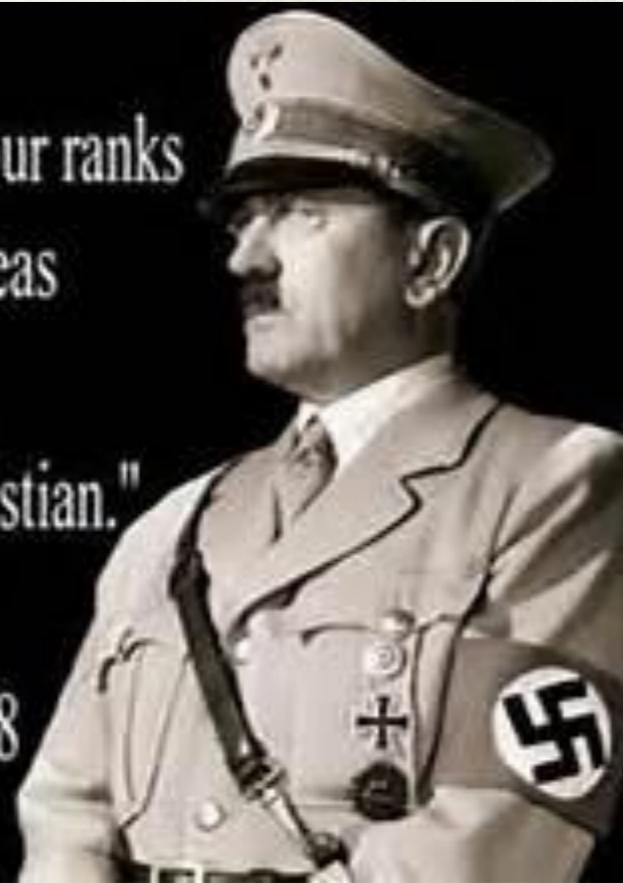
✿ a jesus who fits just  
about every one.....

"We tolerate no one in our ranks  
who attacks the ideas  
of Christianity.

Our movement is Christian."

~ Adolf Hitler

October 27, 1928

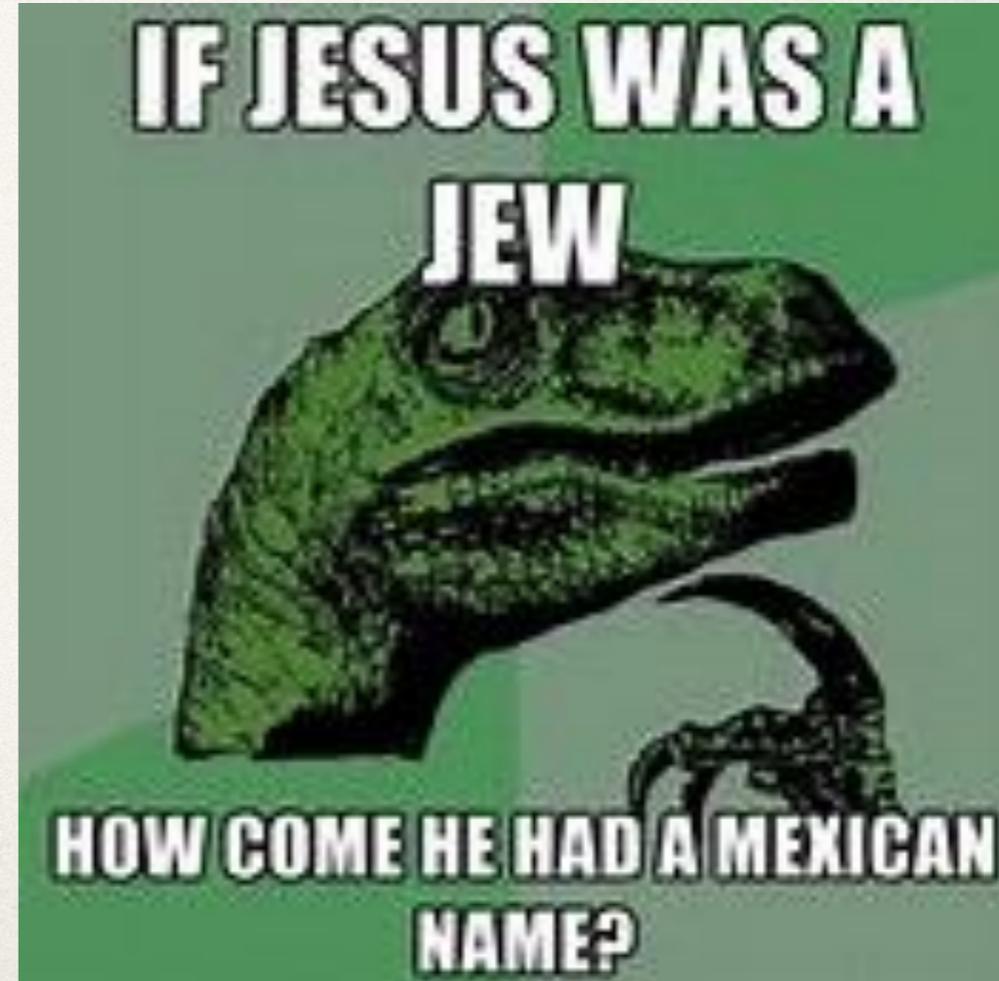


**KEEP  
CHRIST IN  
CHRISTMAS  
DON'T X-MAS  
HIM OUT**

**NORTHERN KNIGHTS  
KU KLUX KLAN  
P. O. BOX 1563  
DAYTON, OHIO 45401**



"The Bible means a lot to me, but I  
don't want to get into specifics."



✦ And that's the danger when we ignore Jesus in his historical context: his standpoint.

✿ It lets folks like this  
claim him!



✿ There's an old saying: God created us in his image,



✿ then we returned  
the favor, creating  
God in our image!

You know your  
god is  
man-made  
when he hates  
the same  
people you do.

✦ Instead of looking at  
Jesus outside of his  
historical context.....

✦ Let's look at the life and structures of Palestine during the time of his public ministry.

✦ A STRUCTURAL  
ANALYSIS OF  
PALESTINE AT  
THE TIME OF  
JESUS

## TERRITORIES -

**JUDEA** - a semi-arid region, produces olives, fruits, sheep and goats. Site of the temple (Jerusalem), the center where God dwells.

Synagogues were centers for instruction and existed in other parts of the country but there was only one temple.





- ❖ **GALILEE** – fertile, large land holdings, corn, fruits, cattle. On two great trade routes - Damascus to the sea & Damascus to Jerusalem
- ❖ Region of revolts (during the boyhood of Jesus, 2,000 insurrectionists were crucified)
- ❖ Foreign merchants – mixed blood – impurity
- ❖ (Mt 4:13 – people living in darkness, can anything good come out of Nazareth?)



**SAMARIA** – originally from the tribes of Israel – heretical sect, worship on Mt. Gerizim (vs Mt. Zion), a despised people.



✦ THE PRIMARY FACT WAS  
THAT ISRAEL WAS  
CONQUERED BY ROME  
(POMPEY) IN 63 BC





❖ And thus, they paid tribute:  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the harvest to Rome

✦ Anonal – in kind or  
labor to support the  
army



❖ Publicum – a tax on goods



❖ And sometimes “taxes” extorted by folks like Zacchaeus...the tree climber!

✦ **And they paid religious taxes:**

✦ Didracma for the temple



✦ Tithes for the clergy



✦ 3 major feasts



✦ Special offerings



✦ **LOTS OF HANDS WANTING MONEY**



✦ Construction of the temple  
lasted from 20 BC to 62 AD



✦ The temple was totally destroyed in 70 AD – it only lasted 8 years after 80+ years of construction.



## ✦ POLITICS

- ✦ A Procurator in Caesarea (Judea) was Roman
- ✦ He kept the vestments for the three great feasts and nominated the high priests (from among 4 families)





❖ A Roman Legate in Syria worked through Herod Antipas in Galilee

❖ Ordinary Publicans were

---

❖ taken from the lower classes





❖ The Roman Army was in Palestine and consisted of non-Jews.

✿ Here's a look at  
how the Urban vs  
Rural social classes  
break down.....

Rural
Big landowners
Small landowners
Artisans
Laborers
Slaves

Urban
Priestly aristocracy
Big merchnts
Tradesmen
Artisans
Laborers
Slaves

✦ Rural big landowners often lived in the urban areas.

✦ What is the impact of absentee ownership?

✿ Let's meet the folks!

✦ Sadducees – linked to the Romans by economic interests – most conservative, accepted only the Torah.

✦ NO resurrection!

✦ Who needs an after life when you rule this life????



✦ Pharisees – urban  
lower middle  
class, artisans,  
small traders,  
scribes.



✦ Zealots – a reaction to oppression both foreign and local engaged in guerrilla war with Rome and it's Jewish allies.

**Zealots**  
Character Design  
Color Concept v2



✦ Essenes – a  
monastic group that  
retreated from  
society seeking  
purity.



✦ Priests – divided into upper and lower clergy – they monopolize religious language

✦ John 9:34 – “you were altogether born in sin – do you teach us?”



## ✿ IDEOLOGY

- ✿ The temple was the center of the ideological system
- ✿ The center of the divine presence but also economic and political power
- ✿ The temple was a town unto itself with its own treasury, laws, police force, Walmart.....

✿ What were the different groups looking for in a Messiah?

✿ Sadducees

✿ Not looking – they  
already had their  
kingdom!

## ✦ Pharisees

✦ If every Jew kept every law for one day, Messiah will come.

## ✦ Essenes

- ✦ Withdraw from society,  
love one another in  
community and Messiah  
will come.

# ✦ Zealots

✦ Get rid of foreign oppression. Messiah will restore the kingdom of Israel.

Jesus does not  
meet any of their  
expectations.

---

for example.....



✦ When Jesus  
welcomes prostitutes  
and tax collectors....

✦ everyone's mad!

✿ When he opposes the  
Sadducees and  
Pharisees, he upsets  
both the upper and  
middle class teachers.....

✿ and the hits

keep coming.....

✿ —When he  
chooses apostles  
who are painfully  
ordinary.....

✿—When he announces  
a Messiah who will  
serve and suffer rather  
than lead and kill.....

✿ — When he condemns  
the symbolic religious  
power and foretells the  
destruction of the  
temple....

✦ All of this has religious  
AND political and  
economic implications.

✦ Do you see how?

✦ How?

✦ The death of Jesus comes about from a coalition of Roman forces and the Jewish social elite because he is perceived as a threat to the existing order.

✿ What do you say  
to that assertion?

✦ How does that assertion  
fit with more a-historical  
understandings of Jesus'  
death?

✦ Is it God who demands the  
death of Jesus

✦ or

✦ is it human love of violence  
that kills the Son of God?

✦ Next class: How can the various theories of atonement be integrated with a structural analysis of the world Jesus lived in?



# Moving to today

---

✿ let's look at  
our lives in



MOD  
ERN  
SOCIETY





# SOME TOOLS FOR ANALYZING THE P

warning!!!! this exercise will cause your head to hurt!

---

*really hurt.....*



## ✦ THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

✦ or

- ✦ How a society is organized for material well being
- ✦ What do we produce in Hawaii? (goods and services, tourism, agriculture, construction, etc.)?

- ✿ Who owns the means of production?
- ✿ -who are the big tourism players?
- ✿ -who owns agriculture?
- ✿ -who runs construction?

✿ Does it matter to  
know this  
information?

✿ Why??

✿ Where in our islands is economic power located?

✿ -for tourism

✿ -for agriculture

✿ -for construction

- ✦ If the area you live in is not a center of economic power, what happens to you?
- ✦ What areas of our islands are outside the centers of economic power?

✿ How does Waikiki as the center for tourism impact our response to say.....homelessness, or put another way.....

✿ what happens when the homeless show up in Waikiki?

- ❖ What drives consumption in Hawaii for high end real estate?
- ❖ Who often buys that real estate?
- ❖ How does that effect the long time residents of Hawaii?

✦ On the Newsprint, jot  
down one thing that  
strikes you about our  
Economic System

# ✦ THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE

✦ meaning:

- ✦ How are people grouped or categorized within the society?

✿ Do we have social classes  
in Hawaii?

✿ Name some.

- ✦ List the different ways you can enter a social class?
- ✦ What are the symbols of social class, i.e. dress, type of employment, where one lives, what one drives?

✦ Does the existence of  
classes impact our  
response to  
homelessness?

✦ How is social class related to race, ethnic origins, religious affiliation?

✦ Which race/ethnicity is most represented among the homeless?

✦ the imprisoned?

✦ On the Newsprint, make a note of one thing that strikes you about our Social Structure

# ✦ THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE

✦ or

✦ How groups are organized for power

✦ How is political power organized in  
Hawaii?

# To what extent does ethnicity

---

✦ Impact political power in  
Hawaii?

- ❖ Why might that be?
- ❖ For whom is political power exercised?
- ❖ What groups have access to political power?
- ❖ What groups don't have access?

✿ On the Newsprint,  
jot a note about  
something that hits  
you about our  
Political Structure

# ✦ THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

✦ or

✦ Who guides, influences or decides what we believe?



✦ How so?

✦ Note: Texas and  
Text Books



✿ How so?

✿ Fake and  
real news?

**BUSINESS**

✦ same

question.....how

does it influence

what we think?



Religion

✿ how does

religion

influence how

we think?

✿ What does it mean to be a “good student” or a “good citizen?”

✿ what makes one “good” in our society?

✦ Do the three P's of our society: POWER, PRESTIGE, POSSESSIONS, impact our idea of the "good?"

✦ How???????

✿ What is dominant value system in Hawaii?

✿ Is there a hidden or  
less spoken value  
system in Hawaii?

✦ On the Newsprint, jot a note of what hits you about our Ideological System

## ✦ THE RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE

- ✦ What symbols relate our life here to a supernatural reality?
- ✦ What religious groups seem to be growing?

✦ Do the growing groups  
tend to confront or  
conform to the prevailing  
culture?

- ✦ What is the role of “popular religion” like new age, paganism, evangelical movements?
- ✦ What is the role of religion in the ideological system?

✿ On the Newsprint, jot  
down something that  
hits you about our  
Religious System

✿ WHAT DO ALL OF THESE  
STRUCTURES TAKEN  
TOGETHER TELL US ABOUT  
OUR LIVES?

✿ WRITE IT DOWN ON  
THE NEWSPRINT

## ✦ ANALYSIS / REFLECTION

✦ We wish to understand the world because this is where salvation happens, where the kingdom is being built. So.....

✦ If Christ were here in the  
flesh – what would he do,  
say, ABOUT  
HOMELESSNESS?

✦ RE: homelessness, what's happening in the present moment?

✦ socially?

✦ politically?

✦ What does committing  
one's life to the Gospel  
mean in the society we  
live in?

✿ What are the “Signs of the Times” – signs that show us how to communicate God’s love to human beings in our society?

# WHAT CAN WE DO?



"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

✿ shall we begin?