

Cross Discipline Collection 9.5 by Ben Huot

# Cross Discipline Collection 9.5

by Ben Huot

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Created January 2021

Last Edited

August 29, 2021

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# First Things

# For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at  
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I even enjoy constructive criticism

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# Dark Ages and the Church

I pass my hand over my device  
I activate and wake it up  
Bright lights keep shifting  
At the snap of my fingers

I cannot even keep up  
The pictures update so fast  
Touching with two or three fingers  
Lights over me shift colors as well

Light to dark in a flash  
And dark to light in another  
Figures dance across the screen  
Fight sequence after fight sequence  
Eight beats to a move

I forget which fingers to place where  
How many taps to where  
One click to danger  
One click to hope

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My fingers tap dance across the screen  
Boxes appearing everywhere  
Fading in and out  
Disappearing and reappearing

Squares circles and triangles  
Oversimplified shapes repeating  
The colors burn right through me  
I can feel the heat  
Penetrating through my skin

Did I just lose my house  
Or did I just space out  
Did I touch the wrong dot or line  
Am I really lost  
Or is this what it is supposed to be

It is getting harder  
And harder to tell  
The difference between my thoughts  
And what I remember  
The difference between what happened  
And what I wrote  
But the beat keeps going on

Does it even matter what is real  
We have been left alone for months

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Unable to gather beyond our households  
Is what was real before still real now  
The room is becoming a great expanse  
And the house an entire universe

All reality flashes in and out  
Lets just hope the power keeps coming  
Or we will be in utter darkness  
When the red and blue lights  
Stop emitting their special hues  
Does the entire world shift  
To black and white

If I cannot connect to a device  
If I cannot be sure who is lying  
And if no one tells the truth  
Does it stop mattering what is right

If there is no difference  
In the mind of the believer  
From those who never challenge things  
Will the lights last forever  
Because what we do in the dark  
Only matters as the lights keep going

Reality is but a mirror copy  
Of one form to another  
If you go on a real trip

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Or read a real book  
What makes it different  
From traveling there magically

If there is no other reason  
Why not just sit down  
And travel to another reality  
Via a bright guided tour

Is virtual just another kind of real  
If the mirror image  
Is the same as the original  
Does it matter if  
Everything looks the same  
Does it matter if  
We all feel the same

How do we break  
From this reality  
If we are only relevant  
From within our devices  
Does life make sense  
Beyond your device  
Can all that matters become a cage

Can we find a  
New way to be free  
Does it still matter

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How you feel  
When no one else  
Is real anymore  
What differentiates  
A program from a person

If every conversation  
Is unimportant and similar  
Is who we are then unimportant  
If the only way to be smart lately  
Is to be better  
At stealing and conning

Is it outdated or irrelevant  
To be real  
To care and feel  
And try to be better  
Is this no longer part  
Of what the world is

Do we need to go  
To another planet  
To just feel like  
We can be honest

And still not feel  
We will be robbed or framed  
If we say the wrong thing

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Or give out  
Too much information

Is our society now  
Just based on deception  
If the only unifying factor in society  
Is the easy way  
To pull off crimes  
Does this mean people no longer  
Even want others  
To be honest with them  
Maybe when a society  
Is all base on crime  
People want to hear  
Nothing but lies

Who would have guessed  
That a movement  
For the free exchange of ideas  
And social progress for equality  
Would transform society  
Into a perfect storm  
Of pain and bondage

If we stop practicing those things  
That define us as Christians  
Do we no longer believe  
If we are unwilling

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To look like believers  
If you accept all the assumptions  
As those who choose  
Not to believe

If you compromise your soul  
For just one good thing  
Is this a sacrifice  
You are permitted  
To make on God's behalf

When we think we can  
Express our faith  
In any way we think is right  
Is this different enough  
From those who express  
Their desire to be heard  
By committing sin

We are the children of the twilight  
Living in a land  
Where there is no more  
Love of knowledge  
Or love of God

There is a huge amount  
Of light in our homes  
Both night and day

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But our society is hazy and foggy  
When it comes to  
What is right and wrong

You may have an audience  
Of ten thousand people  
But how many are not  
Just artificial intelligence

If you have a fan base of a dozen  
But these are people  
You know by their first names  
This is a night and day difference

So in this brave new world  
Was it planned  
That everything written  
To be so easily destroyed  
Is it someone's dream to make  
All creative works  
Disappear overnight

If there is nothing in common in society  
If there is no opportunity to be heard  
If there is so much fear of death  
If there is no way  
To meet other people  
Everything can be faked

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Nothing really exists

Just imagine what a  
Spark of light can do  
Not the light  
Of yet another device

But the light of hope  
The light of courage  
The light of perseverance  
The light of wisdom  
The light of truth

Who was the biggest defender  
Of knowledge and manners  
During Dark Age Europe  
And kept Premodern Asia bright  
The Church and religion of course

# Move Now!

Smoldering in the ashes  
Ice is dropped  
On the fire pit  
The water drowns  
The last coals

Then I pray  
And the coals re-ignite  
The embers  
Reach peak heat

Now! He is here  
The long awaited return  
To the church community  
We gradually realized  
He never left  
We just got distracted  
And grew blind to Him

As soon as we  
Died to the world  
He resurrected us  
By His word alone

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Just as everything was created

We who were dead to God  
Have new life and are quickened  
All the years lose  
Now completely undone

We think that when  
The struggle is too much  
That we are in it alone  
We have a spiritual blind spot  
We have poor spiritual eyesight

We need to first drown in Him  
So that we may be re-ignited  
There is always  
Light in the darkness  
But there must never be  
Darkness in the light

If the light has grown dim  
What does the world have to guide it  
When the flame burns out  
It will then burn once again

The fire only goes out  
When we lose faith  
But when we call on God

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It comes back

You can have everything  
Taken from you  
And be dirty  
As the mud on snow

But His fire will  
Burn you clean  
And the pure snow  
Will then clean you well

We seek a hero amongst us  
We long for the supernatural  
But we are afraid to be part of it  
There is no shame in faith  
We just need to practice our faith  
According to the Scriptures

Sometimes it seems the Church  
Is striving for perfection  
They look to impress and entertain  
But we worship God because that is right  
God needs to be praised

We seek to outdo the world  
We forget we need not be better  
We need not be smarter

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We need not be stronger

We struggle against  
An unimaginable power  
But we are friends with  
A much bigger Giant  
We certainly are mere peons  
Each and every one of us

But we have an advocate  
And a champion  
Who has chosen time and again  
To never give up on us  
So we can never  
Give up on ourselves

It does not matter  
How many times you fall  
How deeply you have been hurt  
Or how weak and limited you are

The physical world  
Is only an illusion  
It does not matter  
How powerful we are  
It only ultimately matters  
Whose side we are on

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Let us ask that we may see  
Through faith or literally  
How much more powerful God is  
Than any of our worst problems  
And greatest burdens

The point is not  
To be of great faith  
Or better at the battle  
The point is to run  
Back to God not away  
Eventually we realize  
We can't outrun Him

We need do nothing  
But wait on the Lord  
We need to struggle and resist  
But we are not in it alone

God created all the  
Rules of the game  
All the cards are  
Stacked in our favor  
The best the devil can do is  
Mess with your mind

Just turn back to God  
You should never try

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To fight the devil directly  
We only have our  
Own disloyalty to fear

We need not get lost  
In all the bright shiny things  
That the enemy  
Lays out to distract us

God is the center of everything  
He is the most important factor  
In every battle we face  
He will fight  
These battles before us

We just need to get back up  
Every time we fall down  
Eventually we will learn  
To let God take the hits for us

But this all takes time  
One of the reasons why  
We have lost touch  
With spiritual things  
Is that we are impatient

Our sense of time  
Has been accelerated recently

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Wind back the clock  
To the heart rate of the Prophets

The Prophets of the Bible  
Show how God sees us  
We are as important individually  
As entire nations spiritually

Abraham become father  
To many nations  
But God would have  
Made the same contract  
With any of us living today  
The difference is that we have  
A much better deal

Things are much easier now  
Compared to what the patriarchs  
The Prophets, and the disciples  
Had to endure and fight through  
It will get tougher  
But total flakes have  
Successfully endured more

Do not fear the devil  
Fear your own disloyalty  
The devil cannot hurt you  
But you can hurt yourself

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God does not want us to sin  
Because He doesn't want us to suffer  
Either because of our sins  
Or because of others sins

God's plan to reduce suffering  
Is that we sin less  
And when we sin  
He takes the pain

We think that because  
We suffer a little  
That Christ did not suffer more  
We just have to  
Accept some things  
That we will just not understand

This is true of any  
Study of knowledge  
Or any possible belief system  
In Christianity  
There is a better reason  
God is all powerful  
And we are not

Having faith in God is easier  
Than having faith

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In anyone or anything else  
Because God cannot lie  
And will never fail us

He does allow suffering  
But this suffering is entirely  
Our own creation  
And God has suffered far worse

Can you imagine  
What it would be like  
To have a child  
You created from nothing  
Then grow up to hate you  
And try to destroy your creation

Then you descend to live  
As one of your creations  
A meager and painful decent  
Like one into hell  
You do all this so that  
They can live forever in paradise

Then the smartest  
And oldest reject the offer  
And before your creation  
You knew all of this  
And yet you decided

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To create these people anyway

Parent are amazing  
And parenting is very difficult  
But no parent would do  
What God has done

Just stay close to God  
He is already right next to you

Only you can choose  
To separate yourself from Him  
But you will not do so  
Because God has already won

# The Fight of Our Lives

Ten thousand years from now  
When there are only a dozen Christians  
In a galaxy of trillions of sentient beings

History has been written now  
So as not to include anything  
Before a thousand years ago

Because it is not thought  
To be relevant anymore  
There is no longer a Bible  
That anyone can read or find

When you are truly discouraged  
When your faith is on its last legs  
What will you reach to  
When arguments no longer make sense  
And you can no longer remember  
Even one Bible verse

When they take everything away  
That reminds anyone of the supernatural  
When they have convinced most Christians

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Their faith is but an illusion

When there is no record of Christ  
Life, death, or resurrection  
When all knowledge betrays us  
And our minds do as well  
What do you cling to

When all it hopeless and futile  
There is always a way forward  
When all is lost you can  
Still communicate with God

God can and will give you  
Everything you need  
By His grace alone  
including your faith

But you must consciously choose God  
At any cost and in every situation  
Even when the battle looks lost  
Call on the name of the Lord

Faith is a decision  
It is something that makes sense  
No matter how much the world  
Seeks to make it irrelevant  
And questions our sanity

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It does not ultimately matter  
What society thinks  
It does matter what you believe  
But most importantly  
It matters what is true

But truth cuts deeper  
And lasts longer  
Than arguments and proofs  
When many worship  
They do so for fellowship  
But it is not necessary  
To get something back  
To worship and serve God

There is no need to win arguments  
Or be able to say the right things  
You do not need to convince others  
In order for you to believe

It does not matter if you can explain it  
Your faith can still be real  
Even at times and in situations  
Where you have no access to Scripture  
When you are separated  
From all other believers  
When you cannot find a church in sight

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You may think this is a distant and  
An unlikely prospect for believers today  
But it is already partially like this  
In Europe today

What will you do  
When you are talking to a psychologist  
When they form convincing rebuttals  
To all the points you present

What if they know Scripture  
Better than you  
What if they can make you  
Question your faith  
Where do you go from there

First of all there is no faith without doubt  
Just as there is no Grace without sin  
You just have to commit yourself fully  
To sticking with God no matter what  
Without the encouragement of others  
Or without the support of a church

Just return to the fundamentals  
Always pray  
Praise God  
Help others in need

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Repent of sin  
Forgive wrongs  
Speak up when asked about your faith

Humble yourself before God  
And He will lift you up  
He will write the law  
Upon your heart

Remember there is sufficient reason  
To love God  
From just the reality of our existence  
Our own very existence  
Is proof enough for God

People will always worship God  
In one form or another  
The world is becoming  
More religious than ever

But things are an exact opposite  
In North America  
Would you still practice your faith  
If it required you to learn Spanish

Recently Christians were ordered to  
Stop meeting in person in America  
Because of other people's

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Irrational level of fear  
Of their own possible deaths

Society is no longer as a whole  
Sympathetic to Christianity  
Or even just religion  
In the United States

It is in these situations  
Where you are forced  
To re-examine your choices  
It can make you give up permanently  
Or make your faith unbreakable  
Just like being responsible means  
Having extra clean clothes on hand  
And being stocked up on drinkable water

What must it have been like  
For Christ when His Father rejected Him  
While hanging on a cross and dying  
Then He had to go to hell for while

When you have reached your lowest point  
It only goes up from there  
Sure the situation can always get worse  
But eventually you rebound and survive  
Then you are stronger and wiser  
So never give up the fight

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If you sin then repent  
If you lose faith  
Then pray for it again  
If you lose strength  
Then praise God  
If you are lost  
Then call on the name of the Lord

When everything and everyone fails you  
You will still have God at your back  
You cannot lose Him  
Even in another reality  
Where religion is non-existent

There's always a way with God  
He is not only a lot smarter than us  
He is also a lot smarter than the devil

Some people  
Used to say that  
God created the world  
And then left

So as to explain away suffering  
And the importance of God  
This is what the devil  
Wants us to think

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This may be how many feel now

As the world gets more evil  
And in our part of the world  
The Church is increasingly marginalized  
It just proves people are stupid  
It proves we need God even more

Bad people are easy converts  
Because they already know  
They need God  
A collapsing world society  
Will seek God

Because their belief system  
Has just crashed  
All their hopes and fears  
Have been dashed

The world being in a bad place  
In what is supposed to be a utopia  
And the richest place on earth  
Makes people question human reasoning

A society without God  
Is so empty that someone  
Will re-discover God  
Because they will seek Him

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With all their heart

Just as people are often closer to God  
After they have just repented of sins  
Our society will embrace God once again  
When things get a little bit harder

The Church has chained the cross to America  
And America is falling  
But do not give up hope  
The Church will easily outlive America

If you do give up hope  
Pray for it again  
Just like you do  
When you sin

# Against Anarchy

Why not just give up the ghost  
Why continue to suffer  
Why continue to do without  
Why be rejected by others

What is so important  
About this faith of yours  
That you would do anything for it  
Is not this a sign of a cult  
Or an addiction to a chemical

How can someone of sound mind  
Make a choice that will result  
In their near total alienation  
What is it that keeps this  
Kind of hold on you

Most people today do not pursue things  
That do not give them immediate pleasure  
What joy is there  
In prayer, service, and study

Why do you want to forgive

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Those who would hurt you  
If given the chance  
You sound like a criminal defense attorney

Do you not know that many wars  
Have been fought by  
And for these reasons  
And you claim to be a person of peace

What gives you the right  
To decide your religion  
Is better than what I believe  
Is it not enough  
That you live in wealth and ease  
Why make this an issue

The fallacy with this reasoning  
Is that it accounts for nothing  
Outside the tangible and immediate  
It does not allow for any to hold values  
Motivated by abstract principles

You have to first acknowledge  
That there are things  
Beyond your self interest  
That are of value  
Because to be a person of conviction  
Requires you to do inconvenient things

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If everyone only did what was required  
There would be no inventions  
There would be no art, literature, or music  
We would still live off the land  
And we may have never even survived  
Against the big game animals

To strive for more than self gain  
Is necessary to lead anyone  
Or to start anything new  
Doing something for the community  
That requires sacrifice  
Is the very foundation of civilization

You cannot even form a functional city  
If no one is willing  
To defend it, develop it, and maintain it  
Who would risk their safety in doing so  
For others who care nothing of their community

The very basic functioning of teams  
Requires us to think beyond  
What is best for us  
This is why selfishness is corrosive

There is a reason why every ancient society  
Had at least one religion of some sort

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Unity can only be achieved  
When something can be agreed upon

The most basic and obvious thing  
People should be able to agree on is that  
We did not come out of nothing

That there are some things out of our control  
That a society will strive to protect  
Is the basis of a social contract

People first band together for their own good  
But if they never see the value  
In waiting for their turn  
Nothing requiring more than on person  
Will ever be achieved

To move forward even in just technology  
Requires a focus beyond oneself  
To imagine something not yet created  
Requires belief in something  
You cannot prove exists  
Until you actually construct the contraption

When people decide to form a group  
They do so for reasons  
That transcend the individual  
Society by its very nature

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Require work for other peoples' gain

This also requires reciprocal commitments from others  
So that the efforts of one person  
Are quickly succeeded by others  
Which are the met with gratitude  
And then this in turn further incentives  
More investment of hard work in the community  
This is how any network forms

So it is not nuts  
To care about someone besides yourself  
Because we all need each other  
To merely survive

This is how we started to specialize  
And why we have careers  
Other than hunter and gatherer  
This implied social contract makes it worth  
Following rules so that society might function

That we might do what helps others  
Even if it costs us something  
Because the greater good is worth  
The individual putting out effort  
And compromising on what  
They would ideally want

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If you cannot hold any belief in common  
You cannot hold a society together  
People have to buy into the system  
As you never can have enough police  
To force everyone to do  
What is best for society

If we cannot lift our heads up  
To see the other people  
We are trampling  
We will not be able to  
Keep the electricity flowing  
That powers these devices  
That so distract us

A common faith is very basic  
To a functioning society  
Also having a common moral code  
Makes at the very least fairly predictable behavior

Our society cannot just take leave  
Of our collective responsibilities  
And party and wander around  
Without making any contribution  
Because once the power goes the party stops

People have not just stopped  
At being unproductive

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They have actually gone  
To malicious and spiteful actions  
Just to entertain and  
Enrich themselves financially

Ultimately its takes some people  
To have the discipline to do the jobs  
That they are already being paid for  
Even when they do not feel like it  
Or the lights on the screen turn off

So respect those who are willing to work  
And hold themselves to standards  
And treat each other decently  
Because when the responsible people  
Degenerate into being like everyone else  
Everything unravels  
And then things are not safe or fun anymore

Respect the boring people  
Who do work  
When they do not have to  
Because this is what  
Enables you to live  
In such a clueless state

I challenge you  
Why do you look down on me

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Who are you to determine  
What is right for me to do  
At least my ideas  
Come from a tradition  
Stretching back thousands of years

Will the things you value  
And your ideas be relevant  
In even 10 years  
Justify yourself  
Not to me but to God

# The Church, The Arts, and Creativity

What are we fighting for  
When did creativity mean sex  
When did immorality become art  
And what do you do  
When the world adopts your platform  
But without your message  
Or your name without your ideas

When you can no longer shock  
And you can no longer go further  
Where do you go from there  
Is fame worth the fight

Is it worth it to have no life  
To have no boundaries  
To have fans with no respect for you  
What is an artist to do today

We need to return to the classics  
Return to the fundamentals

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Expression without limits is sad  
Is there more to the modern world  
Than frivolous attempts  
At trying to find happiness

Is being known so important  
That you would sacrifice your family  
Or your creative identity  
Just to make someone else famous laugh

Why must you use art to escape life  
Why must you use your creations  
To get more money and power  
Is it not possible to combine  
Both faith and the arts  
To be independent of the world  
But a follower of God  
To draw attention to God and not yourself

Many see their artistic abilities  
As their way to fame and power  
But some see it as a blessing  
And an opportunity to raise the bar morally

Even in my short lifetime  
I have seen society go from  
We have some serious problems  
To lets just give up

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It may appear that you cannot  
Equate religion with creativity  
Because our culture sees it that way  
But there are even greater  
And longer traditions

Where the Church and learning  
Were the same thing  
Where people had both  
Freedom to express their faith  
But within reasonable bounds of decency  
And for purposes great than themselves

This was a kind of high art  
In contrast to the low art of today  
Where we watch but do not create  
In which to appeal to the masses  
And becoming so negative on religion  
That the heart has been taken out of freedom

What good is it to be a scholar  
If you have no inspiration  
To be a writer  
But have nothing worth writing

Much of what is created today  
Is not as valuable

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As the material it is stored on  
Religion is not just a genre of the arts  
Faith is the very spirit of art

How can you have something  
Of great enough value  
To make something out of blank canvas  
To motivate you to put in the effort  
And sacrifice your time for it  
Without it being for the Lord

It is natural to want to create things for God  
Because we are His children  
And it is healthy and natural  
To follow in what He does

One of the saddest things  
About modern education  
Is the little time spent on art  
After early elementary school  
Or the humanities in high school

People can still express themselves  
Even if they are not old enough  
Or established enough  
To create masterpieces

They can still do craft work

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Some people in my town  
Were some of the first  
To make art out of literal trash

It is no wonder why people  
Love to add sex and violence to art  
Like fat and sugar in food  
They are both easy ways  
To create addictions for what you produce  
But they are also easier to create  
Because they require less imagination

So we in America often do not  
Associate fine art with God  
Because we have no culture

If all of America  
Can acknowledge both the important of art  
And freedom of artistic expression  
Along with a commitment to serve God  
Even when inconvenient

America can create  
Classical level works of art  
Just as other big empires  
Did in the past

To form unity in America

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This would be a good place to start  
This is not to say there is none of this

But there is very little morality  
In creative works today  
And little creativity  
In the spread of the Gospel

For Christians who feel  
No need to create  
What do you think  
We will be doing for eternity

Eventually people will  
Get tired of predictable dramas  
And the over the top shock tactics  
Of both the violent and sexual aspects  
Of music, movies, and games of today

It is ironic that so many people find sex online  
But the Church has still failed  
To represent itself to such an extent  
Why does the Church run from opportunities  
That go outside their comfort zones

It makes little sense considering  
We serve a dynamic and creative God  
But there are also many Christians

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Who would do anything  
To live a year longer  
Even when their entire religion  
Is about a guarantee of a perfect afterlife  
And wouldn't this guarantee  
Also inspire Christians  
To take greater risks

I understand risks  
That cause pain are scary  
The risks I refer to  
Are of not being accepted by our peers  
Or associate with things  
That do not bring fame or money

The Church has never needed money  
But the Church in America today  
Needs more creativity  
As we face so many unpredictable changes  
In our society over these last few years  
This is the best time  
To return to the fundamentals

If we are to challenge  
What our culture values  
We must engage it  
In a creative and productive manner  
Cultures are defined

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By their creations  
Not their political debates

# What Got US Here

You can live life as a hamster  
And only live a short life  
With great intensity  
Or you can live as a turtle  
And have a much longer life  
With a slower way of life

This also goes in the direction  
Of age as well  
And many have little to no choice  
But we can all be flowers  
And give up our lives  
So then after we die  
We can live again

But we can as a society  
Choose between these two  
Certainly keeping things as they are  
Is usually best for poor people

As great changes are the hardest  
On those who have few skills  
And little time to prepare

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And less energy to fight for stuff

One of the reasons we  
Got into this messy situation  
Was that we wanted  
To keep everyone from dying

We wanted to solve all the problems  
For the poorest parts of the world  
We wanted to wipe out disease  
And we wanted  
To solve these problems  
Through transforming their cultures  
To our way of life

Our solution was to  
Make them into one of us  
We value business and efficiency  
So our contributions are usually financial  
And we give the jobs to the well connected

We define ourselves  
As the counter government  
And so see every problem  
As one to be solved by business

We see our eternal enemy  
To be a rival economic system

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Or more accurately a rival trade network  
We then get good at dominating this way  
Until someone comes along  
And won't play by our rules

We cannot buy them off  
And they don't want us  
To control their culture  
Through our domination in trade  
They will resist at any cost

Ironically we are the upstarts  
But we are blessed geographically  
And historically lucky  
Because we could fight off  
Both the empire that established us  
And then the native population  
All with the help of our slave population

Our trade network then fights  
2 and almost 3 world wars  
Which we after brokering a 100 year truce  
Broke the peace because of an  
Old conflict flaring up  
And everyone was  
Allied against each other

The most developed economy

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Managed to trick us into helping  
And then got their rivals to surrender  
Due to sabotage of the peace process

The hundred year peace negotiated  
Was used to turn from fighting  
The other trade networks  
To focus on making the rest of the world  
More like us and part of  
Our exclusive trade networks

Then they broke their own peace  
Within their own empires  
Then we were given free reign  
To divide up the empires that lost  
One of which set up the conditions  
For the second world war

But they all played by our rules  
And lost to us  
Although they actually  
All invented the rules originally

We even had to be trained  
By the empire we came from  
Because we had what was required to pay them  
Military supplies and the blood of our men

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Later one of our allies in both wars  
Who we never did like very much  
Then decided we were the major threat  
Because we had rival trade networks

Along the way most of the countries  
Who really suffered the most  
Were those who didn't want to be involved  
And were no threat to either major trade network

Ironically what won this second world war  
Was technology that led to the rise  
Of yet another but much older power  
This empire became the factory for our machines  
Which we once thought only made nicknacks

The funny thing is the other country we fought  
In the second world war  
Pulled the same trick on us before  
In the previous generation

Really all of this was planned long ago  
It only makes sense this way  
But this world trade system made  
Our trade network more money

But then the only real resistance to this trade  
Were those who made the energy

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That ran our machines and supply lines  
They lived in deserts mostly and were the only ones  
Which cost us a big part of our wealth

But the main things that are  
Bringing down our empire  
Are just internal divisions and poor decisions  
For example we had a mild disease  
That killed as many as normal diseases  
That occur each year  
But only kill the very sick and elderly

We then shut down most trade networks  
Across the entire world  
For a few months  
After the disease spread to the entire world  
They instituted restrictions on us  
Usually reserved for criminals  
And many were locked inside for months

They felt sorry for our poor people  
But not anyone else's  
So they gave everyone  
But the very rich money  
Which we will be paying off  
For generations in taxes

Whatever happens to us

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Will happen to the rest of the world  
And vice versa  
Ironically great battles between rival  
Trade networks and religions  
United the entire world under us

Everyone sees the world through their  
Cultural and religious lens  
But I propose looking through the lens of  
Economics, technology, and weather  
Because God is in control of the world  
Not the devil

I will not suffer for any person's ideology  
It is only God that hold that place  
In my life  
Maybe I am too weak  
But people are not worth it

# Being Christian

Being Christian  
In the way God  
Asks for us to be  
Is not about voting  
It is not about arguing  
It is not about being controversial

Christianity is not supposed  
To be negative or punitive  
Christians do not need  
To promote business needs  
Christians do not need  
To own businesses

Christianity is meant  
To reform the individual  
And have the individual  
Then reform society

Society want to reform the society  
And have the society  
Then reform the individual

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Most people agree  
On the 10 commandments  
Many even on the details  
But some things  
Don't need to be shouted about

Christians definitely should  
Embrace technology  
But we need more people  
And less money spent  
More sincerity and authenticity  
And less repetition and volume

The Church should not be lead  
By business management techniques  
Spreading the Gospel is incompatible  
With selling things

Just because you feel  
Something to be wrong  
Be very careful  
This is what God wants  
And wants you to do  
And do in that specific way

Do not anger the government  
When you can be more creative  
And voice your concerns

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Without being needlessly disruptive

Christians need to take  
The next few years at least  
To refocus on praying  
And on reading the Bible  
Then reflecting and listening to God  
Before they go off on the next crusade  
Or build a giant digital cathedral

Being bigger, better, or faster  
Is not necessary, wanted, or effective  
How about 10 million Christians  
Praying for God's will to be done  
And not their own

Let God surprise us  
Call on God to reveal to us  
As to where we should go next  
Personally and as a group

Let us put the focus on God  
Not just His laws  
But His attitudes and methods  
We cannot hear God  
Because He speaks softly  
We do not see Him working  
Because He works subtly

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Christians do not need  
To feel defeated  
Because their methods  
Are reaching such resistance

Think again what Christ did  
And what the Apostles did  
And what God did not like  
That the Prophets wrote about

Was Christ interested in politics  
Did Christ want greater spending  
On military or police  
Or more rights for businesses

Were we supposed to embrace the  
Ideology of the empire  
Or were we merely to  
Follow the laws and pay our taxes

Did Christ use any political means  
Or have any political motives  
When Paul appealed to Caesar  
Was this to reform politics  
Or to more widely share the Gospel

Today the Church is not popular

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But what things are lacking  
Compared to when it was popular  
Like in the times of the Reformation

People do not read the Bible anymore  
We need to instill a  
Love of reading in them  
People are unwilling to listen to God  
Because no one spends time  
Thinking about anything  
We need to give people time to think

Most people no longer go to churches  
And the ones that do seldom participate  
We need to have more smaller churches

The pastors are doing everything they can  
As are the evangelists and the staffs of churches  
For the most part  
Most churches do an excellent job  
At making worship approachable  
And keeping it scriptural consistently

The divisions in the Church  
Are discussed as little as possible  
Within any church gathering  
Some people have done  
And are doing all they can

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We need to spread out the load for the pastor  
We don't need to give the church  
More than 10% of our money  
But we do need to give  
Much more time to church ministries

Even to teach a quality Sunday School class  
There are so many well designed  
Bible study references  
That are both very easy to use and cheap  
Available in both print and digital  
For many years and in many forms

You can make use of original language study  
Without having to know anything  
About Hebrew or New Testament Greek  
The Bible translations have improved greatly  
Over the last 20 years  
Many don't require secondary sources

One the perplexing questions  
Is why is the King James  
The most popular of the Bible translations  
By far even now

Another head scratcher is why  
So many have fought the

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Inclusive gender  
In a number of modern  
Bible translations

This idea of gender inclusion  
Is nothing new  
This concept has been the same  
My entire lifetime

It means using the word  
People instead of men  
When the context of the passage  
Obviously means this

It does not mean using  
A female pronoun for God  
The Bible talks about men and women  
Being different

But women, men, and children  
Are fully equal in the Bible  
Women, men and children  
All should participate fully  
And are required to follow  
The 10 commandments equally

This is not controversial  
In any church have ever attended or heard of

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And is certainly not contrary  
To any Bible passage I have ever read or heard of

The King James translation was a  
Great, modern, and even revolutionary  
Bible translation  
At the time of Shakespeare

But today Shakespeare's english  
Although technically still modern  
Is different enough to be  
Hard to read for most people

There are significant differences in word use  
That are not apparent at first glance  
It is not the thee's and thou's  
That are the most problematic

So is the point of the Bible that it  
Sounds pretty and is familiar  
Or is it more important  
To follow what it says

# Faith Eyes

Through it all  
The fight was rough  
But I tried to be honest  
And record my history

I can see too well  
With my normal vision  
That it makes it harder  
To see beyond this  
Kind of basic sight

I seek the sight  
Of the third eye  
The eye of wisdom  
The eye that loves God

That loves His creation  
And all His children  
That I see who He is  
So brightly that  
The rest of the world dims

In the light of my path

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I find the everlasting fruit  
Of the spiritual tree  
And drink from the cup  
That You have given me  
That I may never  
Go hungry or thirsty

It seems sometimes  
That life is unclear  
Or the way forward  
Is often blocked

Sometime I wish God  
Would tear down the barriers  
Just like a giant elephant  
Stamping down the path for me

But life is often more complex  
And maybe the obstacles  
Are there to teach lessons  
I don't know if I got the point  
But maybe it links up  
With my spiritual self

It is easier sometimes  
And less intense  
Where other times the battle  
Seems to be not winnable

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I just have to remember that  
Even though the devil  
Is smarter than me  
God is many times smarter  
Than this evil one

Some things just take time  
They take persistence  
And they take commitment  
They come at a cost  
And require sacrifice

The battle is most difficult  
Only when your mind is divided  
You need to build your resolve  
Within your spirit

The most challenging part  
Is picking a strategy  
And then sticking to it  
Attrition is a costly way to fight  
But some battles can only  
Be fought that way

The first skill of soldier training  
Is to see clearly  
This is why we invest so much

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In electronic and imaging  
In the military

It is hard to be deceived  
When you can light up  
The battlefield  
So that night turns into day

The things the world values  
Are the opposite of what God does  
The world's aesthetic is the moment  
Where God's aesthetic is ethics

The world cares about appearances  
Even our justice system is more about  
Who you know than what you did  
The laws themselves are designed  
Not to keep people from evil  
But to punish them for infringement

People follow the rules eventually  
But they are bitter and their intents then  
Are far from becoming better people  
The law becomes something to fear  
And to avoid more because  
They don't want the penalty  
Rather than changing their attitude

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This will just allow the evil  
To manifest in ways which are a harder  
To see directly or penalize for  
We are learning now that if people  
Do not accept the government ideology  
We cannot just put everyone in prison

So the world and its leader the devil  
Use propaganda, advertising, and general repetition  
To persuade us to do evil  
Each person has different weaknesses  
And different degrees of interest  
In a variety of different ways of sinning

Much as alcoholics still prefer  
A certain type of alcohol  
And smokers are loyal  
To their brand of cigarettes

It is ultimately why everyone  
Is collecting information on us  
They want to make a personality profile of everyone  
So they know better  
How to manipulate people

We see this more obviously  
Through scams and news  
But the same techniques

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Are used to corrupt churches  
And used to target individual Christians

Ultimately all this tracking  
Costs a lot of money  
And some one must think that  
This is worth a great deal

Even people selling Bibles  
Engage in the same kind of trade  
It never used to be possible  
To gain this much power  
With so few people  
Having to be paid

So the point isn't  
To put great efforts  
Into not being tracked  
As this is a weak  
And ineffective strategy

The point is to turn  
To the Lord first  
Not to use all other  
Human approaches first

The problem with human approaches  
There is never enough information

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Or enough time and manpower  
To go through it all accurately

So you can never fully tailor  
The solution to the individual  
It is so complex that only God  
Can use this strategy effectively

Not only is this true  
But God also knows  
All the creatures involved  
And all the circumstances  
Of all the participants

He knows this because  
He knows everything  
God needs no intelligence service

This is not even difficult for Him  
The difficult part for Him  
Is to see us suffer unnecessarily

God is truly a Wonderful Counselor  
I have not found  
Any other therapist  
Effective in counseling me  
To this date