

Truth and Community Transformation

Foundational Principles for Distinctively Biblical
Community Development

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A Publication of Food for the Hungry International



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for Distinctively Biblical Community Development
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A Movement of Messengers with the Kingdom Message

Food for the Hungry International is excited and passionate about its future. God is blessing us with a growing revelation of what he desires from us as part of his advancing kingdom.

In organizational terms, FHI is a Christian, international relief and development organization that currently works in 40 countries of the world. Our vision is to work towards physical and spiritual hungers ending worldwide. We do this through wholistic ministry, which means helping people with all their needs: physical, spiritual, emotional, mental, and social.

To better understand FHI's excitement, however, it is necessary to understand five things that we are growing in.

First, FHI has a vision of success. A strategy of wholistic ministry is only strong if supporters, staff, and communities have a clear picture of what it looks like when successful. FHI calls this a "vision of a community." Wherever FHI works in the world, we want to see three things happen:

- A church established that is reaching out to its community,
- Local leaders who increasingly can solve their own problems,
- Families who increasingly can meet one another's needs.

We believe that this simple but powerful vision, in biblical terms, is nothing less than the kingdom of God entering a community and redeeming everything in it.

Second, FHI emphasizes incarnational ministry. Incarnational ministry means putting staff in close relationship with communities to facilitate the vision. This is the model used by Jesus and his disciples. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that this principle is the common denominator in FHI's best projects around the world. You will always find in the excellent projects a person in the midst of the community who is modeling and facilitating the vision.

Third, FHI invests in the personal growth of staff and ministry partners.

People cannot give away what they don't possess themselves. For that reason, we desire that the "vision of a community" increasingly grow in the personal lives of each person associated with FHI. This means that they: 1) Grow in Christ as Lord and Savior, 2) Grow in their God-given gifts and calling, and 3) Grow in their natural and spiritual families. FHI has and is developing Bible study materials that provide guidance in each area. When someone becomes involved with FHI, whether they be staff, donors, or community members, we desire that they be personally blessed and grow.

Fourth, FHI is integrating a biblical worldview into all we do. FHI has learned that the root cause of poverty and hunger is ultimately the set of ideas, beliefs, and values to which people hold and by which they govern their lives. We call this set of ideas a person's worldview. A faulty worldview can enslave a person, community or nation. The Bible says "the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). Because of this, FHI attempts to integrate a biblical perspective into all that we do.

Fifth, FHI has a "kingdom of God" perspective. This means we see ourselves following the marching orders of the King, Jesus Christ, rather than our organizational interests. This shows up in numerous ways. First, we desire to see local churches grow. The Church is God's primary vehicle for blessing the world. It is FHI's desire, therefore, to strengthen local churches in all that we do. Secondly, we desire to share what we have learned with others and also learn from them. Finally, we desire kingdom partnerships. An example is our worldwide relief network. By partnering with like-minded organizations, our vision is to respond to any emergency in the world with Christian compassion within 24 hours.

An exciting result of these five aspects is that FHI is becoming more than an organization. We are becoming a movement of people who agree with these principles. This movement includes staff, communities, donors, churches, and partners.

FHI is excited, yet humbled about its future. Are we there yet? No, but like all followers of Jesus Christ, we are growing step by step towards God's plan for us. We believe that if we are faithful by God's grace, FHI will become more than an organization that does projects to accomplish the vision of a community. We will become a group of staff, donors, churches, and community members who live out the vision of a community. We will become a movement of messengers with the kingdom message.

*—Randy Hoag, President
Food for the Hungry International*

overview of the project

"In regard to [the Bible], I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

—Abraham Lincoln

What is the single most important element of a successful relief and development project among the world's needy people? What is the most essential resource we can bring to any initiative to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for the suffering? How can we best ensure justice?

The basic premise of this of this project is this: The most effective tool we can wield in our efforts on behalf of the needy is biblical truth. When God's Word is driving our actions, everything else will come in its time. But when we are plagued by false ideas, our best-laid plans will inevitably come to naught, for it is ideas that have the most powerful consequences. The ancient Hebrew axiom says it well, "For as [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Pr. 23:7, KJV). Our beliefs inevitably show up sooner or later in our behavior, speech, writing and handiwork. Further, social institutions and policies bear the unmistakable imprint of our ideas and thoughts.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (Jn. 14:6). He also said, "If you hold to my teaching... you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn. 8:31-32) and, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (Jn. 10:10). Jesus and his teachings have the power to transform lives. They also have power to transform entire communities and nations. The converse is true as well. Satan is a liar. "When he lies," Jesus said, "he speaks his native language" (Jn. 8:44). His lies result in death and destruction. Scripture warns that Satan "comes only to steal and kill and destroy" (Jn. 10:10). His lies not only affect individuals, but they impact entire communities and nations as well (Rev. 20:3).

If we truly believe these things, then we must believe that the most important thing we can bring in our service to the poor is the truth—not in some limited form that only applies to spiritual or ethical concerns, but that applies to every area of life. For if Jesus is Lord of the entire universe as the Bible affirms (Col. 1:15-18), then his teaching must be relevant for all topics, all issues and all areas of life. The great Dutch statesman and theologian Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920) put it this way: "There is not a square inch of the universe over which King Jesus does not claim, 'Mine!'"¹

¹David Hall, "Life of the Party." Tabletalk from Ligonier Ministries and R.C. Sproul, Oct. 2002, p. 55.

Yet today, there is a tendency for some Christians to divide the world into opposing categories. One category is labeled “sacred” and is concerned with spiritual matters, ethics, morality, salvation and eternal life. Everything else goes into a “secular” category. When we think this way, the authority of God’s Word is limited to the sacred category and we look elsewhere for guidance and authority for other issues and areas of life. Instead, we need to allow Scripture to speak into everything—including how we think about and practice community development. What does the Bible say about public health? What does it say about agriculture? How does it inform our thinking about leadership and leadership development? Attempting to answer such questions is precisely what this project is about.

A Word on Worldview

Coming up with a concise list of biblical principles on community development-related topics is no simple task. After all, the Bible is not a simple book. In fact, it’s not a single book so much as a library of 66 separate books written by numerous authors over the course of hundreds of years. Some of these books contain history, some poetry and some prophesy. Trying to navigate this diverse library for common principles can be a complex, daunting task. So daunting in fact, it has led some to despair that it can be done at all. “There’s no such thing as ‘the Christian view’ on any topic or issue; there is a whole spectrum of Christian views,” they might argue. “So let’s leave this task to Bible experts and give up hope of gleaning principles ourselves.” But, in the words of British theologian John Stott, “Such despair denigrates God, because it denies the usefulness of his revelation as ‘a lamp to our feet and a light for our path’ (Ps. 119:105). To abandon hope of having anything Christian to say [about such topics] may even be mental laziness in the guise of a false humility.”²

True humility will lead us to study his Word diligently and prayerfully, trusting that God is able to grant us wisdom on any number of topics (Jas. 1:5). According to Stott, the best way to approach the study of a particular topic or issue is not to begin by searching Scripture for isolated verses or passages, but to start with the major themes and presuppositions of Scripture. “A mind which has firmly grasped the basic presuppositions of Scripture and is thoroughly informed with biblical truth...can think with Christian integrity about the problems of the contemporary world.... [It can] think about even the most ‘secular’ topics ‘Christianly’, that is, from a Christian perspective.”³

² John Stott, *New Issues Facing Christians Today* (London: Marshall Pickering, 1999), p. 35.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 36, 38.

What are the major themes and presuppositions of Scripture? To answer this question, I'll ask another. What is the "big story" that the Bible tells? The Bible is comprised of many individual books, yet if we take a bird's-eye view of the whole, we see that God has supernaturally woven its various stories and parts together to form a single meta-story. This big story of the Bible can be divided into four major stages: The Creation, the Fall, the Redemption and the Consummation. According to Stott, this fourfold biblical scheme is entirely "God centered. Its four stages are disclosed from his point of view... It is God who creates, judges, redeems and perfects."⁴ The Bible is God's story.

This big story of Scripture provides us with a comprehensive Christian worldview. Like all worldviews it answers life's big questions: What is ultimately real? Who is man? What is the purpose of human existence? Where is history going? Yet only the biblical worldview answers these questions from the perspective of God—the creator and Lord of the universe. (See the "48 Essential Elements of the Worldview of the Kingdom of God" in Appendix 1). So rather than asking, "What does the Bible say about a particular topic or issue?" a better question is, "How does the biblical worldview inform or shape my thinking about a particular topic or issue?" This approach tends to lessen the dangers of "proof-texting" which seeks to settle any issue by quoting a single, isolated text or verse of Scripture. This was the approach we took with this project and for all involved, it was a mind-expanding exercise that yielded tremendous insight.

How the Lists of Principles Were Developed

The goal of the project was to develop concise lists of biblical principles on a number of community-development related topics with the idea that these principles, when taken as a whole, would help to lay a distinctively biblical foundation for the practice of Christian community development. To actually research and develop the lists, we turned to a team of experienced community development practitioners. The topics they addressed were:

- Agricultural development
- Health development
- Child development
- Church development
- Leadership development
- Family development

⁴ Ibid, p. 41.

Why did we select these particular topics? In short, because they are all relevant to community development. The first topics (churches, leaders and families) are three foundational “groups” that exist in most communities worldwide. Churches are important because God works through churches to advance his kingdom (Eph. 3:10). Leaders are important because most people are followers. If you change a community’s leaders, you will impact many others. Families are important because they are the most basic social institution in any community. Families have the greatest impact on the development of children, and children are the future. So if churches, leaders and families increasingly function as God intends, then hope exists for community transformation.

The remaining topics focus on common areas of community development intervention. Certainly other areas exist, including clean water, basic shelter, and small business development, to name a few. Over time, we hope to develop lists for these and other areas as well.

A Word on Format

In writing out the principles, in addition to a basic statement of the principle, the following components were added to enhance clarity and ground the principle in Scripture:

- A title that concisely describes the principle.
- A succinct description of foundational biblical truths from which the principle derives.
- Select Bible passages that underpin the principle.
- A list of “counterfeit” principles. These are satanic distortions of the principle that often lead to bondage and poverty.
- Ideas for how the principle can be applied or taught to others.

Who Are We Writing For?

While anyone interested in the biblical worldview as it applies to the particular topics addressed by the project may benefit from this resource, we are writing primarily for Christian community development practitioners, and even more specifically, to those serving with the poor in the developing world.

Over the past 50 years or so, community development has largely become a secularized industry, one that views “the problem of poverty” as socially or structurally caused, and whose solutions are likewise mechanical and structural. If the right projects, with the right support systems, with sufficient resources, with the appropriate management efficiencies are in place, poverty will surely be reduced or eliminated. For Christians, the danger of unintentionally operating within this false framework is very real. Motivated by Christ, many feel called to the very biblical task of ministering to the needs

of the poor. Yet when they get down to the actual work of community development, they find themselves swept up in the materialistic framework that dominates so much well-intentioned community development activity. These principles are written for those workers of Christian compassion who deeply desire to function within a distinctively biblical framework. One that is not polluted with materialistic assumptions, but instead, that builds seamlessly and intentionally from the presuppositions of Scripture. If you are such a person, these lists are for you and we welcome your insights into how they can be strengthened and improved.

Suggestions for Using the Principles

- Use them as a basis for your own reflection, study and research. Would you state the principles differently? If so, how? What additional principles would you add? Which might you eliminate? We'd love to hear from you on this!
- Creatively communicate them to farmers, nurses, pastors and leaders in the communities where you serve. Use them as a basis for developing simple lessons, stories, and illustrations that can be used to communicate them in common, everyday terms to the people you serve.
- Use them to evaluate your current community development activities. Do they reinforce the biblical principles listed here? Do they reinforce or reflect one or more of the counterfeit principles listed? What changes might these principles lead you to make in your thinking and practice?

about the authors

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Buck is Regional Director for Latin America for Food for the Hungry International. His experience includes over 25 years of service in international development and long-term assignments in Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, Mozambique, and Bolivia. During his ministry he has been involved in community based development programs in a variety of sectors including agriculture, health, education, micro-enterprise programs, leadership development and church strengthening. Prior to joining FHI, Buck served with Christian Outreach Appeal, Oregon State University's Office of International Research and Development, World Concern, United Mission to Nepal, and the U.S. Peace Corps.

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Randall Hoag is the President of Food for the Hungry International. Since 1991, he has also served as FHI's Executive Vice President, VP of Operations and VP of Latin America/Finance. Prior to 1991, he served with FHI/Bolivia from 1983 to 1991 as regional director, national finance director, and country director. Randall has his bachelor's degree from the University of Washington, his master's in organizational leadership from Regent University, and a doctorate in humane letters from Hope International University. He serves on the boards of eight FHI national organizations, Kumi Educational Foundation (chancellor), Faulu/Kenya and Faulu/Uganda. In addition to his vocational career, Mr. Hoag has been involved in various church ministries such as elder, deacon, cell group, and junior high ministries.

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Xiomara, a native of Venezuela, has served as a missionary with the Harvest Foundation for the past 15 years. In 2001 she was seconded to Food for the Hungry International where she currently serves as Director of Church Development. Her ministry involves serving church leaders in the developing world with a particular focus on teaching, curriculum development and community ministries. As a Harvest missionary, Xiomara worked intensively with barrio churches in Caracas and throughout Latin America doing training in the area of wholistic, church-based community ministry. Her undergraduate degree is in chemical engineering from Simon Bolivar University in Caracas. Her master's degree is in business administration from California State University. In addition, she has received training in biblical studies from the Assemblies of God Bible Institute in Caracas.

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biblical principles for agricultural development

By David Evans

According to God's mandate in Deuteronomy 8:3, people shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God. Thus, we are to live by bread, but we are also to live by the Word of God. When these two things are combined for the agriculturist in an intentional way, it leads to all kinds of exciting opportunities, discoveries, and adventures. When asked what prompted him to study the lowly peanut, George Washington Carver said, "Why, I just took a handful of peanuts and looked at them. 'Great Creator,' I said, 'why did you make the peanut? Why?' With such knowledge as I had of chemistry and physics I set to work to take the peanut apart."⁵

Carver understood that agriculture and God's revelation through his Word go hand in hand. In fact, I believe that his words and actions continue to challenge us today to examine the way that we as Christians do agriculture. Is any of the care that is mentioned in the scriptures for both land and animals exhibited on the farms of Christians throughout the world today? Or is a Christian farm today indistinguishable from that of a non-Christian? In addition to this area of stewardship, there is a clear biblical mandate given to people to develop the creation. It is the God-given role of people involved in agriculture to be fruitful and to produce bounty with the resources that God has entrusted to them. Without bounty, there is an ever-decreasing resource base to steward. Conversely, without stewardship, the bounty is short-lived and eventually exhausted. Both need to happen simultaneously in order for God's creation to unfold according to His intentions.

The following principles are an attempt to help people involved in agriculture around the world to better understand the role that they are called to play in bringing God's Word and his kingdom to bear on the land, animals, and neighbors that have been entrusted to their care. The application of these principles will not be easy. That said, the apostle Paul's words ring true for us when he commands us to not be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:2).

The principles were developed mainly for use by agricultural extensionists and educators working with farmers in the context of the developing world. They should also be useful in more general settings that deal in some way with the study and/or practice of agriculture. Please feel free to experiment with them in your own context. I welcome your feedback on the lessons that you learn as a result of using these principles.

—David Evans (devans@fhi.net)

⁵ George Washington Carver, quoted in *Fruits of Creation* by John S. Ferrell (Shakopee, MN: Macalester Park Publishing Company, 1995), p. 50.

summary of principles

Principle 1 - The Earth Ownership Principle

The earth is the Lord's and all that it contains.

Principle 2 – The First Farmer Principle

God is the “first farmer,” the author and initiator of agriculture.

Principle 3 – The First Farmer Relationship Principle

Those who practice agriculture need to have a good relationship with the First Farmer—God.

Principle 4 – The High Calling Principle

Those who practice agriculture have a high calling from God, which is full of dignity and purpose.

Principle 5 – The Sacred Work Principle

Those who practice agriculture should strive to honor and glorify God through their work.

Principle 6 – The Dominion Principle

Farmers are commanded by God to have dominion over the creation.

Principle 7 – The Bounty Principle

Farmers are commanded by God to be fruitful and produce bounty from the land and animals that God has entrusted to them.

Principle 8 – The Stewardship Principle

Farmers are commanded by God to be stewards of the land, natural resources, farm animals and crops that he has placed in their care.

Principle 9 – The Diversity Principle

God delights in the diversity of his creation and farmers should strive to encourage and maintain this diversity.

Principle 10 – The Neighborly Love Principle

Those who practice agriculture should treat their neighbors as they would wish to be treated themselves.

Principle 1 – The Earth Ownership Principle

The earth is the Lord's and all that it contains.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God exists as the supreme ruler of the universe.
- God is the creator of the heavens and the earth.

Key Bible Passages:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1).

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good... (Gen. 1:31a).

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (Ps 24:1).

Counterfeit Principle:

The earth came into being by physical forces that are unrelated to any act of God. As such, it has no owner or inherent goodness.

Possible Applications:

- As an introductory educational session in agricultural development interventions to establish God's ownership of the earth and its importance as a result of it being created good by Him.
- To help farmers develop a love and respect for the land, animals and crops because God created them good and He continues to own them.

Principle 2 – The First Farmer Principle

God is the “first farmer,” the author and initiator of agriculture.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God exists.
- God is the creator of the heavens and the earth.

Key Bible Passage

Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed (Gen. 2:8).

Counterfeit Principle

God is not interested in the material domain called agriculture. He is only interested in spiritual things.

Possible Applications

- With farmers who view their work as dirty, lowly or meaningless.
- With Christian farmers who believe that God is only interested in spiritual things and therefore, doesn't care about agriculture.
- As an introductory session in biblically based agricultural development interventions.

Principle 3 – The First Farmer Relationship Principle

Those who practice agriculture need to have a good relationship with the First Farmer—God.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Man was created in God’s image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and character.
- Man was made to live in loving, harmonious relationships with God, with creation and with other people. His relationship with God is the primary relationship he was created for.
- All people have rejected God, and in their natural, unregenerate condition are fallen and sinful.
- Because man’s primary relationship with God is broken, all “secondary” relationships are likewise broken (man with man, man with creation, and man with himself.) This comprehensive brokenness is the source of all that is wrong, bad and evil in the world—including poverty, hunger, wars, injustice and corruption.
- Man is spiritually re-born by faith in Christ and his finished work on the cross through the gracious work of the Holy Spirit.
- Christ’s shed blood holds hope for the redemption of all things. There is hope for substantial healing in all areas here and now.

Key Bible Passages

To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return” (Gen. 3:17-19).

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Co. 5:17)

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies (Rom. 8:19-23).

Counterfeit Principle

There is no need for farmers to believe in Jesus and his atoning death on the cross in order for them to experience all of God's fullness in the area of agriculture.

Possible Applications

- With farmers who are interested in wholistic agriculture principles, but who do not feel the need to have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- With farmers who worship other gods in their practice of agriculture.
- With Christian farmers who do not understand that God calls them to be agents of reconciliation, sharing their faith in Christ through their work in agriculture.

Principle 4 – The High Calling Principle

Those who practice agriculture have a high calling from God, which is full of dignity and purpose.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Man is the only part of God's creation made "in the image and likeness of God" sharing, to a far less degree, many of God's attributes including a spirit, freedom, creativity, rationality, the ability to exercise dominion, and the need to live in the context of loving relationships.
- God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Man is to enjoy, care for and preserve creation.

Key Bible Passage

*What is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?
You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You made him ruler over the works of your hands;
you put everything under his feet:
all flocks and herds,
and the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air,
and the fish of the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas (Ps. 8:4-8).*

Counterfeit Principle

Agriculture is a lowly occupation and those who practice it are devoid of dignity and purpose

Possible Applications

- With farmers who view their work as lowly or meaningless.
- With Christian farmers who do not understand the concept of a "calling" from God and how this relates to their work in agriculture.
- With farmers who believe they have a call to farm, but are discouraged by their circumstances or results.

Principle 5 – The Sacred Work Principle

Those who practice agriculture should strive to honor and glorify God through their work.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Man is to enjoy, care for and preserve creation. Because of this, our work is sacred.

Key Bible Passages

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (2 Co. 10:31).

The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops (2 Ti. 2:6).

Counterfeit Principle

Agricultural work is a “necessary evil” to put bread on the table. It’s not possible to glorify God through the secular work of farming.

Possible Applications

- With Christians who view farming as secular or non-spiritual work, and therefore don’t consider it as part of their ministry.
- With animist farmers who worship other gods through their farming.
- With secular farmers who glorify science and technology through their farming, but not God.

Principle 6 – The Dominion Principle

Farmers are commanded by God to have dominion over the creation.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Man is to enjoy, care for and preserve creation.

Key Bible Passage

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground" (Gen. 1:26).

Counterfeit Principle

Nature has dominion over man. Humans are at the mercy of whatever nature throws at them.

Possible Applications

- Convincing and teaching farmers to practice good pest and weed control.
- Convincing and teaching farmers to irrigate crops in low rainfall areas.
- Convincing and teaching farmers to construct and use greenhouses in cold climates.
- Convincing and teaching farmers to use fertilizer to raise nutrient levels in the soil.

Principle 7 – The Bounty Principle

Farmers are commanded by God to be fruitful and produce bounty from the land and animals that God has entrusted to them.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Creation is intended to provide for the needs of man.
- Creation is embedded with the ability to grow and expand. Man can take the material of creation and invent things that are both beautiful and useful. He can invent new resources and create abundance.

Key Bible Passage

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground” (Gen. 1:28).

Counterfeit Principle

Creation is a “closed system.” Resources are fixed and limited. My gain will be my neighbor’s loss. Similarly, my loss will be my neighbor’s gain. This “zero sum” leads to jealousy, distrust and social ostracism.

Possible Applications

- Convincing and teaching farmers in animistic cultures that increased food production is possible and it will help—not hurt their neighbors.
- Convincing farmers that all of them in a community can increase their production simultaneously.

Principle 8 – The Stewardship Principle

Farmers are commanded by God to be stewards of the land, natural resources, farm animals and crops that he has placed in their care.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Man is to enjoy, care for and preserve creation.

Key Bible Passages

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (Gen. 2:15). See also Genesis chapter 19.

Counterfeit Principle

Man is not responsible to God for how he treats creation. Farmers can use their land, natural resources, farm animals and crops in any way they choose.

Possible Applications

- Convincing farmers to conserve their soil (see Lev. 25:3-4).
- Convincing and teaching farmers to conserve and protect surface and ground water.
- Convincing and teaching farmers to tenderly care for (to “husband”) their animals (see Gen. 2:19, Lev. 25:7, and Lk. 14:5).
- Convincing and teaching farmers to conserve their post-harvest production.
- Convincing and teaching Christian farmers to tithe the fruits of their labor to God.

Principle 9 – The Diversity Principle

God delights in the diversity of his creation and farmers should strive to encourage and maintain this diversity.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is triune—three persons in one being—Father, Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. There is both unity and diversity in the Godhead.
- Creation is beautiful and reflects the beauty of its creator. God reveals himself through his creation.
- The universe is diverse, yet rational and orderly. It functions with precision according to established laws imposed on it by God.

Key Bible Passages

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good (Gen. 1:11-12).

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (Gen. 1:20-21).

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good (Gen. 1:24-25).

Counterfeit Principle

There is no intrinsic value in the diversity of creation. Maintaining genetic, ecosystem and agricultural diversity hinders man's ability to develop, progress, and meet human needs for food.

Possible Applications

- Convincing and teaching farmers to appreciate the diversity, beauty and intrinsic value of all parts of creation.
- Convincing and teaching farmers to appreciate and maintain diversity within crop and livestock species.

Principle 10 – The Neighborly Love Principle

Those who practice agriculture should treat their neighbors as they would wish to be treated themselves.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is both good and loving.
- Man was made to live in loving, harmonious relationships with God, with creation and with other men.

Key Bible Passage

The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Gal. 5:14).

Counterfeit Principle

I don’t need to show care or concern for my neighbor or for other people. I only need to look out for my own needs or the needs of my family.

Possible Applications

- Convincing and teaching farmers to share their produce with those in need.
- Convincing and teaching farmers to conduct their business affairs (buying and selling produce and animals) in an honest, just way.
- Helping farmers to actively look for ways to bless their neighboring farmers as opposed to trying to harm them.

biblical principles for health development

By David Evans and Scott Allen

These principles were developed for use by health educators and extensionists working in the context of the developing world. That said, they should also be useful in more general settings that deal in some way with the study and/or practice of health care. Please feel free to experiment with the use of this document in your own context. We welcome your feedback on the lessons that you learn as a result of using these principles.

—*David Evans (devans@fhi.net) and Scott Allen (sallen@fhi.net)*

summary of principles

Principle 1 – The Perfect Creation Principle

Prior to the Fall, God's creation existed in a state of perfect harmony, peace, wholeness and health. This perfect order will be regained when Christ returns at the end of the age.

Principle 2 – The Sacred Life Principle

Because God created each person in his image, all human life, no matter how impoverished, diseased or degraded, is of infinite worth (is sacred).

Principle 3 – The Wholistic Human Principle

Humans are a wholistic, inseparable combination of physical body, spirit/soul (will, emotions) and mind (reason). Furthermore, humans are made to live in intimate, loving relationship with God, with other people and with the physical environment. Effective healthcare must be wholistic, taking all these parts and relationships into consideration.

Principle 4 – The Disease and Death Principle

As a result of human sin, the entire creation was impacted resulting in disorder, suffering, disease and death.

Principle 5 – The Great Physician Principle

God is the Great Physician. He is Jehovah Rofah (the God who heals), the source of shalom (wholeness). He can heal by natural and supernatural means.

Principle 6 – Great Physician Relationship Principle

Those who desire to experience shalom (wholeness) need to have a restored relationship with the Great Physician. Reconciliation with God affects us spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally.

Principle 7 – The Great Physician Follower Principle

Followers of Jesus, the Great Physician, are commanded to care for the needs of the sick, broken and dying, regardless of their race, gender, status, religious beliefs or physical condition.

Principle 8 – The Stewardship Principle

People should be good stewards of the bodies and minds that God has given to them. They should strive to remain healthy and to prevent illness and disease.

Principle 9 – The Dominion Principle

Because God created a universe which is orderly, rational and functions according to natural laws, man can use his God-given creativity and dominion over the physical world to investigate the causes of diseases and discover new ways to prevent and treat them.

Principle 10 – The Fallen World Principle

Until Christ returns, we will continue to struggle with suffering, sickness, disease and bodily decay. Even so, for those who trust in Jesus, there is hope for life beyond the grave as well as the promise that God will bring good even out of sickness and disease.

Principle 1 – The Perfect Creation Principle

Prior to the Fall, God’s creation existed in a state of perfect harmony, peace, wholeness and health. This perfect order will be regained when Christ returns at the end of the age.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He created them out of nothing by the power of his spoken word.
- God is completely holy, just, righteous, good and loving.
- Creation is both good and beautiful. It reflects the goodness and beauty of its creator.
- God’s redemptive work will be complete with Jesus’ glorious future return.

Key Bible Passages

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good... (Gen 1:31).

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true (Rev. 21:1-5).

Counterfeit Principles

Disease and death have always existed alongside of health and life. This is all part of the cosmic balance as reflected in the yin and yang.

Possible Applications

This can be the focus of a foundational lesson in health care work. It should set the stage by showing that God’s intent is, and has always been, that the creation be whole and healthy.

Principle 2 – The Sacred Life Principle

Because God created each person in his image, all human life, no matter how impoverished, diseased or degraded is of infinite worth (is sacred).

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God created man (male and female).
- Man is the only part of God's creation made in the image and likeness of God, sharing, to a far less degree, many of God's attributes including a spirit, freedom, will, creativity, rationality, the ability to exercise dominion, and the need to live in the context of loving relationships.
- Each human life is of infinite worth (is sacred).
- Man was made for eternity. His existence continues after physical death.

Key Bible Passages

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them (Gen. 1:26-27).*

*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be (Ps. 139:13-16).*

Counterfeit Principles

- Human life is not sacred. It is of no more value than other living things.
- Man is merely a complex, physical machine.

Possible Applications

- Can be the focus of a foundational healthcare lesson by helping healthcare practitioners to recognize and appreciate the inherent worth and value of each human life.
- To help healthcare practitioners understand their responsibility to care for the physical needs of all people, even the most physically diseased and broken.
- To help healthcare practitioners understand that there are certain moral and ethical limits to the practice of medicine. For example, it would be unethical to take one human life in order to help or save another.

Principle 3 – The Wholistic Human Principle

Humans are a wholistic, inseparable combination of physical body, spirit/soul (will, emotions) and mind (reason). Furthermore, humans are made to live in intimate, loving relationship with God, with other people and with the physical environment. Effective healthcare must be wholistic, taking all these parts and relationships into consideration.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God created man (male and female).
- Man is comprised of body, mind and spirit.
- Man is the only part of God’s creation made in the image and likeness of God, sharing, to a far less degree, many of God’s attributes including a spirit, freedom, will, creativity, rationality, the ability to exercise dominion, and the need to live in the context of loving relationships.
- Man was made for eternity. His existence continues after physical death.

Key Bible Passages

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, *in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.*”

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them (Gen. 1:26-27).*

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Lu. 2:52).

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength’ (Mk. 12:29-30).

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people (Mt. 4:23).

Counterfeit Principles

- A mindless process of evolution formed man. Man is essentially no different from other animals or living creatures.
- Man is merely a physical body (a physical “machine”) with no soul/spirit.
- Man is God—a purely spiritual being. The physical body is unimportant or illusory.

Possible Applications

- Can be the focus of a foundational healthcare lesson by helping healthcare practitioners to recognize and appreciate the beauty and complexity of human life. Each part (physical, spiritual, social and mental) is seamlessly connected to the others. When one part suffers the other parts suffer as well.
- With healthcare practitioners who tend to view the body as merely a physical machine and pay little attention to the spiritual, emotional, and relational needs of people.
- With animistic healthcare practitioners who rely too heavily on spiritual remedies and fail to recognize the physical causes and cures for diseases.

Principle 4 – The Disease and Death Principle

As a result of human sin, the entire creation was impacted resulting in disorder, suffering, disease and death.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- All people have rejected God, and in their natural, unregenerate condition are fallen and sinful. Man’s heart and mind are darkened. His relationship with God is broken and as a result, his destiny is eternal separation from God.
- Because man’s primary relationship with God is broken, all “secondary” relationships are likewise broken (man with man, man with creation, and man with himself.) This comprehensive brokenness is the source of disorder, disease and death.

Key Bible Passages

*To Adam [God] said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’
“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat of it
all the days of your life.
It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return (Gen. 3:17-19).*

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural

relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless (Rom. 1:21-28).

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— (Rom. 5:12)...

Counterfeit Principles

- Disease and death are not a direct or indirect consequence of sin. They are part of reality and as such they should be dealt with only in the physical realm.
- Disease, suffering and death are “normal.” They have always existed and always will exist. Therefore it is futile to attempt to prevent them or stand against them.

Possible Applications

- This principle can be used to make a link between sin and physical disease and death. In communicating this principle, however, care should be taken to not imply that every disease that has affected a person or community is the direct result of their sin (See John 9:1-3).
- To help people see that suffering, disease and death are not normal, but rather they are consequences of the Fall. Therefore, we can and should stand against them.

Principle 5 – The Great Physician Principle

God is the Great Physician. He is Jehovah Rafah (the God who heals), the source of shalom (wholeness). He can heal by natural and supernatural means.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is all-powerful.
- God is both good and loving.
- God created a spiritual and a physical realm.
- Christ's shed blood holds hope for the redemption of all things. There is hope for substantial healing in all areas here and now.

Key Bible Passages

He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you" (Ex. 15:26).

Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people (Mt. 4:23).

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to [John the Baptist] what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor (Mt. 11:4-5).

Counterfeit Principles

- In animistic cultures, witch doctors invoke or appease spirits to cure diseases.
- In secular cultures, God is not seen as the source of healing, rather, natural science alone cures disease.

Possible Applications

- Convincing and/or teaching people to pray to God for healing of their diseases.
- With animistic people (Christian and non-Christian) who believe that health is preserved through the spirit world.
- With secular people (Christian and non-Christian) who believe science alone is the source of good health.

Principle 6 – Great Physician Relationship Principle

Those who desire to experience shalom (wholeness) need to have a restored relationship with the Great Physician. Reconciliation with God affects us spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Man was made to live in loving, harmonious relationships with God, with creation and with other people. His relationship to God is the primary relationship he was created for.
- Man is spiritually re-born by faith in Christ and his finished work on the cross through the gracious work of the Holy Spirit.
- Christ's shed blood holds hope for the redemption of all things. There is hope for substantial healing in all areas here and now.

Key Bible Passages

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones (Pr. 3:7-8).

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come (2 Co. 5:17).

Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home (Mt. 9:2-7).

Counterfeit Principles

There is no need for people to believe in Jesus or have their sins forgiven in order for them to experience all of God's fullness in the area of spiritual, physical, emotional and mental health.

Possible Applications

- Non-Christians who are interested in the principles of shalom, but who do not feel the need to convert to Christ.
- People (Christian and non-Christian) who are actively petitioning other gods in their practice of health care
- Christians who do not yet know that God calls them to be agents of reconciliation in the area of health care.

Principle 7 – The Great Physician Follower Principle

Followers of Jesus, the Great Physician, are commanded to care for the needs of the sick, broken and dying, regardless of their race, gender, status, religious beliefs or physical condition.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God created man (male and female).
- Each human life is of infinite worth (is sacred).

Key Bible Passages

When Jesus had called the Twelve [disciples] together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick (Lu. 9:1-2).

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man [who had fallen into the hands of robbers] was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise" (Lu. 10:33-37).

[Jesus said] "I was sick and you looked after me..." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25: 36, 39-40).

Counterfeit Principles

- As a follower of Jesus, I have no responsibility to care for the sick, diseased and dying. That is someone else's responsibility.
- Caring for the physical needs of sick, diseased people is "secular" work. Christians should focus on spiritual works such as evangelism and discipleship.

Possible Applications

- To help Christians understand their responsibility to care for the needs of sick, broken people. While there are healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, and physicians), it is still the responsibility of every Christian to care for the needs of the sick, diseased and dying.
- To remind Christians that caring for the sick, broken and hurting is a form of true worship (See Mt. 25:31-46 and Is. 58:6-7).
- To remind Christians of the powerful legacy of the Church in starting new hospitals and clinics and compassionately caring for the poor around the world.

Principle 8 – The Stewardship Principle

People should be good stewards of the bodies and minds that God has given to them. They should strive to remain healthy and to prevent illness and disease.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God created man (male and female).
- God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise stewardship over creation (including his own body). Man is to enjoy, care for, and preserve creation.

Key Bible Passage

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body (1 Co. 6:19-20).

Counterfeit Principles

- Maintaining good health is too hard. It is easier to live as one wants to and then seek a cure for resulting ailments.
- There is no God. Human life is a product of chance and evolution. I am not accountable for how I treat my body. I can do whatever I want.

Possible Applications

- With people (Christians or non-Christians) who abuse or do not take care of their physical bodies.
- As an introductory educational session on preventive health care.
- Convincing and/or teaching people to practice good hygiene (Levitical laws of hygiene—leprosy, defecation outside of the camp).
- Convincing and/or teaching people to practice good nutrition (includes breast feeding, weaning foods, etc.) (See also 1 Co. 3:16-17 and Gen. 9:3, 5).
- Convincing and/or teaching people to practice good habits that promote good mental and emotional health.

Principle 9 – The Dominion Principle

Because God created a universe which is orderly, rational and functions according to natural laws, man can use his God-given creativity and dominion over the physical world to investigate the causes of diseases and discover new ways to prevent and treat them.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- The universe is diverse, yet rational and orderly. It functions with precision according to established laws imposed on it by God.
- Creation is an open system that can be impacted by God, man or other spiritual beings.
- Creation is intended to provide for the needs of man.
- Man can take the material of creation and invent things that are both beautiful and useful.
- Man is the only part of God's creation made in the image and likeness of God, sharing, to a far less degree, many of God's attributes including a spirit, freedom, will, creativity, rationality, the ability to exercise dominion, and the need to live in the context of loving relationships.

Key Bible Passages

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (Gen. 1:26-27).

God blessed [Adam and Eve] and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground" (Gen 1:28).

For the LORD is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos (Is. 45:18 NLT).

Counterfeit Principles

- Fatalism. There is nothing I can do to prevent or treat sickness and disease.
- Animism. Nature has dominion over man.
- Animism. The gods have dominion over man. Man is powerless.

Possible Applications

- To help animistic healthcare practitioners understand that they can exercise their God-given creativity and dominion to prevent and treat diseases.
- To help animistic healthcare practitioners understand that in some cases, medicines are helpful in treating diseases.

Note: Care must be taken with teaching this principle to not communicate that all diseases have direct, physical or natural causes. Some diseases have spiritual, emotional or relational origins.

Principle 10 – The Fallen World Principle

Until Christ returns, we will continue to struggle with suffering, sickness, disease and bodily decay. Even so, for those who trust in Jesus, there is hope for life beyond the grave as well as the promise that God will bring good even out of sickness and disease.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is good and loving.
- God's redemptive work will be complete only with Jesus' glorious future return.

Key Bible Passages

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us... We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies (Rom. 8:18, 22-23).

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28).

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:35, 37-39).

[Jesus said] I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die (Jn. 11:25-26).

Counterfeit Principles

- If we believe in Christ and trust in his Word, we will never experience suffering, sickness or disease.
- There is nothing good that can come from sickness or disease.
- Suffering, sickness and disease are sure signs that God is angry with us.

Possible Applications

- Comforting people who have lost a loved one to disease despite their fervent prayers.
- Encouraging people to continue to trust in God despite disease that may affect them.

biblical principles for child development

By Dwight Vogt

These principles were developed mainly for use by child development specialists in the context of the developing world. That said, they should also be useful in more general settings that deal in some way with the raising and development of children. Please feel free to experiment with the use of this document in your own context. I welcome your feedback on the lessons that you learn as a result of using these principles.

I'd like to acknowledge the assistance of Dr. Elizabeth Youmans, founder and Vice President of Principia (principia.org) and Darrow L. Miller, Vice President of Food for the Hungry International in developing these principles.

—*Dwight Vogt (dvogt@fhi.net)*

summary of principles

Principle 1 – God created everything and is revealed through his creation.

Children must know that God is the creator, sustainer, and supreme ruler of the universe. His character, wisdom, goodness, control, and power are revealed through his creation.

Principle 2 – God is good and his design for every aspect of life is good.

Children must know and be confident that God is good and his design for every part of their lives is good. When they trust and follow God's instructions in his Word (the Bible) they will discover the best possible way to live.

Principle 3 – Every child is a unique creation made in God's image and individually loved by God.

Children must know that they are created in God's image and loved by God individually. The life of every child is sacred. God created each child with a unique set of gifts, personality and appearance.

Principle 4 – God has a special purpose for each child.

Children must know that God has special purpose for their lives and because of this, they have a unique role to play in history. God has given them the exact personality and set of gifts they need to fulfill this purpose.

Principle 5 – The world and every person is fallen. Man is a rebel against God and his reign.

Children must know that because of Adam and Eve's "original sin," the world and every person is fallen. The effects of original sin were comprehensive. Nothing was left untouched. As a result, all people instinctively reject God and his reign, which leads to suffering, evil and death.

Principle 6 – God is working to reconcile and restore all things through Christ's shed blood on the cross.

Children must know that in our natural, sinful condition we are powerless to save ourselves. Only God can save us and has done so through Christ. Our sins can be forgiven and we can be spiritually re-born through faith in Jesus and his finished work on the cross. Only then can we live the transformed, purposeful lives that God intends.

Principle 7 – Children, obey your parents.

Children must know that God's perfect design for their happiness, well being and development is realized as they honor and obey their parents.

Principle 1 – God created everything and is revealed through his creation.

Children must know that God is the creator, sustainer, and supreme ruler of the universe. His character, wisdom, goodness, control, and power are revealed through his creation.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God exists as the supreme ruler of the universe. He is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He created them out of nothing by the power of his spoken word.
- God has revealed himself to man, although not exhaustively. He has revealed as much as man requires to live a healthy, joyful and productive life.
- Creation is both good and beautiful. It reflects the beauty and goodness of its creator. God reveals himself through his creation.

Key Bible Passages

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1).

*God made the earth by his power;
he founded the world by his wisdom
and stretched out the heavens by his understanding (Jer. 10:12).*

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made (Rom. 1:20).

Counterfeit Principles

- God is not the creator and supreme ruler of the universe.
- The world and mankind—all that is created and its magnificent design—does not reveal God.
- God does not rule over all. He is not all-powerful.

Possible Applications

The fact that God exists and created everything is the absolute starting point for children to learn and develop. All education—all truth—builds on this principle. This principle says that truth is not separated from God. God is the source of truth. Discover truth and you find God.

Principle 2 – God is good and his design for every aspect of life is good.

Children must know and be confident that God is good and his design for every part of their lives is good. When they trust and follow God's instructions in his Word (the Bible) they will discover the best possible way to live.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is both good and loving. God is all-knowing.
- Creation is intended to provide for the needs of man.

Key Bible Passages

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.
His love endures forever (Ps. 136:1).*

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good (Gen. 1:31).

[Jesus said] "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (Jn. 10:10).

Counterfeit Principles

- God is not good.
- God does not have a good design for mankind, for every aspect of life and creation.
- We can know and experience the best possible most fruitful life apart from God (or without knowing God).

Possible Applications

Recognizing and believing that God's plan for life is the best is a fundamental principle for children to grasp early in life. It will shape their character, how they treat others, the way they use their time and energy, and the way they steward and develop their minds and bodies.

Principle 3 – Every child is a unique creation made in God’s image and individually loved by God.

Children must know that they are created in God’s image and loved by God individually. The life of every child is sacred. God created each child with a unique set of gifts, personality and appearance.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God created man (male and female).
- Man is the only part of God’s creation to be made “in the image and likeness of God” sharing, to a far less degree, many of God’s attributes...
- Each human life is of infinite worth (is sacred).

Key Bible Passages

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them (Gen. 1:27).*

*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be (Ps. 139:13-16).*

*The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at the heart (1 Sa. 16:7).*

*Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray
for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.
Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom
of heaven belongs to such as these.” When he had placed his hands on them, he went
on from there (Mt. 19:13-14).*

Counterfeit Principles

- People evolved from animals.
- Human value hinges on the value society gives to it based on beauty, talent, color, ability, or education.
- Boys are more valuable and superior to girls.
- Some races are superior to others.
- Few children are gifted, talented or special. The majority of children are ordinary and common with no special value.
- Children are blank slates and empty vessels. They do not each have unique gifts, potential, and creativity from God to be developed.
- God loves some people more than others.

Possible Applications

This principle is fundamental to all children. A child's sense of value in the sight of God forms the base for his or her life development. It is critical that parents, teachers, and leaders in the community grasp and embrace this principle and communicate it to their children.

Principle 4 – God has a special purpose for each child.

Children must know that God has special purpose for their lives and because of this, they have a unique role to play in history. God has given them the exact personality and set of gifts they need fulfill this purpose.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Man was created in God’s image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purpose and plans for our lives.
- Man was made to live in loving, harmonious relationships with God, with creation, and with other people. His relationship to God is the primary relationship he was created for.
- God has given man the unique responsibility and necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Man is to enjoy, care for, and preserve creation. Because of this, our work is sacred.
- Creation is embedded with the ability to grow and expand. Man can take the material of creation and invent things that are both beautiful and useful. He can invent new resources and create abundance.
- God uses individual human lives to unfold his purposes in history. Therefore each human life is significant for it has the potential to change history.

Key Bible Passages

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground (Gen. 1:26-28

*Your [God’s] eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be (Ps. 139:16).*

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10).

Counterfeit Principles

- Life is meaningless and purposeless. There is no special, divine and unique purpose to life.
- Each person must find his/her own purpose in life or let family and society define it.
- Each person is not accountable to God for the soul, life, energy, people, and material resources he has given to them.

Possible Applications

Purpose and love are some of the most powerful motivating forces in life. Children need to understand that their life has a special purpose. They need to understand that the reason that God has given them life and unique gifts and personality is to accomplish this purpose.

Some other principles that flow from this principle include:

- The Great Commandment (See Deu. 6:5; Mk: 12:29-31; Jn. 3:34; Gal. 5:14).
- The Stewardship Principle - Self-government, others, creation and material goods (See Gen. 1:26-28, 2:15).
- The Cultural Mandate (Dominion) (See Gen. 1:26-28).
- The purpose of spiritual gifts (See Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Co. 12:1-30).

Principle 5 – The world and every person is fallen.
Man is a rebel against God and his reign.

Children must know that because of Adam and Eve’s “original sin,” the world and every person is fallen. The effects of original sin were comprehensive. Nothing was left untouched. As a result, all people instinctively reject God and his reign, which leads to suffering, evil and death.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Under God’s ultimate sovereignty, man is given the gift of freedom and moral responsibility. He has the ability to choose between right and wrong. He is free to choose or reject God.
- All people have rejected God, and in their natural, unregenerate condition, are fallen and sinful. Man’s heart and mind are darkened. His relationship with God is broken and as a result, his destiny is eternal separation from God.

Key Bible Passages

The LORD God called to [Adam], “Where are you?”

He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate” (Gen. 3:9-13).

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— (Rom. 5:12).

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (Eph. 2:1-3).

Counterfeit Principles

- People are born basically good. Social factors and life experiences make people do bad things.
- People are ultimately victims of their upbringing, life experience, etc.

Possible Applications

If you do not correctly identify the root cause of a problem, you will not be successful in solving it. For humanity, the problem is evil, suffering, broken relationships, poverty, disease, hunger, and death. The root cause is original sin. Every child has been impacted by original sin, and as a result, has an inner inclination to rebel against God and his reign in their lives. Unless they understand this problem (and its solution), they will be unable to experience “life to the full” as God intends.

Principle 6 – God is working to reconcile and restore all things through Christ’s shed blood on the cross.

Children must know that in our natural, sinful condition we are powerless to save ourselves. Only God can save us and has done so through Christ. Our sins can be forgiven and we can be spiritually re-born through faith in Jesus and his finished work on the cross. Only then can we live the transformed, purposeful lives that God intends.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is working through history to redeem mankind and restore everything broken through the Fall. The primary biblical metaphor for God’s redemptive work in history is the advancing “Kingdom of God.” Jesus, the God-man, stands at the epicenter of God’s redemptive plan for creation.
- In our natural, sinful condition we are powerless to save ourselves. Only God can save, and has done so through Christ’s shed blood on the cross. Jesus is the only mediator between God and sinful man.
- Man is spiritually re-born by faith in Christ and his finished work on the cross through the gracious work of the Holy Spirit.
- Christ’s shed blood holds hope for the redemption of all things. There is hope for substantial healing in all areas here and now.

Key Bible Passages

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him (Jn. 3:16-17).

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Rom. 10:9).

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Jesus] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (Col. 1:19-20).

Counterfeit Principles

- If people do enough good deeds, God will accept them. They don't need to trust in Jesus for their salvation.
- People can have a full, meaningful life through their own efforts. They do not need to know God or his grace.
- God is not actively involved in the world today. He is distant and removed. He is not working through history.
- The work and shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross is only about spiritual transformation. God is only concerned about restoring our broken relationship with himself. God is not concerned about restoring other relationships, health, creation, etc.

Possible Applications

- It is critically important that children understand that God is actively working through history (in the lives of individual people, families, communities and nations) to redeem and restore everything broken in the Fall. The cross of Jesus stands at the center of God's redemptive plan. His shed blood holds hope for the redemption and substantial healing of all things.
- They need to understand what this means for them personally. They need to respond to God by trusting in Jesus and living in relationship with him. This is the fundamental starting point to living the kind of joyful, purposeful lives that God intends.

Principle 7 – Children, obey your parents.

Children must know that God’s perfect design for their happiness, well being and development is realized as they honor and obey their parents.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

God created the family as the most basic social institution and he defines the roles and responsibilities of husband, father, wife, mother and children. The ultimate model for the family is found in the Godhead.

Key Bible Passages

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you (Ex. 20:12).

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord (Col. 3:20).

*My son, keep your father’s commands
and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.
...For these commands are a lamp,
this teaching is a light,
and the corrections of discipline are the way to life (Pr. 6:20, 23).*

Counterfeit Principles

- There is nothing sacred or beneficial to the child in this command. It's simply a rule that helps parents keep their children under control.
- Children don't need to honor and obey parents.

Possible Applications

Children need to see the hand of God and his wisdom behind this commandment. They also need to see the value and the promise behind this principle.

biblical principles for church development

By Xiomara Suarez

When we look at all the terrible human suffering that exists in the world today, it is easy to be overwhelmed. Many Christians take this suffering to be a clear sign that Christ is coming back soon. And if he is, they argue, then there is little we can (or should) do to ease human suffering except share the gospel with the poor and possibly bring a little relief to their hunger and suffering.

Yet I believe there is a more biblical perspective on how followers of Jesus should respond to human suffering, a perspective rooted in an understanding of Christ's redemptive work on the cross and his words: "You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world!" (Mt. 5:13-14). One that understands that Christ came to destroy the works of the enemy (Mk. 1:24) and to restore everything that was lost and broken through the Fall (Col. 1:19-20; Lk. 19:10). One that understands and believes that the Church is the body of Christ on earth, and that we, his followers, have everything we need to serve as his ambassadors and obey his words (1 Co. 12:27; Jn. 14:12-14; 2 Co. 5:20). I believe the Church around the world must grasp this biblical vision of what it means to be the Church. We must understand that we are called—and have responsibility—to overcome darkness and to advance God's kingdom, ministering to our communities and nations in the same way Christ would if he were here in the flesh.

God has given Food for the Hungry International a vision of bringing biblical transformation to the people and communities where it serves. Achieving this vision, however, is impossible without empowering local churches. As FHI President Randy Hoag has said, "If we do nothing else except seek to bless and empower churches to serve as salt and light in their communities, then this alone will eventually lead to the accomplishment of our vision." Equipping the Church of Christ to understand and obey its call must be the whole-hearted commitment of every FHI staff person. It is my prayer that these biblical principles and the lessons associated with them may contribute to equipping FHI staff to work with church leaders by helping them develop their own vision for their lives, families and communities.

These principles were developed mainly for use by pastors, church leaders, missionaries and church development specialists in the context of the developing world. Please feel free to experiment with the use of this document in your own context. I welcome your feedback on the lessons that you learn as a result of using these principles.

The following sources were very helpful in developing these principles and we commend them to you.

The Harvest Foundation, Leadership Development Training Program: Equipping Local Churches for Wholistic Ministry Levels I & II (The Harvest Foundation, 1997).

E. Stanley Jones, The Unshakable Kingdom and the Unchanging Person (Abingdon Press, 1972).

Vishal Mangalwadi, Carey, Christ and Cultural Transformation (Nivedit Good Books Distributors, 1993).

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summary of principles

Principle 1 – The Lordship of Christ Principle

The Church must acknowledge, proclaim and demonstrate Christ's lordship and supremacy over all things.

Principle 2 – Glorify God in Everything Principle

Glorifying God is both the primary motivation and the ultimate purpose of the Church.

Principle 3 – The Advancing Kingdom Principle

The Church is to be the embassy of God's kingdom on earth. It is called to reflect the reality of Christ's reign and to advance his kingdom on earth until he returns.

Principle 4 – The Wholistic Ministry Principle

God's redemptive plan is comprehensive and involves reconciling all things. "All things" includes everything that was broken as a result of the Fall—including man's relationships with God, with his fellow man, and with creation.

Principle 5 – The Incarnational Ministry Principle

The Church is the body of Christ and is called to make visible the fullness of Christ in the midst of its community and nation.

Principle 6 – The Dependence on God Principle

The Church must be completely dependent upon God for the wisdom, power and resources needed to advance his kingdom and disciple the nations.

Principle 7 – The Stewardship Principle

The Church is responsible to exercise stewardship over God's creation, as well as the talents, gifts, and resources that God has entrusted to it.

Principle 8 – The Authority of God's Word Principle

The Church must operate intentionally on the basis of God's inspired, infallible, powerful and authoritative Word as recorded in the Bible. All believers must put off false worldviews and have their minds transformed by putting on the truth. They must allow biblical truth to enlighten every area of their lives and carry it outward into every sphere of society.

Principle 1 – The Lordship of Christ Principle

The Church must acknowledge, proclaim and demonstrate Christ's lordship and supremacy over all things.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God exists as the supreme ruler of the universe.
- God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He created them out of nothing by the power of his spoken Word.

Key Bible Passages

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns" (Ps. 96:10).

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Mt. 28:18).

God placed all things under [Christ's] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church (Eph. 1:22).

[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy (Col. 1:15-18).

Counterfeit Principles

- God is not the all-powerful ruler of the universe—something or someone else is.
- God is not the all-powerful ruler of the world; Satan is. Evil is stronger than good.
- Jesus is Lord over the spiritual realm, but not the physical/material realm. I obey him in spiritual areas, but neglect his lordship in areas of work, family, helping the poor, community development, etc.

Possible Applications

- With pastors and church leaders who have a dualistic mindset where Christ is acknowledged as Lord over only a limited spiritual realm, rather than over all things. This mindset may prevent them and their church from doing practical ministry to aid the poor.
- With pastors and church leaders who are passive in the face of evil. Who acknowledge that God is all-powerful, yet believe that the earth belongs to Satan and there's nothing they can do to stand against him.
- To help engage pastors and church leaders in community work that brings God's intentions to the community.

Principle 2 –Glorify God in Everything Principle

Glorifying God is both the primary motivation and the ultimate purpose of the Church.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God exists as the supreme ruler of the universe.
- God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He created them out of nothing by the power of his spoken Word.

Key Bible Passages

*You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being (Rev. 4:11).*

*For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! (Rom. 11:36)*

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God
(1 Co. 10:31).*

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according
to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, for ever and ever! (Eph. 3:20-21)*

Counterfeit Principles

- I exist to glorify my church, my denomination, or myself.
- My underlying motivation for service is fear, condemnation, self-righteousness, selfish ambition, pride or any motivation other than glorifying God.
- I have some other purpose (even a “good” one like witnessing, planting churches, or caring for the needs of the poor) that has become higher or more important than glorifying God.

Possible Applications

- With pastors or church leaders whose ultimate purpose in ministry is something other than glorifying God.
- With pastors or church leaders who struggle with a motivation other than glorifying God (such as fear, condemnation, self-righteousness, selfish ambition, or pride).
- With pastors or church leaders who, while pursuing a “good” purpose like witnessing, planting churches or caring for the needs of the poor, have lost track of the primary objective of glorifying God.

Principle 3 – The Advancing Kingdom Principle

The Church is to be the embassy of God’s kingdom on earth. It is called to reflect the reality of Christ’s reign and to advance his kingdom on earth until he returns.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is working through history to redeem mankind and restore everything broken through the Fall. The primary biblical metaphor used to describe this is the advancing “Kingdom of God.” Jesus, the God-man, stands at the epicenter of God’s redemptive plan for creation.
- God works through the Church as his primary instrument in advancing his kingdom. The Church is the universal body of saved/redeemed people. It is the “body” of Christ. The mission of the Church is to reflect the nature and character of Christ to the world and to advance the kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of God.

Key Bible Passages

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Gen. 12:1-3).

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:

He said to me, “You are my Son;

today I have become your Father.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,

the ends of the earth your possession (Ps. 2:7-8).

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Mt. 28:18-20).

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

While they were listening to this, [Jesus] went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back' (Luke 19:11-13).

Counterfeit Principles

- The kingdom of God is only a spiritual reality that has nothing to do with things on the earth here and now.
- The kingdom of God can come in fullness now, on earth, through human means and efforts.
- The kingdom of Satan is stronger than the kingdom of God. Things will get worse and worse every day and there is nothing we can do about it.
- The Church has no role in society beyond evangelism and starting new churches. The condition of culture/society is of no concern to the Church because as Christians, this world is not our home.

Possible Applications

- With pastors and church leaders who don't understand what the kingdom of God is and what the role of the Church is in relationship to God's advancing kingdom.
- With pastors and church leaders who have no vision for bringing hope and healing to their communities and nations.
- With pastors and church leaders who have a pessimistic or fatalistic view of history, who feel that things will only go from bad to worse and the Church should just try to "hold on" until Christ returns.

Principle 4 – The Wholistic Ministry Principle

God’s redemptive plan is comprehensive and involves reconciling all things. “All things” includes everything that was broken as a result of the Fall—including man’s relationships with God, with his fellow man, and with creation.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is working through history to redeem mankind and restore everything broken through the Fall. Jesus, the God-man, stands at the epicenter of God’s redemptive plan for creation.
- Christ’s shed blood on the cross holds out hope for the redemption of all things. There is hope for substantial healing in all areas here and now.

Key Bible Passages

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Christ], and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (Col. 1:19-20).

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God (Rom. 8:19-21).

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people (Mt. 4:23).

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God (2 Co. 5:18-20).

Counterfeit Principles

- Things on earth are getting worse and worse. There is no hope for a better future. The best we can do is survive until we join Jesus in heaven after we die.
- God's redemptive plan is concerned only with saving human souls for heaven. God doesn't care about the rest of creation and neither should the Church.
- The Church should focus only on spiritual reconciliation. It's up to other people or organizations to worry about the poor and hungry.

Possible Applications

- With pastors and church leaders who have no vision for bringing hope and healing to their communities and nations, who don't realize that God has given them the ministry of wholistic reconciliation—a ministry that encompasses all things broken through the Fall—not just spiritual brokenness.
- With pastors and church leaders who have a pessimistic or fatalistic view of history. Who feel that things will only go from bad to worse and the Church should just try to "hold on" until Christ returns.
- With pastors whose churches don't reflect a balanced, wholistic ministry.

Principle 5 – The Incarnational Ministry Principle

The Church is the body of Christ and is called to make visible the fullness of Christ in the midst of its community and nation.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Man is the only part of God’s creation made “in the image and likeness of God” sharing, to a far less degree, many of God’s attributes.
- God works through the Church as his primary instrument in advancing his kingdom. The Church is the universal body of saved/redeemed people. It is the “body” of Christ. The mission of the Church is to reflect the nature and character of Christ to the world and to advance the kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of God.

Key Bible Passages

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14).

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world (Jn. 17:15-18).

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father (Jn. 14:12).

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children (Eph. 5:1).

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! (Phil. 2:5-8)

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way (Eph. 1:22-23).

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires (2 Pe. 1:3-4).

Counterfeit Principles

- The Church is poor and is powerless to reflect Christ's life to its community and nation. Christians are poor sinners who cannot be like Christ.
- The Church should separate itself from the world in order to avoid contamination and to remain holy.
- The Church should focus only on spiritual reconciliation. It is up to other people or organizations to worry about caring for the poor and hungry.

Possible Applications

- With pastors and church leaders who don't understand God's intention for the Church to reflect the fullness of Christ in the midst of its community.
- With pastors and church leaders who feel they are too poor or powerless to reflect Christ's life and to overcome sin, darkness and brokenness. Who fail to understand what it means to be made in God's image, and who don't understand that they have received God's power and grace through the Holy Spirit.
- To pastors and church leaders who don't understand that reflecting Christ's life means reflecting the fullness of his ministry—he preached the good news of the kingdom, taught/disciplined and healed those who were suffering and broken.

Principle 6 – The Dependence on God Principle

The Church must be completely dependent upon God for the wisdom, power and resources needed to advance his kingdom and disciple the nations.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is working through history to redeem mankind and restore everything broken through the Fall. Jesus, the God-man, stands at the epicenter of God's redemptive plan for creation.
- God is the sovereign author of history, yet he uses individual human lives to unfold his purposes in history.

Key Bible Passages

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples (Jn. 15:5-8).

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Gal. 2:20).

For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3).

Counterfeit Principles

- The Church is helpless and weak. God cannot use churches to transform communities and nations.
- The Church is able to advance God's kingdom through its own ideas, resources, efforts and good works. God has provided the vision, but it's up the Church to make the vision a reality.

Possible Applications

- With pastors and church leaders who have a fatalistic perspective, focusing on their weakness and lack of resources instead of believing that God's grace can really make a difference in people's lives and society.
- With churches that operate on the basis of legalistic principles instead of acting in faith, love and mercy, empowered by God's grace.
- With pastors and church leaders who tend to rely on their own plans, ideas, strength and resources and who don't rely on God's strength or empowerment to advance the kingdom.

Principle 7 – The Stewardship Principle

The Church is responsible to exercise stewardship over God’s creation, as well as the talents, gifts, and resources that God has entrusted to it.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Man is to enjoy, care for, and preserve creation.
- God works through the Church as his primary instrument in advancing his kingdom. The Church is the universal body of saved/redeemed people. It is the “body” of Christ. The mission of the Church is to reflect the nature and character of Christ to the world and to advance the kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of God.

Key Bible Passages

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground” (Gen. 1:27-28).

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (Gen. 2:15).

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:11-13).

Counterfeit Principles

- The Church has only been given spiritual talents and spiritual resources. Its only responsibility is to steward the Word of God, the salvation of people's souls, and to help new believers grow in their spiritual lives.
- Believers are not called to manage natural or material resources, so the Church has little or no responsibility to help meet the physical needs of people.
- Only spiritual things matter. The "secular" work that people in our congregation do is not important to God.

Possible Applications

- With pastors or church leaders who believe that their only responsibility is to steward the Word of God, the salvation of people's souls, and to help them to grow in their spiritual lives.
- With pastors or church leaders who fail to steward the gifts and talents of the people in their congregation because they don't value the "secular" work they do, viewing it as unspiritual and therefore not important to God.
- With pastors or church leaders who fail to appreciate the resources that God has given them to steward because they see them as too small or insignificant to be of concern to God.
- With pastors or church leaders who fail to apply biblical principles of good planning, administration and management in the day-to-day life of the Church.

Principle 8 – The Authority of God’s Word Principle

The Church must operate intentionally on the basis of God’s inspired, infallible, powerful and authoritative Word as recorded in the Bible. All believers must put off false worldviews and have their minds transformed by putting on the truth. They must allow biblical truth to enlighten every area of their lives and carry it outward into every sphere of society.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

God has revealed himself to man, although not exhaustively. He has revealed as much as man requires to live a healthy, joyful and productive life. God has revealed himself (1) through creation, (2) through his divinely inspired, authoritative special revelation in the 66 books of the Bible, and (3) through human conscience (the law written on the heart).

Key Bible Passages

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (Jn. 8:31-32).

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth (Jn. 17:17).

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Ti. 3:16-17).

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (Rom. 12:2).

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Co. 10:5).

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ (Col. 2:8).

Counterfeit Principles

- The Bible only deals with eternal, spiritual issues and is of little relevance to secular areas such as education, science, health, economics, community problems, government, etc.
- You don't need to know God's Word to please him; you just need to be "spiritual."
- The Bible is not a reliable or authoritative source of knowledge and truth.
- The Bible is only one source of knowledge and truth among many.
- Christians are not responsible to personally study God's Word. They only need to attend church and listen to what the pastor or teacher says.

Possible Applications

- With pastors or church leaders who think the Bible deals only with eternal, spiritual issues and is of little relevance to truth or knowledge in other areas.
- To help pastors or church leaders who have been influenced by false beliefs that are contrary to the revealed truth in Scripture.
- To help convince pastors or church leaders of the essential importance of God's Word as the ultimate source of knowledge and truth in all areas.

biblical principles for leadership development

By Buck Deines and Randall Hoag

The following list of biblical principles was developed mainly to assist community facilitators working in developing countries around the world to better understand and apply the truth of the Bible to the sphere of leadership development. That said, they should also be useful in other leadership development settings.

This list is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather will hopefully serve as an introduction and starting point upon which others will build. Therefore, please feel free to experiment with the use of this document in your own context. We would welcome your feedback on the lessons that you learn as a result of using these principles.

The following sources were very helpful in developing these principles and we commend them to you.

Dr. Jay Grimstead and E. Calvin Beisner, *42 Articles of the Essentials of a Christian World View* (The Coalition on Revival, 1999).

Larry Julian, *God is My CEO: Following God's Principles in a Bottom Line World* (Adams Media Corporation, 2001).

Richard Kriegbaum, *Leadership Prayers* (Tyndale House, 1998).

John Maxwell, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership Notebook* (Thomas Nelson, 2001).

Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol and Ken McElrath, *The Ascent of a Leader* (Jossey-Bass, 1999).

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summary of principles

Principle 1 – A leader as a shepherd

Jesus showed us what good leadership is by example. He led as a shepherd, leading and serving his followers. He put his followers' interests ahead of his own.

Principle 2 – A leader's dependence on God and his truth

Good leaders recognize their dependence on God to lead effectively. God, who places us in positions of leadership, also provides us with the guidance and strength we need to lead effectively.

Principle 3 – A leader's integrity and good character

Good leaders walk with integrity and as a result, they walk securely.

Principle 4 – A leader's ability to plan and implement

Good leaders understand that vision, strategy, planning and implementation are biblical. They produce results through careful planning and implementation, seeking God's guidance and wise counsel from others as part of the process. They commit their plans to the Lord and trust that His purpose will prevail.

Principle 5 – A leader's interdependence with others

Good leaders value unity and teamwork because they understand that God intends for us to function as a body, serving others through our strengths and gifts, and relying on the strengths and gifts of others. Good leaders understand that all people are made in God's image and have been given special gifts, personalities and skills. Therefore, they value and seek to develop the gifts and skills of their followers and to build unity among each member of the team to accomplish a common purpose.

Principle 6 – A leader's development of other leaders

A good leader develops other leaders. Jesus, the world's greatest leader, showed us this principle by example. He developed twelve leaders (his disciples) and gave them authority to carry on with his work. These leaders, in turn, developed other reliable men and trained them to carry on the ministry that Jesus had begun.

Principle 7 – A leader's personal development

Good leaders recognize that their success as a leader requires purposeful, on-going self-development and discipline. Growth takes time and leadership must be earned. Great achievements are built through many small victories of faithfulness in little things. They are the result of a step-by-step process of growth, self-denial and purposeful effort.

Principle 8 – A leader's perseverance

Good leaders persevere through difficult times. Whatever the source of difficulty or discouragement, if we persevere with God through our trials, we have his promise that we will inherit that which he has promised.

Principle 1 – A leader as a shepherd

Jesus is our ultimate example of good leadership. He led as a shepherd, leading and serving his followers. He put his followers' interests ahead of his own.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Man was created in God's image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature/character.
- God uses individual human lives to unfold his purposes in history. Therefore each human life is significant for it has the potential to change history.

Key Bible Passages

[Jesus said] I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (Jn. 10:11).

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away (1 Pe. 5:1-4).

Jesus called [his disciples] together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mt. 20:25-28). See also Lu. 22:24-27.

See also Ac. 20:27-29 and Phil. 2:5-8.

Counterfeit Principles	God's Principles
A good leader is like a king who exercises dominion and authority over followers.	A good leader is a shepherd, both guiding and serving others.
Leadership is motivated by a desire for self-advancement, or to advance the agenda of one's community, party, or people.	Leadership is motivated by a desire to glorify God, advance his kingdom, serve others, shepherd others, and lead them to God's intentions for all areas of their lives.
A good leader is proud and sees himself as important.	A good leader is humble and sees others as more important than himself.
A good leader supervises.	A good leader leads by example and serves.
A good leader loves his position of leadership.	A good leader loves the people he serves and is not position-conscious.
A good leader guards his power.	A good leader empowers others.
A good leader is harsh and demanding.	A good leader is encouraging and forgiving.

Possible Applications

Follow-up lessons on the following topics may be useful:

- Myths of leadership
- Establishing biblical motives for leadership
- Roles of leadership
- Contrasting biblical and worldly leadership styles
- The importance of loving/encouraging leadership
- Leadership by influence vs. leadership by fear (or position)
- Leadership by example

Principle 2 – A leader’s dependence on God and his truth

Good leaders recognize their dependence on God to lead effectively. God, who places us in positions of leadership, also provides us with the guidance and strength we need to lead effectively.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God exists as the supreme ruler of the universe.
- God is personal, unchangeable, all-powerful, all knowing, and completely holy, just and righteous.
- God is the source of all truth.
- Man is created in God’s image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purpose and plans for our lives.
- Man was made to live in loving, harmonious relationships with God, with creation and with other people.

Key Bible Passages

[Jesus said] “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (Jn. 15:5).

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Gal. 2:20).

See also Ps. 143:10.

Counterfeit Principles	God's Principles
God does not exist, or if he does exist he is impersonal, finite, or limited in his power, and knowledge.	God is a personal, infinite, eternal, self-existent, unchangeable, indivisible, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent. He is the creator and sustainer of the universe. The entire universe is absolutely and utterly dependent upon its creator – God.
I have to do it all. God does not care what we do. God does not intervene in nature or history. He does not get involved in our lives.	God cares and God is involved. We can do nothing without God.
Believe in yourself and you will not fail.	Believe in God; he will not fail!
Truth is subjective and/or relative. Limitations of man's knowledge of God's truth leave him incapable of knowing, communicating, or using that truth.	God is the ultimate author of all truth and has given us the Bible as a guide, not only for spiritual matters, but for all matters, including leadership.
Faith in God and asking God for anything in prayer is a waste of time; hard work will achieve our goal.	Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Mt. 17:20-21). If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.

Possible Applications

Follow-up lessons on the following topics may be useful:

- What is a leader's ultimate source to determine direction and truth?
- How can a leader know his purpose?
- What is a leader's highest purpose?
- How should a leader define success?
- Where does a leader turn in times of trial?
- What habits should an effective leader develop?

Principle 3 – A leader’s integrity and good character

Good leaders walk with integrity and as a result, they walk securely.⁶

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is the source of all truth.
- God has revealed himself to man, although not exhaustively or comprehensively. He has revealed as much as we need to live healthy, joyful and productive lives. God has revealed himself (1) through creation, (2) through his divinely inspired special revelation in the 66 books of the Bible, and (3) through human conscience (the law written on the heart).
- Man was made to live in loving, harmonious relationships with God, with creation and with other people.
- Man is created in God’s image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purpose and plans for our lives.

Key Bible Passages

*The man of integrity walks securely,
but he who takes crooked paths will be found out (Pr. 10:9).
The righteous man leads a blameless life;
blessed are his children after him (Pr. 20:7).*

*Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap (1 Ti. 3:2-7).
See also 1 Ti. 3:8-13.*

Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you (Deu. 16:19-20). See also Pr. 11:1; 17:23.

⁶ Integrity refers to moral soundness or purity; incorruptibility; uprightness; honesty. Integrity comprehends the whole moral character, but has a special reference to uprightness in how we relate to others in every aspect of our lives. People of integrity are people of good reputation who are worthy of respect. They are people who strive to be forthright, good, honest, honorable, incorruptible, just, righteous, sincere, straightforward and virtuous.

Counterfeit Principles	God's Principles
Life is a game and whoever ends with the most toys wins.	The best things in life are free. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.
The end justifies the means. Get done what you want. How you do it is not important.	The means justify the end. Doing the right thing is more important than the outcome.
Seeks self-advancement.	Seeks the advancement of others.
Uses position, power and/or fear to make others follow.	Inspires others to follow through personal integrity.
Rules with a heavy fist.	Rules with a kind heart.
Works to please people.	Works to please God, even if positions are unpopular with people.
Blames others for failure.	Accepts responsibility for failure and asks forgiveness from others when they have acted wrongly.
Works to project a good outward appearance.	Works to develop inward character.
The purpose of leadership is to achieve results.	The purpose of leadership is to serve God's purposes.
Deals fairly with family and friends.	Deals fairly with all, even enemies.
In business, seeks maximum profit.	In business, seeks a fair deal for all.
Drives people forward.	Leads people forward by example.
Believes that consensus, or cultural/ social norms are a legitimate base for a leader's moral conduct.	Believes that moral conduct must be based on the Word of God.

Counterfeit Principles	God's Principles
Does whatever it takes to satisfy personal ambitions and/or desires.	Does what it takes to glorify God. Does not accept bribes, does not steal, does not deceive others, does not show partiality, does not pervert justice, does not intentionally harm others.
Character is not important, only results matter.	Results are important but good leaders are people of character: trustworthy, above reproach, good husbands/wives, good parents, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, etc.

Possible Applications

Follow-up lessons on the following topics may be useful:

- Character, integrity, trust – the foundations of leadership
- Character is more than talk
- Improving our character
- Character for business relationships (marketing for farmers)
- Character in a leader's family relationships
- Character in politics
- Courage to do the right thing when faced with opposition

Principle 4 – A leader’s ability to plan and implement

Good leaders understand that vision, strategy, planning and implementation are biblical. They produce results through careful planning and implementation, seeking God’s guidance and wise counsel from others as part of the process. They commit their plans to the Lord and trust that his purpose will prevail.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Creation is imbedded with the ability to grow and expand. Man can take the stuff of creation and invent things that are both beautiful and useful. He can invent new resources and create abundance.
- Man is the only part of God’s creation to be made “in the image and likeness of God” sharing, to a far less degree, many of God’s attributes including a spirit, freedom, creativity, rationality, the ability to exercise dominion, and the need to live in the context of loving relationships.
- God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Man is to enjoy, care for, and preserve creation. Because of this, work is sacred.

Key Bible Passages

[Jesus said] “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’” (Lu. 14:28-30).

The noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands (Is. 32:8).

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty (Pr. 21:5).

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed (Pr. 16:3).

Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails (Pr. 19:21).

Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance (Pr. 20:18).

See also 1 Ch. 12:32; Is. 30:9-11; Jer. 32:19; Neh. 1-6; Pr. 29:18.

Counterfeit Principles	God's Principles
<p>A great vision will lead to success.</p>	<p>Vision alone is not enough. "We are created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph. 2:10). We are to align our vision and plans with the plans God has prepared in advance, and then implement that vision in his strength.</p>
<p>Vision comes from man and must therefore be limited to what is possible for humans to achieve. Leaders are glorified by creating and achieving their visions.</p>	<p>The source of all good vision is God. Only God knows our true potential and life's best for the people of our world. It is God, not leaders, who should be glorified when his vision and purposes are achieved. Because God is omnipotent, omnipresent and at times supernaturally intervenes in the course of natural and human events to accomplish his purposes, a godly vision is not limited by that which is possible for humans to achieve.</p>
<p>Planning and implementation are worldly activities and are not appropriate for Christians.</p>	<p>Planning and implementation are biblical activities that help us answer questions like: What is God doing? What is the right thing to do in response? Why are we doing this, and where should we go in the future?</p> <p>God plans and implements (Jer. 32:19) and Jesus taught that we too should plan carefully (Lu. 14:28). Jesus laid out a plan for his followers in Mt. 28:19 saying, "therefore go and make disciples of all nations." Many are still working on the implementation of that plan nearly 2000 years later.</p>

Possible Applications

Follow-up lessons on the following topics may be useful:

- Establishing a purpose worth living for
- Knowing your strengths and weaknesses
- Seeking God's will and direction
- Planning and preparing with purpose
- Implementing with a purpose
- Importance of wise council
- Doing the right things (priorities) and doing things right (excellence)
- Strategic planning skills training
- Prioritizing skills training
- Time management skills training
- Monitoring and evaluation skills training

Principle 5 – A leader’s interdependence with others

Good leaders value unity and teamwork because they understand that God intends for us to function as a body, serving others through our strengths and gifts, and relying on the strengths and gifts of others. Good leaders understand that all people are made in God’s image and have been given special gifts, personalities and skills. Therefore, they value and seek to develop the gifts and skills of their followers and to build unity among each member of the team to accomplish a common purpose.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God created man in his image and likeness; consequently each person is endowed with immeasurable dignity and worth.
- Man was made to live in loving, harmonious relationships with God, with creation, and with other people.

Key Bible Passages

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully (Rom. 12:3-8).

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it (1 Co. 12:14-19, 27).

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace... It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Eph. 4:3, 11-12).

Counterfeit Principles	God's Principles
A leader can accomplish much by him/herself.	God created us to live in relationship with him and with others. God has given us different gifts, according to his purpose. We are one body with many members. We need each other for the body to function as God intended.
Individualism. Every man for himself, survival of the fittest. Individuals are responsible to protect themselves. The welfare of an individual is more important than the welfare of society.	Community. We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one belongs to one another. We are also to love one another as we love ourselves. The individual and the community are both important.
Communalism. The interests of the community are supreme. The religious economic, social, and cultural interests of the community are supremely important. Individual rights are limited to those granted by the community.	Community. (See above.)
Denominationalism. My denomination is the only true church.	There is only one Body of Christ to which all true Christians of all denominations belong. Christ desires that his Body demonstrate visible unity, love, and interdependence (Jn. 17:20-23).

Possible Applications

Follow-up lessons on the following topics may be useful:

- Attitudes and skills for building a sense of unity and community
- Learning to appreciate the God-given value of each person
- Building enthusiasm
- Believing in others
- Serving those who serve you (empowering and enabling others)
- Improving communication and listening skills
- Skill development for conflict resolution
- Training and practical activities for pastors of different denominations to build unity and a sense of common purpose

Principle 6 – A leader’s development of other leaders

A good leader develops other leaders. Jesus, the world’s greatest leader, showed us this principle by example. He developed twelve leaders (his disciples) and gave them authority to carry on with his work. These leaders, in turn, developed other reliable men and trained them to carry on the ministry that Jesus had begun.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Man is to enjoy, care for, and preserve creation. (Of all that God created, human life is most sacred because it bears God’s image and was made for eternity. Therefore, stewardship of “human resources” is not simply one of many tasks of a leader; it is a sacred responsibility.)
- God created man (male and female) in his image. All people and nations are equally valuable in God’s sight. Men and women are equally valuable in God’s sight.

Key Bible Passages

When Jesus had called the Twelve [disciples] together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick (Lu. 9:1-3).

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others (2 Ti. 2:2).

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust (Ac. 14:23).

Counterfeit Principles	God's Principles
If you want a job done right, do it yourself.	God created us to live in relationship with him and with others. We are one body with many members; we need each other for the body to function as God intended.
Our leadership is threatened by the development of new leaders under our supervision.	The people around us will ultimately determine our success as leaders. Development of new leaders is an act of godly stewardship and a sacred responsibility.
Only people of a certain race or gender are suitable for training as leaders.	God created male and female in his image. All people and nations are equally valuable in God's sight. Men and women are equally valuable in God's sight.

Possible Applications

Follow-up lessons on the following topics may be useful:

- Displaying loyalty
- Interdependence above independence
- Team building skills: empower teams, empower team leaders
- Recruiting leaders
- Establishing a practical leadership development plan to develop others

Principle 7 – A leader’s personal development

Good leaders recognize that their success as a leader requires purposeful, on-going self-development and discipline. Growth takes time and leadership must be earned. Great achievements are built through many small victories of faithfulness in little things. They are the result of a step-by-step process of growth, self-denial and purposeful effort.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Under God’s ultimate sovereignty, man is given the gift of freedom and moral responsibility. He is able to choose between right and wrong. He is free to choose or reject God.
- Man was created in God’s image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purpose and plans for our lives.
- Man was made to live in loving, harmonious relationships with God, with creation and with other people.

Key Bible Passages

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come (1 Ti. 4:7-8).

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pe. 1:5-8).

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress (1 Ti. 4:14-15).

Counterfeit Principles	God's Principles
Great leadership is a result of being born with special leadership ability.	Great leadership is purposefully developed.
Great deeds and accomplishments are achieved by great acts.	Many small victories and faithfulness in "little" things achieve great deeds.
I am accountable only to myself.	We live in a fallen world and we need others to help hold us accountable. Ultimately we are accountable to God.

Possible Applications

Follow-up lessons on the following topics may be useful:

- Good leadership development is a lifetime process of developing one's abilities and character
- Practical ideas for developing your gifts, talents, and spiritual life
- The importance of self-discipline
- Establishing a self-development plan
- Mentoring
- Personal balance

Principle 8 – A leader’s perseverance

Good leaders persevere through difficult times. Whatever the source of difficulty or discouragement, if we persevere with God through our trials, we have his promise that we will inherit that which he has promised.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God is the sovereign author of history. History is a linear, meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfillment of God’s purposes for humanity and creation.
- God uses individual human lives to unfold his purposes in history. Therefore each human life is significant for it has the potential to change history. God works through his people (the church) to reflect the nature and character of Christ to the world and to advance the kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.
- While God’s redemptive work will be complete only with Jesus’ glorious future return, Christ shed his blood for the redemption of all things. There is hope for substantial healing in all areas here and now.

Key Bible Passages

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Gal. 6:9).

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:12-14).

For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity (Pr. 24:16).

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised (Heb. 6:12).

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything (Jas. 1:2-4).

Counterfeit Principles	God's Principles
Trials, difficulties, and failures are bad. They mean that we are going down the wrong path, or that the leader is leading in a wrong direction.	Some trials and difficulties are good. They may be the result of moving in the "right" direction. We are to receive them with joy, steadfastly work through them and persevere towards the goal and the prize God has promised.
Evil is stronger than good. We should quit when things get tough or when we fail.	Good is stronger than evil. Persevere when it gets tough; God is able even when we fail.
God is nonexistent, or fickle.	God exists and is constant and we can trust his promises.

Possible Applications

Follow-up lessons on the following topics may be useful:

- Sources of trials and discouragement (external and internal)
- The source of our hope
- Problems – a matter of perspective (James 1)
- Biblical and historical examples of people who have persevered to overcome trials and discouragement
- Dealing with problems with partners
- Dealing with problems with personal integrity (sin/failure in one's own life)
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Refocus thinking, refocus strategy, refocus prayer, repeat the process, but refuse to give up
- Dealing with personnel problems

biblical principles for family development

By Dwight Vogt

There are many excellent books and articles that discuss biblical principles for the family with many ideas as to which principles are most important. The following list looks at ten key principles. It is not presented as a definitive, all-inclusive list. These principles were developed for persons working with families in the context of the developing world. Please feel free to experiment with the use of this document in your own context. I welcome your feedback on the manner in which you teach these principles and the impact of such.

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summary of principles

Principle 1 – Marriage is sacred.

God has established marriage as the sacred union of a man and woman in life-long love and fidelity. Through this union, God has ordained children to be brought into the world. God hates divorce.

Principle 2 – The sacred intimacy principle

God designed sexual intimacy to be enjoyed within the context of marriage. It is only inside of marriage that the full goodness, benefit, and potential for sexual intimacy can be realized. Sexual intimacy outside of marriage will diminish the spirit, harm relationships, and may lead to illness, disease, and even death.

Principle 3 – The family is a God-ordained institution patterned after the Godhead.

God is triune—three persons in one being—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Because of this, God is both personal and relational. God created man (male and female) in his image. Therefore, human families are a reflection of the unity, diversity and relationships within the Godhead.

Because God is good, his design for the family is perfect and wonderful, providing for the well being, growth and development of each member. Families function best when they know and follow God's design.

Principle 4 – The complementary nature of the family

Unity, diversity, love and submission exist within the Godhead. Because man is made in God's image, the same should be true with the family. Husband, wife and children are of equal worth, yet each plays a distinct, complementary role. Love and mutual submission should mark relationships within the family.

Principle 5 – God rules over the family.

God desires that all family members submit to him as the ultimate authority in their lives. With God at the head of the family, it thrives. There is freedom and security knowing that God is over every member of the family and each member is individually accountable to him.

Principle 6 – The husband is the head of the family and headship means responsibility and sacrificial service, not privilege.

Under God's ultimate authority, the husband is the head of the family. The wife and children are to submit to his authority. Responsibility and sacrificial service should characterize the husband's headship. He is responsible for the well being and development of the wife and children. He must be willing to pray the most, work the hardest, and sacrifice the most for the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional well being of his wife and children.

Principle 7 – Husbands, love your wives.

God commands husbands to love their wives. This command literally means to welcome, to be fond of, to cherish, to be kind towards, and to promote the happiness, welfare and development of the wife. The husband should see his wife as a gift from God.

Principle 8 – Wives, respect and honor your husbands.

God commands wives to honor and respect their husbands. Wives and husbands are spiritually coequal before God, yet within the family each has a unique role. Honor and respectful submission should characterize the wife's relationship to her husband.

Principle 9 – Parents, train your children.

God gives both father and mother the responsibility to train up their children in the ways of the Lord according to his Word and to ensure their development physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and socially. This training should include leading by example, instruction and discipline. Each parent has a special role to play in this training process.

Principle 10 – Children, obey your parents.

God's perfect design for the happiness, well being and development of the child is for them to honor and obey their parents.

Principle 1 – Marriage is sacred.

God has established marriage as the sacred union of a man and woman in life-long love and fidelity. Through this union, God has ordained children to be brought into the world. God hates divorce.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

God created the family as the most basic social institution and he defines the roles and responsibilities of husband, father, wife, mother and children. The ultimate model for the family is found in the Godhead.

Key Bible Passages

So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh (Gen. 2:20-24).

Has not the LORD made [husband and wife] one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth (Mal. 2:15).

[Jesus said] "Haven't you read...that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Mt. 19:4-6).

I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel (Mal 2:16).

Counterfeit Principles

- Marriage isn't sacred. It's simply a human invention. We can define it in any way we wish. It's fine for men to marry men, or women to marry women. It's fine for men to have more than one wife, etc.
- God doesn't care about marriage.
- God doesn't care if I get a divorce.
- If my needs aren't being met by my wife (or husband) I'm entitled to get a divorce.

Possible Applications

Having a clear understanding of what marriage is according to God's Word is foundational to the development of healthy, strong families.

Principle 2 – The sacred intimacy principle

God designed sexual intimacy to be enjoyed within the context of marriage. It is only inside of marriage that the full goodness, benefit, and potential for sexual intimacy can be realized. Sexual intimacy outside of marriage will diminish the spirit, harm relationships, and may lead to illness, disease, and even death.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

Man was created in God's image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purpose and plans for our lives.

Key Bible Passages

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh (Gen. 2:22-24).

You shall not commit adultery (Ex. 20:14).

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body (1 Co. 6:18).

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral (Heb. 13:4).

Counterfeit Principles

- Human sexual intimacy is not a special design of God for marriage. It is no different from animals.
- Sex outside of marriage is harmless as long as the partners agree and do not hurt anyone by it.
- Limiting sexual intimacy to marriage limits its potential expression.

Possible Applications

Young people in CDP communities, pastors, and families all need to understand not just the “thou shalt nots” but also the real and special benefit of reserving sexual intimacy for marriage. They also need to know the harmful, destructive effects of sex outside of marriage including the physical, spiritual, emotional and relational risks involved.

Principle 3 – The family is a God-ordained institution patterned after the Godhead.

God is triune—three persons in one being—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Because of this, God is both personal and relational. God created man (male and female) in his image. Therefore, human families are a reflection of the unity, diversity and relationships within the Godhead.

Because God is good, his design for the family is perfect and wonderful, providing for the well being, growth and development of each member. Families function best when they know and follow God’s design.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

God created the family as the most basic social institution and he defines the roles and responsibilities of husband, father, wife, mother and children. The ultimate model for the family is found in the Godhead.

Key Bible Passages

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground” (Gen. 1:27-28).

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh (Gen. 2:22-24).

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good (Gen. 1:31).

Counterfeit Principles

- The family group is not God-ordained or God-designed. The family is defined and shaped by the needs of people or society. For example, two people of the same gender and a cat can be a family.
- God's design for the family is limiting, constrictive and oppressive. It does not give liberty or freedom to flourish.

Possible Applications

This principle is the necessary beginning point for helping families and family members function and flourish as God intends. It is applicable to everyone young and old who desires to be part of or have a successful family.

Principle 4 – The complementary nature of the family

Unity, diversity, love and submission exist within the Godhead. Because man is made in God's image, the same should be true with the family. Husband, wife and children are of equal worth, yet each plays a distinct, complementary role. Love and mutual submission should mark relationships within the family.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Man is the only part of God's creation made "in the image and likeness of God" sharing, to a far less degree, many of God's attributes...
- God created the family as the most basic social institution and he defines the roles and responsibilities of husband, father, wife, mother and children. The ultimate model for the family is found in the Godhead.
- God created man male and female. Both are created with unique characteristics, roles and functions.
- Both men and women are of equal value to God.

Key Bible Passages

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you (Jn. 14:23-25).

Jesus [said]: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does (Jn 5:19-20).

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph. 5:21).

In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God (1 Co. 11:11-12).

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged (Col. 3:18-21).

Counterfeit Principles

- There is no difference between the husband and the wife. They are exactly the same in role, function, and personality.
- The complementary role is one way only – the wife complements the husband, not vice versa.
- Submission is always negative. We should never submit to anyone.

Possible Applications

Children need models of how life should work. Jesus' description of the complementary nature of the Godhead in John 5:19-20 is a model of how family members can complement one another to the benefit of all.

Principle 5 – God rules over the family.

God desires that all family members submit to him as the ultimate authority in their lives. With God at the head of the family, it thrives. There is freedom and security knowing that God is over every member of the family and each member is individually accountable to him.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God exists as the supreme ruler of the universe.
- God is completely holy, just, and righteous. God is personal. He is all-powerful. He is all knowing.

Key Bible Passages

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me" (Ex. 20:2).

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Jsh. 24:15).

[Jesus said] "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Mt. 10:37).

Counterfeit Principles

- The father/husband alone rules the family and he is not accountable to God.
- The father is answerable first to the community and its rules – not to God.
- The child or wife must always obey the father even if the father is asking them to disobey God or violate their conscience.

Possible Applications

This principle says to a child that God is ultimately over the parent and He will take care of the child if the child follows God's command and strives to obey his parents. It says to a wife that God is over her husband and God will honor and bless her if she respects her husband. It says to a father/husband that God is over him and will reward him if he sacrificially loves and serves his wife and children.

Principle 6 – The husband is the head of the family and headship means responsibility and sacrificial service, not privilege.

Under God's ultimate authority, the husband is the head of the family. The wife and children are to submit to his authority. Responsibility and sacrificial service should characterize the husband's headship. He is responsible for the well being and development of the wife and children. He must be willing to pray the most, work the hardest, and sacrifice the most for the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional well being of his wife and children.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God created man male and female. Both are created with unique characteristics, roles and functions.
- Man was created in God's image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purpose and plans for our lives.

Key Bible Passages

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Phil. 2:3-8)

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God (1 Co. 11:3).

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (1 Ti. 5:8).

Counterfeit Principles

- Headship means that the husband/father is the boss of his wife and children and can lord it over them.
- Headship means that the wife and children are the property or possession of the husband/father. The wife and children have no rights, voice, or say unless the husband/father gives this to them.
- Headship means it is okay for a man to do what he wants, go where he wants, spend money as he wants, give attention to other women, and be selfish, lazy, and irresponsible because he is the "king."
- Headship means it is okay for a man to beat or abuse his wife or children because he is over them.
- There doesn't need to be any "head" in the family. All family members have equal authority.

Possible Applications

This is a fundamental principle for all fathers, young men, and boys to internalize, believe, and practice if they want to be successful husbands and fathers with a wife and children who flourish and thrive.

Principle 7 – Husbands, love your wives.

God commands husbands to love their wives. This command literally means to welcome, to be fond of, to cherish, to be kind towards, and to promote the happiness, welfare and development of the wife. The husband should see his wife as a gift from God.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God created man male and female. Both are created with unique characteristics, roles and functions.
- Man was created in God's image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purpose and plans for our lives.

Key Bible Passage

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... (Eph. 5:25).

Counterfeit Principles

- A husband only needs to love his wife if he thinks she is a good wife.
- The best way to love a wife is to rule over her.
- The man is only responsible to provide for the material needs of his wife.
- Husbands do not have to love their wives because the wife was created for the husband.

Possible Applications

This is a fundamental principle for all fathers, young men, and boys to internalize, believe, and practice if they want to be successful husbands and fathers with a wife and children who flourish and thrive.

Principle 8 – Wives, respect and honor your husbands.

God commands wives to honor and respect their husbands. Wives and husbands are spiritually coequal before God, yet within the family each has a unique role. Honor and respectful submission should characterize the wife's relationship to her husband.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- God created man male and female. Both are created with unique characteristics, roles and functions.
- Man was created in God's image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purpose and plans for our lives.

Key Bible Passages

The wife must respect her husband (Eph. 5:33).

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord (Col. 3:18).

Counterfeit Principles

- There is no need for wives to submit, honor or respect their husbands.
- Submission means that wives have no rights or say in the running the family.
- This aspect of God's design for marriage is no longer relevant.
- Since God intends the wife to honor and submit to her husband, this makes her inferior and lower in value and worth.
- A husband must live in a respectful and honorable way and then, and only then, should the wife respect and honor him.
- Honor and respect only applies to public places. Wives can show disrespect at home.

Possible Applications

It is important to explore this principle with pastors and church leaders who often have a very limited understanding of this concept and the wrong ideas surrounding it. Both young men and women should work to understand this concept and what it means for their future role as husband and wife.

Principle 9 – Parents, train your children.

God gives both father and mother the responsibility to train up their children in the ways of the Lord according to his Word and to ensure their development physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and socially. This training should include leading by example, instruction and discipline. Each parent has a special role to play in this training process.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

- Man was created in God's image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purposes and plans for our lives.
- God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation...

Key Bible Passages

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it (Pr. 22:6).

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up (Deu. 6:5-7).

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Lu. 2:52).

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death (Pr. 19:18).

See also Pr. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:17.

Counterfeit Principles

- It is primarily the responsibility of the church, community, and the public school (as opposed to the parents) to train their child in truth, character, and formal education.
- The mother is the primary teacher/trainer of the child, not the father.
- Education and training does not matter or is not important.
- Scolding and hitting children is the best way to teach them correct behavior.
- Daughters are worth less than sons and do not need an education.
- Children are basically “good” and don’t need parental correction or discipline.
- Discipline is harmful to children.

Possible Applications

Fathers and mothers need to recognize their key role in training their children. Through example, instruction and godly discipline, parents teach their children who God is, their unique individual worth and value, the principles of self-government, Christian character, and God’s purposes for them in life. Likewise, young adults, especially young men, who will soon be marrying, need to understand how parental training impacts the child’s future and success in life.

Principle 10 – Children, obey your parents.

God's perfect design for the happiness, well being and development of the child is for them to honor and obey their parents.

This principle is based on these foundational truths (See Appendix 1)

God created the family as the most basic social institution and he defines the roles and responsibilities of husband, father, wife, mother and children. The ultimate model for the family is found in the Godhead.

Key Bible Passages

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you (Ex. 20:12).

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord (Col. 3:20).

My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. ...For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life (Pr. 6:20, 23).

Counterfeit Principles

- There is nothing sacred or beneficial to the child in this command. It's simply a rule that helps parents keep their children under control.
- Children don't need to honor and obey parents.

Possible Applications

Children need to see the hand of God and his wisdom behind this commandment. They also need to see the value and the promise behind this principle.

appendix 1

48 Essential Elements of the Worldview of the Kingdom of God

These 48 essential elements provided the basic theological framework from which all of the sector-specific biblical principles in this project were developed. They, in turn, rest upon the foundation of the inerrant, written Word of God, the Bible.⁷

Ultimate Reality	
The Worldview of the Kingdom Affirms...	And Denies...
1. God exists as the supreme ruler of the universe.	1. God doesn't exist (there is no God).
2. God is one.	2. There are many gods.
3. God is triune—three persons in one being—Father, Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. There is both unity and diversity in the Godhead.	3. The trinity doesn't exist. Jesus is not the Son of God. The Holy Spirit isn't real.
4. God is a self-existent, spiritual being. He is both infinite and eternal.	4. God is finite and physical. His existence is contingent upon something else.
5. God is personal.	5. God is an impersonal "force."
6. God is unchangeable.	6. God changes. He is unreliable or capricious.
7. God is all-powerful.	7. God's power is limited.
8. God is all-knowing.	8. God's knowledge is limited.
9. God is completely holy, just and righteous.	9. God has a dark side. He is capable of injustice and/or unrighteousness.

⁷ The idea for this list was informed by a similar list developed by Dr. Jay Grimstead and Calvin Beisner titled 42 Articles of the Essentials of a Christian World View (The Coalition on Revival, Inc., 1999).

The list can be viewed on their web site <http://www.reformation.net/>.

10. God is the source of all truth.	10. There is no "truth." Truth is relative.
11. God is both good and loving.	11. God is neither good nor loving.
12. God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He created them out of nothing by the power of his spoken Word.	12. The universe is eternal, self-existent or uncreated.
13. God is distinct from his creation.	13. God and his creation are completely one. The universe or the things of the universe are "god."
14. God created a spiritual realm and a physical realm.	14. There is no spiritual realm, or there is no physical realm.
15. The spiritual realm is home to created, spiritual beings called angels.	15. Angels don't exist.
16. Angels were created with a degree of freedom. Some have rebelled against God and these are called demons. Their leader is Satan.	16. Satan or demons don't exist.
17. Satan is the archenemy of God and the source of evil in the universe.	17. Evil doesn't exist. There is no such thing as "good and evil."
18. God is more powerful than Satan.	18. Satan is more powerful than God.

Humanity	
The Worldview of the Kingdom Affirms...	And Denies...
1. God created man (male and female).	1. A mindless process of evolution formed man. Another god or another thing created man. Man is God.
2. Man is the only part of God's creation made "in the image and likeness of God" sharing, to a far less degree, many of God's attributes including a spirit, freedom, will, creativity, rationality, the ability to exercise dominion, and the need to live in the context of loving relationships.	2. There is nothing particularly special or unique about man. Man is essentially no different than animals or other living creatures.
3. Each human life is of infinite worth (is sacred).	3. Human life is not sacred. It is of no more value than other living things.
4. God created man male and female. Both are created with unique characteristics, roles and functions.	4. The distinction between male and female is man-made and unimportant. Man is free to create new genders.
5. Both men and women are of equal value to God.	5. Men are better/more important than women. Women are better/more important than men.
6. Man is comprised of physical body and spirit.	6. Man is merely a physical body (a physical "machine" with no spirit. Or man is purely a spiritual being and the body is unimportant or illusory.

<p>7. God has revealed himself to man, although not exhaustively. He has revealed as much as man requires to live a healthy, joyful and productive life. God has revealed himself (1) through creation, (2) through his divinely inspired, authoritative special revelation in the 66 books of the Bible, and (3) through human conscience (the law written on the heart).</p>	<p>7. God has not revealed himself to man. Man is unable to know God. The Bible is not a reliable source of knowledge about God. The Bible is only one source among many.</p>
<p>8. Man was created in God's image. We function best when our lives reflect his nature and his purpose and plans for our lives.</p>	<p>8. How we live our lives doesn't matter. We can live in any way we want.</p>
<p>9. Man was made to live in loving, harmonious relationships with God, with creation and with other people. His relationship with God is the primary relationship he was created for.</p>	<p>9. A personal relationship with God is not important. Man has no need for a relationship with God, with creation or with other men.</p>
<p>10. God created the family as the most basic social institution and he defines the roles and responsibilities of husband, father, wife, mother and children. The ultimate model for the family is found in the Godhead.</p>	<p>10. The family is a man-made institution and we can re-configure it in any way we wish without consequence.</p>
<p>11. Man was made for eternity. His existence continues after physical death.</p>	<p>11. Man is finite. His existence ceases at physical death.</p>

<p>12. God has given man the unique responsibility and the necessary gifts to exercise dominion and stewardship over creation. Man is to enjoy, care for, and preserve creation. Because of this, our work is sacred.</p>	<p>12. Man is not responsible to God, nor is he accountable for how he lives or what he does in relationship to creation. He can use it for whatever purposes he wants. He can destroy it without consequence, or he can worship it as a god. OR nature/the environment controls man.</p>
<p>13. Under God’s ultimate sovereignty, man is given the gift of freedom and moral responsibility. He is able to choose between right and wrong. He is free to choose or reject God.</p>	<p>13. Man is not free. He is a physical machine trapped in a cause and effect universe.</p>
<p>14. All people have rejected God, and in their natural, unregenerate condition, are fallen and sinful. Man’s heart and mind are darkened. His relationship with God is broken and as a result, his destiny is eternal separation from God (hell).</p>	<p>14. Man is basically good. He can be trusted to do what is good and right most of the time. He is reliable. There is no such thing as heaven or hell. All people will eventually go to heaven.</p>
<p>15. Because man’s primary relationship with God is broken, all “secondary” relationships are likewise broken (man with man, man with creation and man with himself). This comprehensive brokenness is the source of all that is wrong, bad and evil in the world—including poverty, hunger, wars, injustice, corruption, etc.</p>	<p>15. The wrong, bad and evil things that happen to us and in the world have some cause other than man’s alienation from God and his sinful heart and mind. They may be caused by “social” inequity, or because the gods are upset.</p>

Creation	
The Worldview of the Kingdom Affirms...	And Denies...
1. The universe is finite, temporal and real.	1. The universe is infinite, eternal or illusory.
2. The universe is distinct from, and dependent upon its creator-God.	2. The universe is the same as God and should be worshipped, or the universe exists independently of God.
3. The universe is diverse, yet rational and orderly. It functions with precision according to established laws imposed on it by God.	3. The functioning of the universe is random, unpredictable and chaotic.
4. Creation is both good and beautiful. It reflects the beauty and goodness of its creator. God reveals himself through his creation.	4. There is no such thing as "beauty." We cannot know about God by observing creation.
5. Creation is an open system that can be impacted by God, man or other spiritual beings.	5. The universe is a closed, cause-and-effect machine. Miracles don't occur. They are imaginary, not real.
6. Creation is intended to provide for the needs of man.	6. The universe has no purpose. It was formed by random chance.
7. Creation is embedded with the ability to grow and expand. Man can take the material of creation and invent things that are both beautiful and useful. He can invent new resources and create abundance.	7. The universe is zero-sum. Resources are fixed and limited. Man is not creative.

History / God's Redemptive Plan

The Worldview of the Kingdom Affirms...	And Denies...
<p>1. God is the sovereign author of history. History is a linear, meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfillment of God's purposes for humanity and creation.</p>	<p>1. History is meaningless and purposeless. It's a circular repetition going nowhere. It's "one damn thing after another."</p>
<p>2. God uses individual human lives to unfold his purposes in history. Therefore each human life is significant for it has the potential to change history.</p>	<p>2. History is something that happens to you. Individuals are powerless to change the course of events.</p>
<p>3. God is working through history to redeem mankind and restore everything broken through the Fall. The primary biblical metaphor for God's redemptive work in history is the advancing "Kingdom of God." Jesus, the God-man, stands at the epicenter of God's redemptive plan for creation.</p>	<p>3. God's redemptive work in history is limited to the cross of Christ. The rest of history doesn't matter. God's only concern is in saving souls for heaven. The kingdom of God is relevant only after we get to heaven.</p>
<p>4. God works through the Church as his primary instrument in advancing his kingdom. The Church is the universal body of saved/redeemed people. It is the "body" of Christ. The mission of the Church is to reflect the nature and character of Christ to the world and to advance the Kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of God.</p>	<p>4. The Church is not God's primary means of advancing his kingdom. He works primarily through other institutions or groups.</p>

<p>5. In our natural, sinful condition we are powerless to save ourselves. Only God can save, and has done so through Christ's shed blood on the cross. Jesus is the only mediator between God and sinful man.</p>	<p>5. Man can be saved through his own works, education, social programs, or any other means.</p>
<p>6. Man is spiritually re-born by faith in Christ and his finished work on the cross through the gracious work of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>6. Concerning salvation, man is left to his own resources or can merit salvation by his own works.</p>
<p>7. Christ's shed blood holds hope for the redemption of <u>all things</u>. There is hope for substantial healing in all areas here and now.</p>	<p>7. There is no hope for healing in the present, only hope after death. Things on earth will only go from bad to worse and then Jesus will return. Christ's shed blood on the cross is only for the spiritual salvation of human souls. It has nothing to do with the restoration of other things broken through the Fall.</p>
<p>8. God's redemptive work will be complete only with Jesus' glorious future return.</p>	<p>8. The kingdom of God can come in fullness now, on earth, through human means and efforts.</p>

about food for the hungry international

Food for the Hungry International (FHI) is a global partnership that is motivated by Christ's love to meet both physical and spiritual hungers of the poor. This purpose is met by:

- Speaking to people about physical and spiritual hungers.
- Sending people to share Christ's love.
- Facilitating emergency relief and sustainable development.

We've succeeded in a community when:

- Churches are increasingly reaching out to their community.
- Leaders are increasingly solving problems in their community.
- Families are increasingly meeting each other's needs.

FHI is incorporated in Geneva, Switzerland, and maintains ongoing programs in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

The international network of FHI staffing numbers more than 1,700 persons of over 30 different nationalities. About 90 percent of our staff members work within their country of birth. Funding for FHI programs draws from around the world. Contributions from the general public are received through autonomous Food for the Hungry organizations in Canada, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Please visit the website of one of these organizations for details about how you can provide prayer, resources, and time on behalf of the world's poor and hungry people.

Food for the Hungry International	www.fhi.net
Canadian Food for the Hungry International	www.cfhi.ca
Food for the Hungry International Costa Rica	www.fhi.net/fhicostarica
Japan International Food for the Hungry	www.fhi.net/jifh
Korea Food for the Hungry International	www.kfhi.or.kr
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