

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

Who is the smartest person you know with the best answers to life's most important questions?

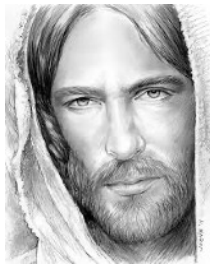
What is reality?

Who has the good life?

Who is a Good Person?

Is there a Human Nature?

Where do I learn this?



In two Ohio State University Veritas Forums - "The Genius of Jesus" & "Human Nature" - Dallas Willard boldly declares Jesus has the best answers to life's great questions. Willard offers key insights from his ground breaking works:

The Divine Conspiracy, The Disappearance of Moral Knowledge, Renovation of the Heart and The Spirit of the Disciplines.

"The Genius of Jesus Course" Study Guide (35 pages) offers two-page handouts for each of the Course's 4 Sessions including practical questions to prompt learning from and living with the genius Jesus in your daily life. You will also find copious notes (not full manuscript) from Willard's 2 teachings.

~ ~ ~

"Jesus understood what would make human life work. He understood that the basic problem for human beings is to find a spiritual home in which they can know that they are cared for, eternally cared for and then from which, they can care for others and not spend their whole life just fighting over what to do."

Dallas Willard

"The Genius of Jesus", Ohio State University Veritas #1, 2002



~ ~ ~

"Moral life must be based on knowledge. We can not hang it in the void. We can not base it on good feeling or political action of various kinds. The human self is meant to act in terms of what it believes. That's why it's important for us to talk about human nature and to understand what it is."

Dallas Willard

"Human Nature", Ohio State University Veritas #2, 2002

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

Course Plan & Handouts

Dallas Willard Teaching #1 — "The Genius of Jesus"

<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Length</u>
1	"Knowledge of Truth for Life"	3-4	21:09
2	"The Historical Power of Jesus"	5-6	18:22

Dallas Willard Teaching #2 — "What does it Mean to be Human?"

3	"What does it Mean to be Human? (Part 1)"	7-8	28:43
4	"What does it Mean to be Human? (Part 2)"	9-10	21:43

Notes from Dallas Willard Teachings	<u>Pages</u>
"The Genius of Jesus" teaching notes	11-21
"What does it Mean to be Human?" teaching notes	22-35

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

"The Genius of Jesus" - Session 1, Part 1 Handout [Length 21:09]

Title: *The Genius of Jesus,
The University & the Question of God*



I. What it Means to be Human

“Any system of education that ignores the moral and religious nature of the student is fundamentally defective.” OSU University President, 1882

The Human Burden - to find an adequate basis of knowledge for life.

We are responsible for our future. The kind of person we are going to be.
That requires knowledge.

—> Knowledge (def.) - “*We have knowledge when we have the ability to represent things as they are on an appropriate basis of thought and experience.*”

—> The Problem — We have defined knowledge in such a way that the most important matters of human life cannot be subjects of knowledge.

II. Truth & Desire & Belief

—> Truth - If truth is not a legitimate goal, if it is not rational and makes sense and is available to people, it won't make you free. It won't do much of anything for you.

Truth, like reality, and desire always come into conflict.

That's where beliefs comes in.

When you believe something, you act as if it is true.

We need to have beliefs that are true.

Followers must confidently believe leaders have knowledge of truth.

We know a lot of stuff we don't believe because our will is set against it.

You can't manufacture truth.

Truth is totally indifferent to who believes it or who doesn't.

—> Rumors of Truth — Desire Outruns Truth

With no knowledge, and truth with it, desire and will push that aside and promote mere rumors of truth.

People will live by rumors and their lives can be ruined by them.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

III. 4 Great Questions of Life

[11:35]

The reason that Jesus stands forth as someone who should be heard in a University context is because of the centrality of these four questions.

1.) What is the Nature of Reality?

Reality is what you run into when you're wrong.

Truth enables you to harmonize your life with reality.

For many - Reality is Buns & Abs, Beautiful Skin

2.) Who is Well Off?

3.) Who is a really Good Person?

Am I worth admiring? Do I have something to contribute?

4.) How do you Become a really Good Person?

Universities: Attitudes, Language, Examples, Research

In no field of knowledge is knowledge of God required. God is irrelevant.

IV. Three Stories - To approach Life in Western Culture

[17:33]

1.) Theistic Story - Ultimate reality is a personal God, indeed a community in Himself - the Christian story of Theism - and that's ultimate reality and everything derives from a personal God who is ultimate.

2.) Nirvana Story - "New Age" - Everything derives from a reality that is undifferentiated - the realm of "no thing".

3.) Materialist Story - Physical Universe is the only ultimate reality.

The official underlying assumption of today's education system.

4) Agnosticism (Optional) - Not just, "*I don't know. We can not know.*"

—> In today's academic world, faith? Yes. Knowledge? No.

In your next 10,000 minutes

1. What "knowledge" guides who I want to be? What % of "truth" versus "desire" defines what I know, believe, and act on?

2. What are three destructive rumors I did (do) believe to be true?

3. Honestly, how relevant are the four great questions to my daily life?

Next Session - "The Genius of Jesus" (pt. 2) - *The Historical Power of Jesus*

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

"The Genius of Jesus" - Session 1, Part 2 Handout
"The Historical Power of Jesus"

[Length 18:22]

The University campus should be open to examine all of the options.
Arguably, without much question, Jesus is the single most influential person in human history. The power in the answers that He gives to the four basic questions made Him such a force in history.

I. Jesus Answers Life's Four Great Questions

1.) What Does Jesus say About Reality?

Reality is God and His Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God (defined) — The range of God's effective will.

Nature in so far as God has created nature.

The Kingdom of God (def.) - *Where what God wants done what is done.*

Your kingdom - What you have say over, the range of your effective will.

God invites us to live in His kingdom and know it as an experiential reality.

My finite kingdom or your kingdom can not run on its own.

The conflict between truth and desire and will.

At war within ourselves and at war and others with no greater reality.

Only life in the Kingdom of God harmonizes our lives.

Jesus - *"Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and then you have the ability to love your neighbor as yourself."*

2.) What does Jesus say about a Blessed Life of a Good Person? [26:40]

God invites us to live in a spiritual reality in which all of the aspirations of the human heart for welfare and being a good person can be realized.

Jesus understood that the basic problem for human beings is to find a spiritual home in which they can know that they are eternally cared for and then from which, they can care for others and not spend their whole life just fighting over what to do.

—> *"Can't we all just get along?"* Rodney King, LA Riots, 1992

We can not get along because we want our way, our kingdom to prevail and we can not find a larger kingdom in which to live together with others.

Jesus made clear what morality is and how it can be lived.

—> The #1 Problem in the University Today — Morality by body language, subtle suggestions, example, who you criticize, who you laugh at, not a course of study.

Morality (def.)

"A shared public understanding with associated emotional postures concerning what types of persons are to be or not to be admired, approved, imitated, encouraged and supported without regard to whether they prosper or not. It is a matter of character & will."

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

—> Governing morality in our University & Culture is not the Theistic story, but a different reality taking humanity as the ultimate point of reference. We will never find the basis for living out the kind of morality we know we should.

—> The Historical Power of Jesus - He knew what to do and could enable people to do it, to provide a morality that would actually make people good.

3. Who is a Good Person According to Jesus?

"A morally good person is a person who is intent upon on advancing the various goods of human life with which they are effectively in contact in a manner that respects their relative degrees of importance and the extent to which the actions of the person in question can actually promote the existence and maintenance of these goods."

This is what Jesus is talking about, *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

4. How does Jesus Help You Become a Good Person? (4th Life Question)

Be alive in the Kingdom of God in personal interactive contact with the ultimate reality learning from that ultimate reality through Jesus and His people.

—> *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

What if you don't love yourself? There are a lot of people who don't.

Jesus says, *"Love one another as I have loved you."* That's different.

"Greater love has no one than they lay down their life for their friends."

Jesus Christ shines greater than anyone else.

"Who else did you have in mind?"

II. How do You Live it?

- 1.) Serious inquiry & Personal Testing
- 2.) Surrender, "What I want" and trust the better way of Jesus.

III. The Genius of Jesus = Truth & Freedom

"If you continue in my word (put it into practice) then you really are my apprentices (in living in the Kingdom), then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." (Jn 8:31-32)

—> The Genius of Jesus: You know the truth in a way that sets you free in an interactive relationship with Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. Shift Jesus from nice to the One with the most essential knowledge of the most important things!

In your next 10,000 minutes

1. Am I or who I care about open to examine Jesus' answers to life's questions?
2. What do I describe as a good life? Who is a good person?
3. How will I learn from Jesus this week to practice loving my neighbor?

Next Session - "Human Nature" (part 1) - *Is there a Human Nature?*

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

"What does it Mean to be Human? (Part 1)" Session 2 Handout [Length 28:43]

Socrates knew that people had to come to truth they could live by of their own initiative. One reason why he had confidence he could work with truth as he did because he believed there was a God who spoke to him and guided him.

I. Is there Human Nature?

"Any system of education that ignores the moral and religious nature of the student is fundamentally defective." OSU University President, 1882

This is still the vision and hope of all the universities. People come to universities because they want to find truth...understanding of the human self.

"THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING." SOCRATES

II. The Purpose of Human Life

To LOVE and SERVE others and to be loved and served by them.

Circles of Sufficiency illustrated in a Mother & Child

To KNOW and to LOVE, and to be known and to be loved.

The Problem — Human "Circles of Sufficiency" are incomplete and broken.

* The Sacrament of Marriage - the value & goodness of life

The basic "Circle of Sufficiency" is meant to be completed under God.

"God in Himself is a sweet society."

Near Death? Love + knowledge = A Creative Will for Good

II. There is a Human Nature

[8:00]

—> Nature (def.) - *"A group of basic properties which determines what is possible for the thing in question."*

—> Nature determines excellence and well being of things of that nature.

You are a nature, a human being, not a squirrel or a Brussel sprout

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

III. What is it to have a Human Nature?

[13:34]

"A Human Nature has parts with specific properties that constitute the whole person in such a way that its peculiar wholeness provides a standard for what a human being is and provides norms for how a person is to be treated and what they are to do."

* Plato's *Republic* - Three human parts: Reason, Emotion & Appetite
Emotion guided by Reason must direct the Appetites to their proper exercise in the individual and society.

Desire - Appetite - Addiction - Democracy - Tyranny

IV. What are Our Parts & Properties?

How do they Relate to Create a Whole?

[17:10]

"No Nature" means... endless change, nothing humans can not do, nothing inappropriate to do to them. No limits! Desire & Human will are the ultimate.

Human desire has to be restrained by the capacity to apprehend reality. Experience and reason have to be able to set the limits to desire.

V. Moral Knowledge Disappeared from Our Present World [22:45]

—> Six Rumors of Moral Knowledge

- 1.) "Morality is relative."
- 2.) "Only sense perceptible is knowable."
- 3.) "Only the measure of all is known."
- 4.) "Moral Truth suppresses freedom and diversity."
- 5.) "Everyone do what they want as long as nobody gets hurt."
- 6.) "Profound changes in the University"

VI. The Outcome - Romans 1

[26:00]

Political Correctness — No human nature leaves power, will, desire.
Politics and Law rule. Politics rules law.

In your next 10,000 minutes

1. Read Psalm 8 asking, "How is my nature limited? How am I precious to God?"
2. What is the condition of my "Circle of Sufficiency"? My past "Circle"?
3. Which of the rumors of moral knowledge influence my beliefs?

Next Session - "Human Nature" (part 2) *The Teaching of Jesus on Human Nature?*

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

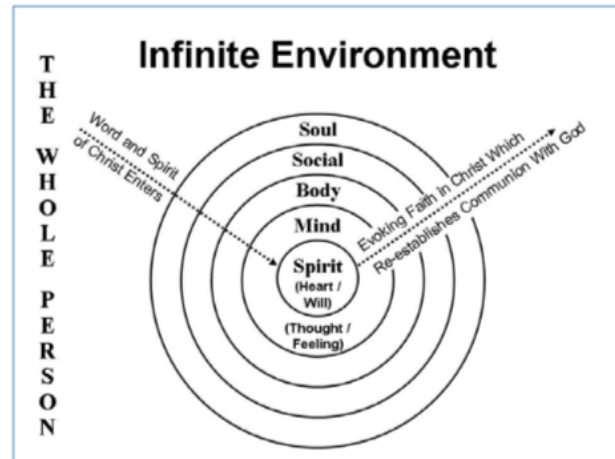
"What does it Mean to be Human? (Part 2)" Session 2 Handout} [Length 21:43]

"Love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength & neighbor as yourself."

The Call on Human Beings - To love and serve others and to be loved and served.

I. The Whole Person

- > **Heart/Will/Spirit**
The Center of the Human Being
- > **Mind**
Thoughts & Feelings
- > **Body**
Your little power pack for life
- > **Social**
We live in relationship to others
- > **Soul**
The part of a person that puts all the other parts together



II. The Order Proper to the Human Being

The Will subordinated to God.

Then the mind subordinate to the spirit [will] under God.

- Order comes into my mind.
- My feelings are coherent with my thinking.

The restoration through the BODY and through the SOCIAL relationships.

MIND subordinate to SPIRIT under God.

SOUL to MIND under God.

BODY to SOUL under God.

And SOCIAL relationships then harmonized with the BODY under God.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

III. Kingdom Living

—> The Great Commandment: Basic knowledge of how to live well and be a good person. *Life's Greatest Questions #2 & #3*

Once you understand the nature of a human being, you can see why that is true. There are no realistic alternatives to that. We have set this aside as knowledge but we have not replaced it with a better view.

IV. Spiritual Disciplines

Not will alone...not human strength.

By the grace of God as the life of God gives us inward transformation.

Spiritual disciplines are not designed to remedy behavior, they are designed to transform the inner person.

We don't want to become people who do the right thing.

We want to become the kind of person who does the right thing routinely and easily.

Moral life must be based on knowledge...not good feeling or political action. The human self is meant to act in terms of what it believes. Understanding human nature is what enables us to know when it is excellent in its character, what is good for it. To establish norms for its guidance, it must be based on knowledge. If you believe human nature does not exist, you will have no norms to guide your life.

V. Revelation is the Source for Knowledge - The Bible

The Bible - the best information on the most important topics.

We who believe this to present the way of Christ as knowledge and reality and as a picture of human nature.

We make the assemblies of Christians the guiding light of humanity.

We lead our lives so that people will realize there is something better in life than they had every dreamed.

In your next 10,000 minutes

1. How whole is my whole person? Which area needs attention right now?
2. Which spiritual discipline(s) will direct His grace to this area?
3. What Bible prayer or text guides me to seek God's power to order my life?

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

"The Genius of Jesus" by Dallas Willard::Teaching Notes

Scribe's Comments - The session was transcribed from the audio with good-faith verbatim. The [brackets] & **bold** disclose the scribe's commentary and also cross-references other Dallas Willard teachings.



["The Genius of Jesus"](#) (part 1 a/v link)

[Length 21:09]

Title: *The Genius of Jesus, The University and the Question of God*

—> What it means to be human.

"Any system of education that ignores the moral and religious nature of the student is fundamentally defective." (1882) University President

I'm here to say that is the system that we have. I'm probably going to say some things that will be inflammatory in the course of my remarks. I don't have time to tell you what I don't mean by what I say. We need to address this question directly. It is essential to the human being to have to find knowledge to base life on. You can even say that the burden of humans existence is to find an adequate basis knowledge for life. Unique to all living species that falls to the human being. We are talking about human nature.

* We can't just hatch out and run like Quails.

* Dogs don't sit around on the back porch wondering if they have enough bones laid up for their declining years.

We do. We have to deal with our future.

Human beings are responsible for their future and they determine what kind of person they are going to be. That requires knowledge.

Sometimes I have to explain on a **University** campus what knowledge is. Explain why students are here. The only point of taking classes is to gain knowledge. That may sound trite. In fact it isn't. Because you rarely meet anyone today who can tell you what knowledge is. So I'm going to tell you. [4:00]

Knowledge (def.) - *We have knowledge when we have the ability to represent things as they are on an appropriate basis of thought and experience.*

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

That's what you hope you've got when you go to the doctor or automobile mechanic. You hope they have [knowledge as defined above.] Good luck to you and lots of grace because often it's not there.

We have to be very careful and not define knowledge in a way that presupposes a lot of answers to things. In particular, the problem on our campus today can be expressed very simply - **we have defined knowledge in such a way that the most important matters of human life can not be subjects of knowledge.**

TRUTH - We have defined knowledge in such a way that **TRUTH** itself is in real trouble. "Veritas" means truth. Knowledge involves truth. But in many parts of the University today and our culture, truth itself is laughable. We have whole philosophical systems that affect our culture that really set truth aside as a reasonable goal for human beings.

[See Dallas Willard, "Human Nature" @ 22:45; "Worldview", UCLA @ 8:00]

The University's role still is to find truth.

* WASC - "Integrity in the pursuit of truth."

"An institution of higher education is by definition dedicated to the search for truth and its dissemination."

* The one statement written on more university & college walls -

"The truth will make you free."

If truth is not a legitimate goal, if it is not rational and makes sense and is available to people, it won't make you free. It won't do much of anything for you.

What we are in today is a tension between **TRUTH & DESIRE**. Truth, like reality, & DESIRE always come into conflict. That's where **BELIEF** comes in.

* **Belief** is like the rails on which our life runs.

When you believe something you act as if it is true.

* You believe those chairs will hold you up. If you didn't believe them to be reliable, how would you be sitting there?

Not like you are, not relaxed, not confident.

What we we need is to have beliefs that are true.

We often believe what we don't know.

Sometimes we know what we don't believe. [*Gambling odds]

This is a common human phenomena concerning human nature.

The truth is we know a lot of stuff we don't believe because our will is set against it.

That happens over and over again in human life in government and so on.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

Leadership requires that followers believe that the leader knows what he or she is doing, that the leader has truth. We have to have that confidence in order to follow those that are leading. We have to be confident that they know the truth. Sometimes they manufacture it. You can't manufacture truth. No one has ever made a proposition true by believing it or by saying it. That's the bitterness of truth no matter how many people believe it or like it does not make it true. 10 million Frenchmen can be wrong. 10 million Americans can be wrong. Truth is totally indifferent to who believes it or who doesn't.

Rumors of Truth - To manipulate truth, leaders and tendencies in culture often manufacture "Rumors of knowledge" where there isn't any knowledge.

* Enron CEO's

Our contemporary society with its news is rife with rumors of knowledge, rumors of truth.

* Expert telling us about snipers on the East Coast on TV were nearly all wrong. "*Well, there's research!*" and belief and desire form the rumors by which we live. We need to be very careful about that.

Rumors of knowledge originate from those who have authority in culture. Often those rumors are more from what someone wants than knowledge.

There is always a conflict between DESIRE and TRUTH because DESIRE outruns truth.

- * Personal relationship and dating
- * Get along with one another in a neighborhood
- * Political campaign

There is always this danger that instead of having KNOWLEDGE and TRUTH with it, DESIRE and WILL will push that aside and promote mere rumors of TRUTH.

[Willard, "Disappearance of Moral Knowledge", UCI #2 @ 7:20]

And then people will live by those and their lives can be ruined by them.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

4 Great Questions of Life

[11:35]

[Willard, "Worldview", UCLA) @ 14:50]

The reason that Jesus stands forth as someone who should be heard in a University context is because of the centrality of these four questions. [Willard, "For Such a Time as This", Baylor Session 1 @ 25:00]

1.) Nature of Reality?

That may sound like a metaphysical question that is irrelevant. That is the most important question you'll ever deal with.

The University teaches an answer to that question, not necessarily by a course on reality. I doubt you'll find one at Ohio State. We don't have one at USC. We need one. An answer is provided by the way we conduct ourselves.

What is reality? Think of "Reality" is what you have deal with.

When you go through a University you pick up answers to that question.

What do I really have to deal with?

"Reality" is what you run into when you're wrong.

Then you have to deal with it.

One of the beautiful things about TRUTH is it enables you to harmonize your life with reality. Instead of running into it, you can prosper in your relationship with it.

That is the most basic question in your life. The most important question you're going to have to deal with.

What is reality? What are you going to have to deal with?

The answer that most often comes in our culture - "Your body."

* Magazines - "Buns & Abs" --- "Beautiful Skin" [13:15]

If people understood and invested in the things that are really going to effect their lives as much as they do in the things that are going to make very little difference, but were treated as important in our world, they would be much better off and much more able to live the lives they were meant to live.

The first question is what is the nature reality? Every person has to deal with this question. Every institution deals with it. Our education is organized around it usually in some narrow focus so that we come to be technically competent in some area and deal with that well but it leaves our life as a whole untouched.

2.) Who is well off?

[14:35]

Who has the good life?

Who has blessedness?

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

3.) Who is a really good person?

[14:50]

This one is more important for most people than the second question. You can get in a fight quicker by questioning someone's goodness than you can by questioning if they are well off. It goes right to the heart of a person.

Am I worthwhile?

Am I worth admiring?

Do I have something to contribute to the world?

4.) How do you become a really good person?

[15:30]

You and I will practice answers to those questions no matter what we do or say. Every University conveys answers to those questions. There's a myth in our culture that at Universities we don't teach morality. We teach morality. If you get crosswise of it you will find out how real and how forceful that morality is.

We convey an impression as to who is well off and who is a good person. Universities answers these questions, not in a straightforward and responsible manner. You won't have a course in which you deal with these issues of being well off or being a good person in explicit terms. It will be conveyed in the whole spirit of the campus by the attitudes, the suggestion of language, the examples that are set, what is regarded as adequate teaching and research in the various fields. All those will convey answers to the four questions.

For example - **Today it is assumed that in no field of knowledge is knowledge of God required.** [Willard, "Worldview", UCLA @ 19:00]

You are apt to think, "Why is he even talking about that?" The assumption in the answers that the University gives is that expertise in no field of knowledge requires the knowledge of God. It does not matter what your field is. The assumption is that God is irrelevant. That is not something that was discovered but it is something that has evolved.

Three Stories frame the human approach in life in Western Culture [17:33]

1.) **Theistic Story** - Ultimate reality is a personal God, indeed a community in Himself - the Christian story of Theism - and that's ultimate reality and everything derives from a personal God who is ultimate.

* Quote from the beginning of the message was from 1882. At that time, the Theistic Story was the story of Universities.

2.) **Nirvana Story** - Moving into the spiritual vacuum that is left by vacating the Theistic story is the Nirvana story. Everything derives from a reality that is undifferentiated - the realm of "no thing". That is what we sometimes call a New Age story.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

3.) **Materialist Story** - Physical Universe is the only ultimate reality. That is the official underlying assumption of all of our education system today.

One of those stories is going to frame your life, cultural institution, a University setting. There is no real option outside of those three.

Option 4) **Agnosticism** can sometimes appear to be an option. An agnostic is someone who is without knowledge. I think the Latin is "ignoramus". That's why it is not a comfortable position. It is not just saying, "I don't know", it is a stronger claim that says, "We can not know. It is impossible to have knowledge." To defend "we can't know" is as tough job as defending one of those three stories.

One of those three is going to be the one that governs. **In the academic world today, the Theistic Story is taken to be totally irrelevant to course content and serious research.**

Now, individuals may have a faith in God. That's OK as long as they don't introduce that into their knowledge, make that a knowledge claim.

~ ~ ~

["The Genius of Jesus"](#) (part 2 a/v link)

[Length 18:22]

The Historical Power of Jesus

The historical power of Jesus has been precisely the way in which He has responded to these issues of human life.

Of those four questions we can go to anyone. One of the great things about the University campus is it should be open to examine all of the options. To look seriously at those who are going to answer those questions - "reality, well off, goodness, blessedness, who is a good person, how do you get to be a good person". It should be open. It has been in the past. When the field was open, the historical power of Jesus came through the power of the answers which He gave to those questions.

Arguably, without much question, Jesus is the single most influential person in human history. That is open for discussion. I don't who else you might suggest. In terms of influence, I can't imagine anyone else who has that kind of influence. Currently there is tremendous influence of Jesus even on people in other religions who are not so sure or they are antagonistic to

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

Christianity as historically understood but are being influenced by the person of Jesus. Why is that?

It is because of the power in the answers that He gives to the four basic questions. That is what made Him such a force in history. His vision of reality, well being and life simply has nothing close to it.

What does Jesus say about reality?

[2:05]

This is the first story, [\[Theistic Story\]](#) the one that the Universities in the Western World was founded on. **Reality is God and His Kingdom.**

(def.) **The kingdom of God is the range of God's effective will.**

That would include nature in so far as God has created nature. This is one reason why when people go out into nature and experience it, they seem so refreshed. They don't even have to believe anything to experience the greatness of nature.

* Chesterton - Atheist has no one to thank for created beauty.

That is one reason why when people turn away from God they often turn to worship beauty in the arts or in nature. It's because these are expressions of the greatness of God.

The Kingdom of God is where what God wants done what is done.

In order to understand it you should compare it to your kingdom, queendom or person-dom is the range of your effective will.

* Go through your backpack, immediately feel something is wrong.

* Drove off in your car without talking to you about it.

That's your kingdom - what you have say over - the range of your effective will.

The Kingdom of God is what God has say over. He invites us to come and live in His kingdom and know it as an experiential reality.

The trouble with my kingdom or your kingdom is that it can not run on it's own. It is finite. It is limited. That's where the issues about conflict between TRUTH and DESIRE and WILL - we find ourselves at war within ourselves and at war with those around us. We live in the midst of kingdoms in conflict. DESIRE is in conflict. There is nothing to subordinate that to. There is no greater reality in which people can meet. On our own it is impossible to be simply what we know we should be.

Only life in the Kingdom of God harmonizes the lives of human beings. That is why Jesus taught the way forward is to love God with

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

all your heart, soul, mind and strength and then you have the ability to love your neighbor as yourself.

This is really important for us to think about because when we come back and look at University life and we think about the issue of God

- What does God have to do with it? [5:45]

God invites us to live in a spiritual reality in which all of the aspirations of the human heart for welfare and being a good person can be realized.

Jesus understood what would make human life work. He understood that the basic problem for human beings is to find a spiritual home in which they can know that they are cared for, enterally cared for and then from which, they can care for others and not spend their whole life just fighting over what to do.

* LA Riots - Rodney King - "Can't we all just get along?"

The answer is obviously "No, we can't get along."

The question is - why can't we?

* Siblings, Parents & Children, Neighborhoods, Nations

We can not get along because we want our way, we want our kingdom to prevail and we can not find a larger kingdom in which to live together with others.

That is what Jesus brought into human life. He made clear what morality is and how it can be lived.

That is the number one problem or omission from University life today. It has nothing to say about that. It teaches a morality. But you don't teach a morality by preaching at people. You do it by body language, subtle suggestions, example, who you criticize, who you laugh at. That's how morality is taught.

That is how it is taught in the home.

~ MORALITY is a matter of passing on a certain kind of life.

Morality (def.) [8:35]

"A shared public understanding with associated emotional postures concerning what types of persons are to be or are not to be admired, approved, imitated, encouraged and supported without regard to whether they prosper or not. It is a matter of character and will."

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

In any context there is always a **Governing Morality**. There is one in our University and cultural situation but it is not the one that goes with the Theistic story because it is based upon a different reality, and that is taking humanity as the ultimate point of reference. As long as we do that we will never find the basis for living out the kind of morality that we know that we should. We'll never be able to just do the things we know that are right. That's why Rodney King was wrong.

Of course we use the words...

- * Poster in the Cincinnati airport by Protective Insurance Company
A young boy wrote on the blackboard:
"Treat others the way you would like to be treated."

Do you know where that came from? It came from Jesus.

...Now, how do you do it?

The historical power of Jesus comes from the fact that He knew what to do and could enable people to do it. He was able to provide a morality that would actually make people good.

Who is a good person?

[11:00]

(The reason I go out of my way to make this statement is because I doubt you'll have anyone here represent a view on this matter in any faculty - "Who is a good person?")

[32:27] *"A morally good person is a person who is intent upon on advancing the various goods of human life with which they are effectively in contact in a manner that respects their relative degrees of importance and the extent to which the actions of the person in question can actually promote the existence and maintenance of these goods."*

(That's the kind of statement that makes people hate philosophers.)

Having said that, this is what Jesus is talking about when He said,

"LOVE your neighbor as yourself."

"Treat others the way you want to be treated."

How do you do it? (4th Life Question)

The question is, "What does that mean and how do you do it?"

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

It is only for those alive in the Kingdom of God who are in personal interactive contact with the ultimate reality learning from that ultimate reality through Jesus and through His people is the only person who can spell that out and really tell you how to do it.

LOVE - We can say, "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" What if you don't love yourself? There are a lot of people who don't. Much of the wrong doing that is done is by people who have no idea what it is to value and love themselves. We talk about human dignity in our culture today but what does it really mean in a consumer culture where the pursuit of pleasure is confused with the pursuit of happiness?

That's why Jesus refines his teaching. He doesn't just say, "*Love your neighbor as yourself*" He says, "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" That's different. He says, "*Greater love has no one than they lay down their life for their friends.*"

With that fill in, you can begin to ask yourself, "*Has there been a single day in which I can say honestly I have loved my neighbor as myself? Is there progress? Am I learning how to do it?*"

If we follow up the teaching about love and morality and who the good person is by the question, "*How do you become a good person?*", that is where, above all, Jesus Christ shines greater than anyone else. Now in an open discussion, of course, we want to compare Him with other candidates you might want to bring up.

* Students come to me and say, "*Why are you a disciple of Jesus Christ?*" My answer is always, "*Who else did you have in mind?*"

How do you live it? ["Seek & Test"]

[14:40]

First of all, by serious inquiry and personal testing. In order to do that you have to put Jesus back in the category as someone who is seriously dealing with the facts of life. Serious inquiry & personal testing - Honest comparison of Jesus and His teaching with others. You find truth by honest testing.

You are going to surrender, "What I want" as the ultimate point of reference. If you're not prepared to surrender that, you will not be able to hear the teaching that Jesus brings and you will not be able to be delivered into life in the Kingdom of God.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

If there really is a better way than the way of Jesus, you can be sure Jesus would be the first one to tell you to take it. If you don't believe that about Him, you don't believe that He was really right.

You can't imagine Him saying,

"Well, that's a better, but it's not Christian."

That's why He is out in front constantly of Christianity.

When we hear His saying *"The truth will set you free"*, we want to recognize that **TRUTH** will not set you free. Someone said, "You shall know the truth but the truth will make you flee." That's what it often does. It isn't truth. [alone] This is the most misquoted statement in human history I think.

The whole statement is,

"If you continue in my word (put it into practice) then you really are my apprentices (in living in the Kingdom), then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

—> **That's the way it works. You KNOW the TRUTH in a way that sets you FREE in an interactive relationship with Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.** [This is the genius of JESUS!]

Question - What does it set you free from?

Answer - It sets you free from your inability to do and live the good you know. [See Willard, "Flesh & Spirit Battle" *"No longer gripped by the pattern of DESIRE."*]

That's where we are left by a **University** teaching and system that omits God as an essential part of the subject matter.

[*"The Disappearance of Moral Knowledge"; "Human Nature" @ 22:45*]

We know a lot of good but we systematically fail to do it in our individual lives, in our society, often in our churches, our religious groups. You find people constantly unable to do it.

We have to shift the understanding of Jesus away from someone who is perhaps nice, but doesn't really provide knowledge to one who provides us with the most essential knowledge about the most important things in human life.

That's where we stand. He doesn't come to just offer us a fire insurance policy. He offers us eternal life now. And that is open to testing, to questioning, to experimentation.

All we have to do to know the **TRUTH** that He is talking about is to put it to the test of experience.

~ ~ **End of "The Genius of Jesus" (part 2) Teaching @ 18:22** ~ ~

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

"What does it Mean to be Human? (Part 1)" Teaching Notes [28:43]

SOCRATES

It is so interesting to see how influential Socrates is and how he taught so many people without professing to know anything. He knew that people had to come to truth they could live by of their own initiative. He called himself a "midwife" - he was bringing truth out of people and assuring them that they had it in them. His confidence in the capacity of human beings to achieve truth and find their way through all the institutions and the power plays that were around them and discover as an individual that there is a God. Socrates believed in God. One reason why he had confidence he could work with truth as he did because he believed there was a God who spoke to him and guided him. He was sure of this when they came to the point of putting him to death, he had no qualms about it. - I'm going to a better place. All I need to do is take care of my soul and everything else will be taken care of.

~ Is there Human Nature?

[2:00]

"Any system of education that ignores the moral conduct and the religious nature of the student is fundamentally defective."

University President, 1882 [Also quoted in "The Genius of Jesus"]

This was the vision and the hope of all the universities...and it still is. In spite of all the smoke that is blown on this topic, people come to Universities because they want to find TRUTH. No matter what we may say in defensiveness, the need is still there. The deepest need is for the understanding of the human self.

Socrates - *"The unexamined life is not worth living."*

He meant coming to understand the self. This is the most important thing we have to do. Until we examine the self, we are not prepared to talk about education and curriculum. We're not ready to understand the wisdom from the ex-President of this University [Ohio State]. We have to think about the make-up of the person.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

~ **The Purpose of Human Life**

[3:50]

To **LOVE** and **SERVE** others and to be loved and served by them.

* Watch a Mother & Child relate to one another

Human beings live in what we can call "**Circles of Sufficiency**"** - In those "Circles of Sufficiency" human life is completed. When something goes wrong we may say to a little child or to someone we love, "*Everything is okay now.*" **[Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*, p. 179-180](#)

Really? Is everything okay?

That is an ideal "Circle of Sufficiency" of knowledge & love.

We know a Mother & Child are not sufficient to themselves. They require others around them. Those "Circles of Sufficiency" reach out to our neighbors that go through life with us.

One thing that is constant - the calling and **the need to know and to love**, and to be known and to be loved. And we go through life with that as our calling. It isn't a deep mystery. It can be observed in life.

The Problem - all human "Circles of Sufficiency" are incomplete and broken. Even those that are most intimate. In our world that begins with Men & Women and the problem of how men and women can be together. If you don't have a framework within which you can make that a "Circle of Sufficiency" to live it out, it turns in to a living hell. The basic "Circle of Sufficiency" is meant to be completed under God.

* [Fulton Sheen - *Three to Get Married*](#)

The reason marriage is a sacrament is not because of some religious idea but because in its very nature is at the heart of the value and goodness of life.

Relationship between parent & child, employer & employee...

All these relationships finally conclude themselves in the Trinity -

"God in Himself is a sweet society."

His creative and redemptive effort is to reach out and bring those in who are broken. The nature of the human being is a nature that makes loving & knowing central to human life.

* Near Death Experiences - People come back wanting to know **love & knowledge**. It lies at the heart of the human being. We have to understand that or we can't have a basis to make statements about what education should be like. Love and knowledge go together and they lead to being a creative will for good.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

~ **There is a Human Nature**

[8:00]

We are in a context where **Desire & Will & Freedom** want to be unlimited. In order to achieve that end, even as an ideal goal, many people have misunderstood the role of nature. Many people say, *"In order for that to be a goal, it must be that we have no nature."*

* Feminist Controversies - *"Biology is not destiny."*

* John Dewey, *Human Nature and Conduct*, 1922

- He denied there was any human nature. He was after the idea we can be endlessly progressive.

You want to understand that a nature is something everything has.

1.) Nature (def.) - *"A group of basic properties which determines what is possible for the thing in question."*

Not all the properties are a part of its nature.

* Pen: Blue or Green is not part of its nature. Rigidity is part of its nature.

* Library - Size & Color - *I'd like a blue book 8" tall, 1 1/2" thick*

Author...topic...date is important. Color is not.

See the difference between properties that are part of nature and properties that are not.

2.) Nature determines the excellence and well being of things of that nature.

* Pencil that is not very rigid. Would you call that a good pencil? Probably not. Its parts & properties do not fit together to form a whole of that kind.

* Squirrel - If you know what a squirrel is, you know what a healthy or sick squirrel is. If you didn't know what a squirrel is, you wouldn't know a sick or healthy squirrel.

I hope you'll say with me - Everything has a nature. That's a piece of classical philosophy lasting well into the 20th Century.

You have a nature. A human being is not a squirrel or Brussel sprout. Against that we are judged in terms of excellence or not. Sometimes we make fun of it.

* Randy Newman - "Short People" song is ridiculous. Why? Because being short has nothing to do with being human.

We commonly accept that and work with it and we need to keep that in mind if we are going to have any sense of a discussion about human nature.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

~ What is it to Have a Human Nature?

[13:34]

"A Human Nature has parts with specific properties that constitute the whole person in such a way that its peculiar wholeness provides a standard for what a human being is and provides norms for how a person is to be treated and what they are to do."

* Turnip, horse and human being are different.

How the parts fit into the whole to make relationships.

* Turnips eaten in "The Depression". Their nature is to grow fast.

* Plato's *Republic* - Three human parts: Reason, Emotion & Appetite

[see Willard, "Spiritual Formation in Academy" (UofW #1) 31:20]

Each has certain properties and they relate to one another in a certain way. You want to be sure reason is guiding appetite by enlisting emotion on its side otherwise you'll be in total chaos.

These parts for a person who relates in a social context. The other side of Plato's *Republic* showed how this fits together in society. To be good and to live well - Emotion guided by Reason must direct the Appetites to their proper exercise in the individual and society. Plato was one of the most acute critics of democracy because he thought democracy lied right next to tyranny. Democracy was the system that killed his master Socrates. It was next to tyranny because democracy in his mind meant all desires are equal. If all desires are equal, the individual goes mad. Imagine a master desire emerging which is able to subordinate all other desires. Democracy, in his view, would naturally lead to tyranny.

Tyranny is often seen in our country - Addiction is the case of the tyranny of desire. Emotions can not redirect the appetites because the appetites have become so obsessive and so masterful over the whole being that nothing can correct them.

~ What are Our Parts & Properties?

How do they Relate to Create a Whole?

[17:10]

The person who says "No Nature" is about the possibility of endless change. To say "No Human Nature" is to hold the human beings that there is nothing they can not do and there is nothing that is not appropriate to do to them. Endless change is possible. No limits.

Our culture is very much tied to this. We have to understand a lot of the rationalization is that there is no human nature is based on the will to be able to change things without limit - to make desire and human will

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

ultimate. When we do that, we run into the problem that human desire is not self-limiting. It can't control itself.

Human DESIRE has to be restrained by the capacity to apprehend reality. Experience and reason have to be able to set the limits to DESIRE.

- * Automobile Commercials - "No Limits" as a model or ideal for life.

It is amazing in our culture to the extent in which automobile fantasies are cultivated. You get a good picture of how desire works if you watch how automobiles are advertised and what they will do for you. It means the supremacy of "feeling". "No nature" really is way of saying

"Feelings - If it feels good, do it!"

- * *"If it feels good, do it"* worn on the seat of a girl's pants.

What if I kicked her because I felt like it. She would not have worn that pair of pants if she believed in it. She was being a hypocrite. It was only in a world where people did not do things they felt wanted to do that it would be was safe to wear pants like that.

- * Supremacy of the Body - Focus on the Body - "Abs & Buns" or Food

[See "Genius of Jesus" @ 13:15]

Try to get feeling of that that will fill our lives full.

- * "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" song [20:45]

[See Willard, "Spiritual Formation Defined" 23:20]

* Marlow's "Dr. Faustus" - A wonderful illustration that you can not buy desire find fulfillment. It will always lead you wrong.

- * *Oration on the Dignity of Man* by Pico della Mirandola, 1496

[Pico's *Oration* attempted to remap the human landscape to center all attention on human capacity and human perspective. Arriving in a place near Florence, he taught the amazing capacity of human achievement. In 1479 [age 16] requested from the [Marquess of Mantua](#) a free passage to [Ferrara](#), where he would devote himself to the study of philosophy and theology. In the *Oration* he writes that *"human vocation is a mystical vocation that has to be realized following a three stage way, which comprehends necessarily moral transformation, intellectual research and final perfection in the identity with the absolute reality. This paradigm is universal, because it can be retraced in every tradition."* [Wikipedia]

He believed man has no nature because God created him that way so that he would have an infinite capacity to rise towards God. Man has no nature - He can fall infinitely and rise infinitely without limitation.

{Willard} Actually, he can't do either one but he does have a nature in which great possibilities are present if he understands that nature. When you

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

understand it, you realize there is an issue about infinity because of that relationship with God.

Nature has been falsely used. Human nature has been used oppressively. What was not nature - short people, black people, whatever classification, nature arguments have been invoked to justify oppression in terms of what is just a historical accident. One can correct these appeals only by getting the nature question right. That is in fact, constantly done today by those who often say there is no nature but they are appealing to nature in the process of doing it.

~ Moral Knowledge Disappeared from Our Present World [22:45]

It has disappeared but it has not ceased to exist. It has disappeared precisely because the idea of a nature for a human being has been set aside. Read contemporary moral theory and you will see.

* Bernard Williams - *"If we can establish an end for human beings, then we might have moral theory, we might have moral knowledge."*

All the writers echo that same point.

Six Rumors of Moral Knowledge led to disappearing from the Western world

1.) "Morality is relative."

- Moral Judgment has not apprehended a reality that is there regardless of what we think. If there is no human nature, there is no reality for it to apprehend. Relativity in terms of feelings takes over.

2.) "Only sense perceptible is knowable."

- The will and human character is not sense perceptible. If only the sense perceptible is knowable, then there is no moral knowledge.

3.) "Only the measure of all is known."

- Science steps forward and says there is not scientific measure of love, knowledge, intentions, character are not measurable.

- These are rumors about knowledge that sets aside any possibility of moral knowledge.

4.) "Moral Truth suppresses freedom and diversity."

- If there are moral truths, people won't not be free to do what they want. Yes they would be free to do what they want. They wouldn't be free to do what they want, and it'd be ok. They'd still be free but they would have

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

to deal with the fact that they are injuring their nature and the nature of everyone around them.

5.) "Everyone should be able to do what they want as long as nobody gets hurt."

* LA Emergency Care demise primarily because people do what they want as long as it does hurt anybody rather than what they ought to do.

6.) "Profound changes in the University"

* Julie Reuben - *The Making of the Modern University*

An excellent study of what happened in University system over the last century so that there is no longer a body of knowledge to be taught about morality in the Universities. These profound changes are all tied to the denial of human nature.

~ **The Outcome**

[26:00]

Political Correctness is the only thing left once you have set aside moral truth. You will do that if you think human beings don't have a nature. Political Correctness is not a conspiracy. There is not any other kind of correctness left. With human nature gone, all that is left is power, will, desire. Politics & Law rule. And politics rules law. Instead of law being based upon a foundation of moral truth about human life, it has to be based on what people desire. Judges and legislators wind up trying to reflect what they think is the sentiment of the people.

Desire degrades the person to the body and there is no foundation of dignity left for the human being. Human beings become a consumer striving to satisfy their desires.

* **Romans 1** - People turned away from the knowledge of God and they were abandoned to their own desires and how that developed through utilizing the body.

If you turn away from a value structure that there is in reality - away from God - the only thing you going to have left to work on is your body. You will pump that body for everything you can get out of it. Pleasure will be king. That is what has happened in our culture. You don't retain God. You don't have a foundation for understanding human nature. When you lose that, you go to what you can wring out of your body or the bodies of others.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

~ ~ ~

"What does it Mean to be Human? (Part 2)"

[Length 21:43]

~ Christian Reading of Human Nature

"Love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength & neighbor as yourself."

The call of the human being is to love and serve others and to be loved and be served by them. The whole structure of human life is set up around that. The structure of community, parent caring for a child.

What has often been said - the mark of a decent society is how the young and old are treated. In order to make that right, you have to understand that people are not just for use because babies and old people are useless. If that's the way you think about them, if that's all you have to say about them, their treatment will be like it often is in our culture.

If you understand the worth and dignity of the human being in relationship to God and the whole human community, you have a different place to stand both individually and in society about how they are treated.

~ The Teaching of Jesus on Human Nature

[1:35]

[see Willard, "Emotional & Spiritual Maturity" #2 - "Dimensions..."]

[see Willard, "Spiritual Formation in the Academy" IV @ UofW 1 - 37:10]

—> **Heart/Will/Spirit** - The center of the human being - the capacity to make decisions. Human beings are creative beings. We want to create good.

* A Child - *"Let me do it."* A natural expression of creative will.

Everyone who comes through this life wants to leave the world a better place. They want to be creative will, creative good.

In order to have a will, you have to have a mind.

—> **Mind** - Thoughts & Feelings. You can't make a choice unless you have feelings about that choice and thoughts about how it is to be done. The mind contains thoughts & feelings. It's a false abstraction to separate thoughts and feelings. You can't. They always come together. Both of those are required in order to be able to "will". Mind & will are essential to human beings.

—> **Body** - It's a good thing to have a body. That's essential for human beings. Your body is your little power pack for life. It puts the capacity to act in your world. At this stage in your existence, this is your source of power. Now, it's not your only one. God has given it to you. You can even stand

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

against God in the strength of your body. It's not a bad thing, it's a good thing. Because you have it, you insert yourself into the world and you are inserted into the world. Your identity comes through your body. In eternity you will still be the son or daughter of certain people. That's a part of your identity. Who we are is not something separate from the time, place and people that we are born in. History is of fundamental importance to human beings because it defines who they are and it gives substance of their whole being.

—> **Social** - No one stands alone. We live in relationship to others. That's part of our nature.

—> **Soul** - The part of a person that puts all the other parts together, if it's not a broken soul. It makes one life. There are many broken souls because not many people in our current condition manages to have a unified life.

Ideally if we live in "Circles of Sufficiency" that were unbroken, raised up in a harmonious way to know love and to be able to love, to gain knowledge, experience, grow, we would have souls that were unbroken.

But our souls are broken because we live in a world where the "Circles of Sufficiency" have been violated. We find ourselves crying out. We've lost loved ones, terrible things have been done to us, and so that's the nature of the world we live in.

Then God comes to us through our mind and we respond to Him with our spirit and He begins to pull us back towards wholeness. The common human situation - Paul expresses (Romans 7) "*Things I would like to do, I don't do. The things I would like not to do, I do.*" We are drawn out of that because our whole being is brought together in relationship to God and we are able to be a whole person.

~ **The Order Proper to the Human Being**

[07:05]

Remember what I said**:

"A Nature is parts with properties that relate to one another in terms of those properties and produce a whole which is capable of relationships beyond the self."

*[** "A Human Nature has parts with specific properties that constitute the whole person in such a way that its peculiar wholeness provides a standard for what a human being is and provides norms for how a person is to be treated and what they are to do." @ 13:34]*

The order proper to a human being is this:

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

Will subordinated to God. I'm not running my world. God is running my world. He is running the world anyways and I accept that. The larger framework of things in which He has placed goodness, I serve gladly. I don't try to be god. "Will" subordinated to God, my kingdom under God's, therefore, at least in the process, that's where all of us remain for a long time, in the process of harmonization of my neighbor's kingdoms and my own kingdom.

Then the mind subordinate to spirit [will] under God. Instead of running wild with imagination of all kinds of things, order comes into my mind. I see things rightly and I act in terms of them because my feelings are coherent with my thinking.

I realize sketching this out in an ideal way may be hard to take in. Think of it an idea, this is a process.

Feelings are becoming more and more harmonious. I'm free of contempt. I'm not full of anger. I'm not cultivating my lusting for my own entertainment. I'm not spending time envying people and dreaming about I wish I had what they had.

Why not? Because I've become alive under God and I don't have to think those thoughts anymore. I'm now alive in God's kingdom and I know I am taking care of. I can rejoice with those who rejoice, instead of thinking I wish I had what they had. I can think, *"I'm glad they have it."*

I can weep with those who weep because my compassion is not not just for me but for them also.

[37:15] The restoration now begins to move through the BODY and through the SOCIAL relationships.

MIND subordinate to SPIRIT under God.

SOUL to MIND under God.

BODY to SOUL under God.

And SOCIAL relationships then harmonized with the BODY under God.

This is a picture of human nature functioning well!

Out of this comes the norms which can guide us practically. Think of all the things we have a list of things to do and not to do morally, think of what they are about. They are about knowing and loving. If you murder, steal, lie...that's not knowing and loving, that's living in a world where feel like you have to lie.

* Girl in Sunday School - *"What is a Lie?"*

"It is an abomination to God and a very present help in a time of trouble."

If you're running your world, you're going to need all the help you can get. That's why very few of us have come to the point where we say, *"I am done with lies. I will not mislead anyone."* Think if that actually happened in

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

human life the difference that it would make. Think of all the money and time we invest protecting our goods. Think of a world where you didn't need locks.

Kingdom Living

[11:35]

We're living a spiritual life from God. The influx of God comes into our lives. We have given to us a life that is beyond ourselves. That link to the Kingdom of God is crucial to understanding human nature. You'll never understand human nature unless you understand that it is meant to live in worship and devotion to God.

If you're looking for a way to distinguish human beings different from other animals, always remember Worship - Devotion - Dedication - Love to God. That life flows into us and it produces activity we are not capable of on our own.

The great commandment is then fulfilled in real life. We can become whole persons. The parts in proper order and function by living a life of worship and service to God to others in a power beyond ourselves.

—> The Great Commandment is basic knowledge of how to live well and be a good person.

[12:33]

Once you understand the nature of a human being, you can see why that is true. There are no realistic alternatives to that. We have set this aside as knowledge but we have not replaced it with a better view or even a significant alternative to this view of what it is like to be a whole person. When we begin to experience it, we begin to see the beauty and strength of it as it begins to enter our personal relationships and restore them and transform our whole world.

Spiritual Disciplines

[13:15][41:05]

This is not by will alone, not something that can be done just by human strength. It has to be touched by the grace of God as the life of God moves inward and gives us inward transformation. This is the place of spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are not designed to remedy behavior, they are designed to transform the inner person.

- Solitude, silence, fasting, scripture memorization, service to others. There is no complete list. A spiritual discipline is something you do to enable you to do what you can't do by direct effort.

The secret of spiritual discipline: *Indirection* - It doesn't try to correct behavior, it changes the inner person not the behavior.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

We don't want to become people who do the right thing. That's a trap. That'll kill you. We want to become the kind of person who does the right thing routinely and easily. That's what it means to have the life of God coming into the person through the Mind and the Spirit and then transformation takes place. The aim is to become in all dimensions of the self the kind of person who naturally and easily does what is good and what is right.

"The quality of mercy is not strained." Shakespeare

That's true of all virtues. It is the person who does easily the thing that is right who has had the inward transformation that makes life whole.

[42:42] Moral life must be based on knowledge. We can not hang it in the void. We can not base it on good feeling or political action of various kinds. The human self is meant to act in terms of what it believes. That's why it's important for us to talk about human nature and to understand what it is. Because only if we have beliefs about it that lead us to understand what it is good for, can we use it rightly.

My opening remarks: Understanding human nature is what enables us to know when it is excellent in its character, what is good for it, to establish norms for its guidance, it must be based on knowledge. We will have beliefs about what is real and the task is to assure that they are true beliefs.

You can be sure that if you believe human nature does not exist you will have no norms to guide your life. The secular mind drove the spirit out of any reality it could accept and because of that it is incapable of establishing moral norms. Since the moral life is a matter of the spirit, the will, the character, it is inevitable that moral knowledge would disappear in our culture.

Friedrich Nietzsche understood if you take Christian foundations out from a culture, it will collapse. That's what he was so excited about. He was incapable of giving an alternative.

I'm saying there are no alternatives. It's in the nature of human nature that there should not be any alternatives. [Nietzsche] saw what was happening and he realized that it was a complete disaster.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

Revelation is the Source for Knowledge - The Bible [16:45]

The Bible - the best information on the most important topics that human beings have. Most important topics, among other things, would be Human Nature.

The Bible is a tradition. It contains deep teachings. It is set up in such a way that if you're looking for what is wrong, you'll find it.

* Medieval thinkers use to say, *"If a jackass looks into a mirror, he does not see an apostle looking out."*

If you look in the Bible, really what you're going to see is you looking out. Used in the Bible - "looking as into a mirror". We want to be able to see ourselves for who we are and that will always bring us to God and it will always show us the right way to go, if that's what we are looking for. If you look for puzzles, you'll find plenty of them.

* If you want to sit up nights and worry about where Caine got his wife, be my guest.

We want to remember this is the most vital knowledge on the most important topics. Compare it to any writer. This is the source. It happens to be that's the way it is and I believe God has planned it that way. If we look to the scriptures in that way, we will find the guidance we need.

The need is for those who believe this to present the way of Christ as knowledge and reality and as a picture of human nature.

We need to put this in clear juxtaposition to all the other teachings that are around us. In order to do that we don't have to be arrogant and closed minded any more than one who knows how to fix plumbing. They can be open, they can listen. We want to be in the same spirit. That is the spirit of the university as it has been traditionally conceived.

We want to live in that spirit and when we do we'll find we have a treasure of moral knowledge. The way of Christ contains the body of moral knowledge for which the world is dying. Keep in mind from last night** what knowledge is.

** - ["The Genius of Jesus" @ 4:00]
Knowledge (def.) - We have knowledge when we have the ability to represent things as they are on an appropriate basis of thought and experience.]

We need to practice that knowledge openly and honestly test it and present it and in this way, make the assemblies of Christians the guiding light of humanity on the University campus and everywhere in life including education and all of culture.

"The Genius of Jesus Course"

Study Guide

Human nature as it should be is not the responsibility or possibility of the University at present. They do not deal with it because they can not.

We are the ones who have to stand up in such a way and lead our lives so that people will realize there is something better in life than they had every dreamed.

George Palmer, Harvard Professor, 1899

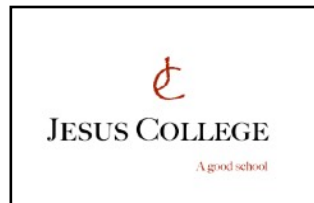
"Ethics is certainly the study of how life may be full and rich, not as often imagined how it may be restrained and meager. Those words of Jesus announcing the He had come in order that men might have life and have it abundantly are the clearest statement of the purposes of both morality and religion, of righteousness on Earth and in Heaven."

~ **End of "What does it Mean to be Human?"** (pt. 2) Session [21:43] ~

For information & resources about Dallas Willard Ministries — dwillard.org

~ ~ ~

Over 170 FREE Willard resources — Courses, Teachings, A/V links, Notes, go to...



Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns

"A Student of the Superior Benefactor"

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs

"Training to be proficient in willing the good"

The Mission of Jesus College - To Empower Apprentices to Master Love by knowing Jesus as the One, great truth and live a good life found in such truth.

The Vision of Jesus College - To equip Trainers (Ministry, Business Leaders, Parents) to mentor Leaders (Senior Apprentices) to disciple Apprentices to Master love.

The Storehouse of Jesus College - Over 200 FREE downloadable resources & links offering the good life in the person, work, teachings & life of Jesus through *"Eyes to See"* visual resources and *"Ears to Hear"* audio resources, plus gatherings live & online provided by JESUS COLLEGE, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.