

“The Genius of Jesus”

WELCOME to a four session course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College

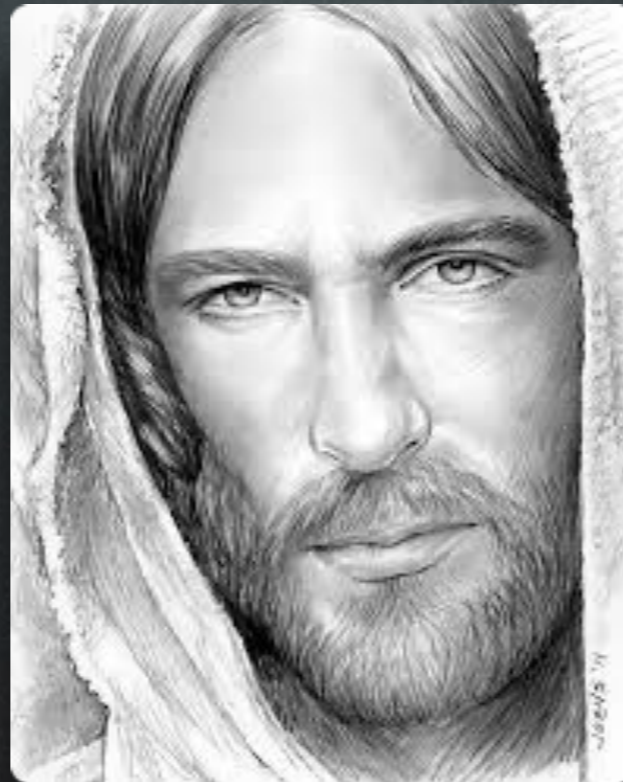


"What Does it Mean to Be Human?"

Part 1 of 2

Dallas Willard at Ohio State University

November 15, 2002

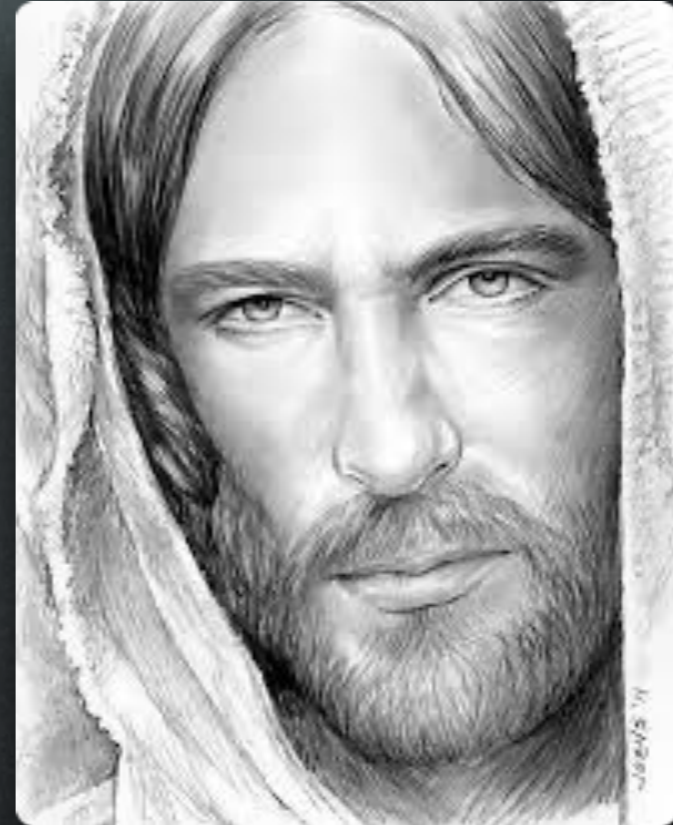


The Genius

Session 2 Review

Jesus knew how to provide a morality that would actually make people good, and He could enable people to do it.

We need to shift Jesus from “nice” to the One with the most essential knowledge of the most important aspects for a life well lived!



The Genius

Life's Four Great Questions

- 1.) What is the nature of reality?
- 2.) Who is well off?
- 3.) Who is a really good person?
- 4.) How do you become a really good person?

In memory of Dallas Willard

September 4, 1935 - May 8, 2013

Beloved Professor of Philosophy (1965-2012)

“You cannot ‘opt out’ of having a worldview.
You can only try to have one that most accords with reality,
including the whole realm of facts concerning what is genuinely good.
The four questions any worldview must answer are:

What is reality?

Who is well-off?

Who is truly a good person?

How does one become a truly good person?

“4M IQ” – Life’s Four Most Important Questions

Q1 - What is reality?

A - The Kingdom of God.

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Q2 - Who is well off - living the good life?

A - Living in the direct availability of the Kingdom of God.

“Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Q3 - Who is a good person?

A - One permeated with agape love.

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Q4 - How do I become a good person?

A - Become an apprentice of Jesus.

“Everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man...”

The Genius of Jesus

Session 3 — “What Does it Mean to be Human?” (part 1)

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.



Is there Human Nature?

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

Ohio State 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



The Purpose of Human Life

To LOVE and SERVE
and
to be LOVED and SERVED

“Circles of Sufficiency” — Mother & Child
“Everything is OK!”

Our Calling...Our Nature
To KNOW and to LOVE
and to be KNOWN and to be LOVED.





The Problem in Human Life

Human “Circles of Sufficiency” are incomplete & 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.”





“Love and knowledge go together and they lead to being a creative will for good.”



There is a Human Nature

We are in a context where **Desire & Will & Freedom** want to be unlimited.

—> 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

or a



“I’d like a blue book please. 8” tall x 1 1/2” thick.”



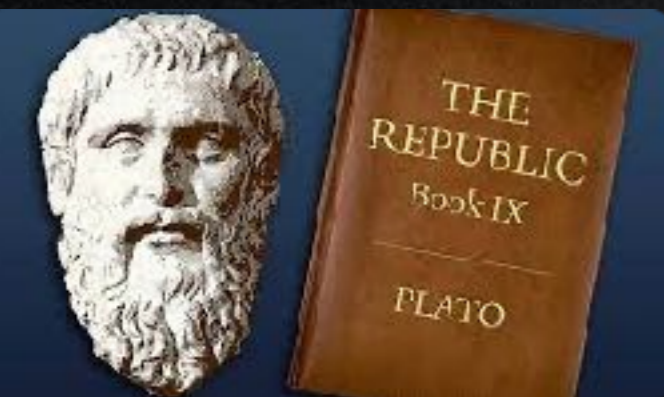
Sometimes a nature surprises us.

What is it to have a Human Nature?

“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

“Extremely Enterprising”



Our Parts & Properties?

How do they relate to create a whole?

“No Nature” means...

Endless change

Nothing humans can not do

Nothing inappropriate to do to them



Desire & Human Will = 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.



Gender Fluid

Man

Woman

Pregnant Person

Sexual Preference

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness

“If it feels good, do it.”

“My truth.”



The Genius of Jesus

Session 3 — “What does it mean to be Human?” (part 1)

Moral Knowledge Disappeared from Our Present World

—> Six Rumors of Moral Knowledge <—

- 1.) “Morality is relative.”
- 2.) “Only sense perceptible is knowable.” (not will, character)
- 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.”

These profound changes are all tied
to the denial of human nature.

The Outcome

Political Correctness — No human nature leaves
power,
will,
desire.

Politics and law rule. Politics rules law.

Pleasure will be king.

Romans 1 — Therefore God gave them...
...up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts (v. 24)
...over to degrading passions (v. 26)
...to a depraved mind (v. 28)



Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!



Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen

80:00 + 10K

Meditation — Psalm 8

Application

Q1 — Read Psalm 8 asking, “How is my nature limited? How am I precious to God?”

Q2 — What is the condition of my “Circle of Sufficiency”? My past “Circle”?

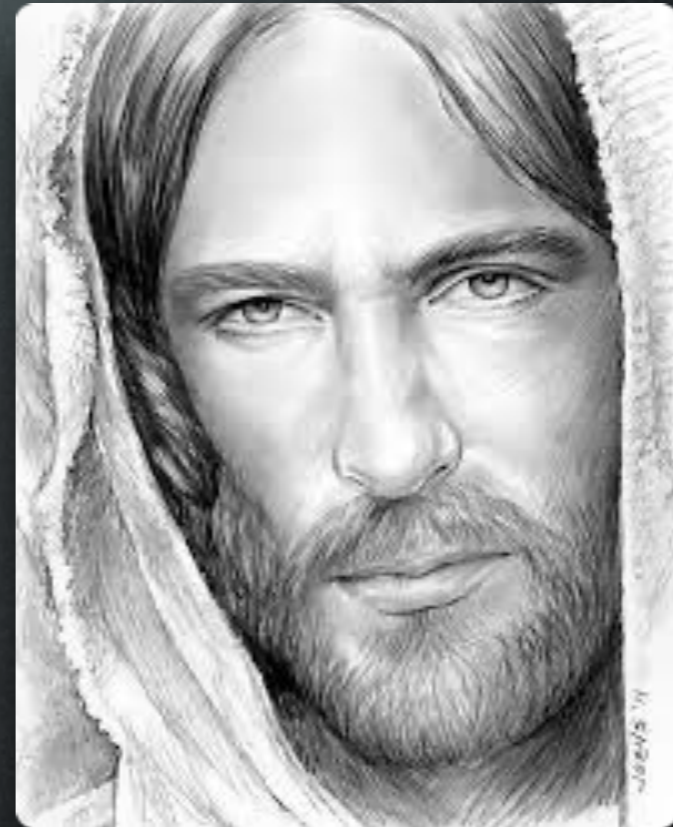
Q3 — Which of the rumors of moral knowledge influence my beliefs?



† Cross Fit

Session 3 Summary

We humans have a nature that determines our excellence and well being. Our desires have to be restrained by the capacity to apprehend reality through experience and reason to set the limits to our nature's desire. Sadly, the moral knowledge of "good human nature" has disappeared.



The Genius

Next — Final Session

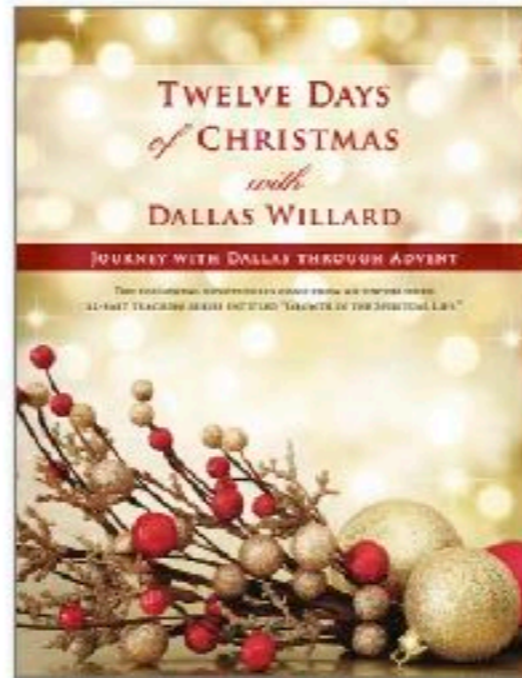
Dallas Willard Session 2, part 2

“What Does it Mean to be Human?” [21:43]

“To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength and your neighbor as yourself.”



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From Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College
to the Apprentices who completed the Course:

“The Genius of Jesus”



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This Certifies that

Socrates

Has diligently and devotedly completed in November, 2024, the Course

“THE GENIUS OF JESUS”

Doug Webster

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Rebecca Willard Heatley

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Living in the kingdom now

Wisely study human nature in your next 10,000 minutes while asking life's four greatest questions.

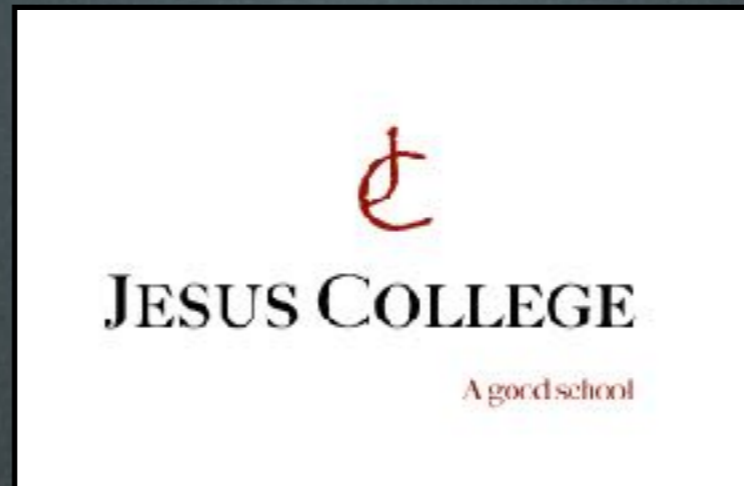


Doug

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Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
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“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

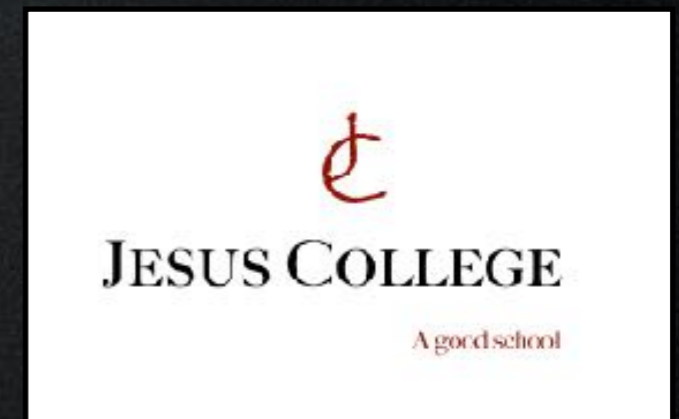
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