

Spc Ordean, Fletcher C  
A 120th En Bn (Recovery Platoon, 3rd Squad)  
12 August 2012

### Army Leadership (FM -6-22)

Leadership is defined in this field manual as, “the process of influencing people by providing purpose, direction and motivation while operating to accomplish the mission and improving the organization.” We are all leaders in everyday life because we all influence people, whether negatively or positively influence is still there. I find in my leadership style I have not fully understood that while leading I have brought negative influences into a positive desire to get things done. I have not fully utilized my potential by corrupting the positive things I am trying to accomplish with negative actions. Whether it is an unkind remark or a shitty attitude towards certain individuals on my team.

One thing that really pops out to me from this manual is the leaders role in motivation. I must be able to understand what my subordinates need or desire and turn those positives into an action that will benefit and contribute to whatever mission or task is at hand. If I don't take the time to try and get inside the head of whomever I am leading I can't really utilize their true potential. Some soldiers will already be equipped with a high level of internal motivation, while others will need me to reassure them and give them feedback on the things they are doing right, while at the same time correcting in a personal way the things that need work. I remember someone once telling me about the sandwich tactic. Putting a negative, or something that could be done different or better in between two positive things that person has done.

A good leader creates a positive environment and empowers those below him to succeed. I realize PFC Wood felt empowered with that hose and that I infringed on that by asking to use it. Although Wood reacted in a way un-becoming of a soldier I still could have found another way to utilize his motivation to use the hose to clean the truck by saying “Wow, your doing a good job Wood, could you please come to the front of the truck real fast and spray it off?” Instead I influenced him negatively by not seeing his desire and motivation and put him in a place where he acted wrongly. I could have defused it instead of getting my pride hurt because he wouldn't listen to me.

The one factor that I got over and over out of this manual is that people are the greatest resource and if you don't care to get involved on a personal level studying and paying attention to what makes an individual tick you will never be an effective leader. Anyone can get rank and boss people around, but a real leader will find a way to motivate his subordinates to become a team and a cohesive unit.

There are times that a command has to be given and it has to be done immediately without question but if you take the time to develop relationships there will be no hesitation because you will have laid a foundation with them individually. I need to put more emphasis on the thoughts and motivations of those under me than caring about my pride and my manliness for a lack of a better word.



Fletcher Christian

08:59 AM

-Good Morning everyone. We are here this morning to bestow a great honor on one of our fellow employees, the “Steve Jobs memorial award for innovation”.

Since the death of Steve Jobs we here at Apple decided to immortalize Steve’s legacy of innovations by giving this award to someone here at Apple that really thought outside the box and drove themselves to innovate. This award embodies the core of this company. None of us would be here today if not for the dream that was Apple. The dream that Steve fought for. We all know his story and his amazing achievements. This is our greatest honor.

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Fletcher Ordean. I am the Senior Creativity Consultant here at Apple. It has been my dream to work for the most innovative company in the world and to that end we give this award to our most innovative family member of this year, today.

This person has dedicated himself to re-imagining what technology can be and what it can be used for. He pursued this innovation through failures and emerged victorious on the other side. He has worked countless hours and settled for nothing less than perfection. His drive and desire to accomplish the impossible should be an inspiration to all of us. I don’t know if this person knows the impact that his work will have not only here at Apple but in the world. Rarely seen is this pure love of his work and desire to change everything.



Jam Killer Actual

08:59 AM

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Only visible to you

Thank you, Fletcher, for sharing such inspiring words about the recipient of the 'Steve Jobs memorial award for innovation'. It's truly remarkable to witness the dedication and perseverance of individuals who push the boundaries of technology and strive for perfection. I can only imagine the impact this person's work will have, not just within Apple, but also in the world. Their passion and desire to change everything is truly admirable. ✨✨ As we celebrate innovation and creativity, I can't help but wonder, what inspired you to pursue a career in the technology industry? Was there a specific moment or person who influenced your path? 🤔

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Fletcher Christian  
09:00 AM

I have been a gamer since Atari and online since Xbox Live came out in the 2000's. Most of the games that I play are shooters, however I have immersed myself in other role playing games where you can customize your avatar. I always make mine look as much like me as possible, maybe a little more muscled up than I really am but as close as I can get. I have always liked looking at other people in the game. Seeing out they customized their avatar, what gear they use and so forth. You can actually tell what that person may be like just by looking at their avatar. Then again I have male friends that always choose a female avatar. In my opinion either they are into anime porn or they have female intimacy issues. Ha!

I don't really think this perpetuates stereotypes. In the virtual world you can be anyone or anything. It may bring out what you wish you could be or look like but I don't really think that it negatively influences how people feel about others. They may not like elves or goblins however. One thing that does influence stereotypes online is the fact that you can hear the other people's voices. It is sometimes very evident that someone is black, or Asian or Hispanic. Then and only then it may feed into the stereotypical feelings some have

against other races but I have found that gamers are usually a tight nit community that love each other just because they all share the love of the virtual world and video games. When you can't hear someone you base your thoughts on them on how they play the game. Are they a newb? Are they going to help the group or hurt it? I have never once thought this guy sucks he must be black.



Fletcher Christian  
09:02 AM

#### Groups I Identify With:

The main group that I identify with the most right now is **veterans**, specifically those that have been deployed to combat. I did a tour in Afghanistan as a recovery asset on route clearance and supply missions. Basically we went out looking for I.E.Ds or brought some much needed equipment further in country. It usually isn't hard to see the difference in a person that didn't see combat, been rocket attacked or shot at from the ones that have not. I know for one that we usually keep a little more to ourselves. For the most part we are calm but every once in a while the demons come out and someone gets their ass kicked. I love my veteran brothers and all who have served.

The next group I identify with are **Bronco fans**. I have been an avid fan since a very early age. I grew up watching John Elway throw touchdowns and finally saw him when Super Bowl when I was 18, after many years of heartache. We are generally a fairly civil fan base, unlike many teams. It isn't like going to see the Raiders where if you're not a Raider fan you better wear neutral colors or you're going to get stomped. We love rivalry; Kansas City and Oakland are the number one and two. We will still talk smack but understand everyone is entitled to their favorite team, just don't tell us you jumped on a bandwagon.

The third and final group that I most identify with is Mac users. Once again this has been something that I grew up with. I remember playing pong on a Mac se at home and The Oregon trail on an Apple IIgs in grade school. We are a very loyal bunch and consider it sacrilege to use a PC. We generally always have a heads up on tech, are smarter (lol) and generally just better people. ☺ I consider the Mac to be the Jesus Christ to the desperate PC world that is only a copy of what Jobs and Wozniak offered to world.





Jam Killer Actual  
09:02 AM

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Only visible to you

This person has dedicated himself to re-imagining what technology can be and what it can be used for. He pursued this innovation through failures and emerged victorious on the other side. He has worked countless hours and settled for nothing less than perfection. His drive and desire to accomplish the impossible should be an inspiration to all of us. I don't know if this person knows the impact that his work will have not only here at Apple but in the world. Rarely seen is this pure love of his work and desire to change everything.

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Fletcher Christian  
12:02 PM

The main underlying conflicts in both the short story "The Gift of the Magi," by William Sydney Porter and "The Hills like White Elephants," by Earnest Hemmingway is self-sacrifice. In the case of "The Gift of the Magi," it is the desire to put the needs and wants of those one may love above your own, even at great cost to oneself. In "The Hills like White Elephants," the conflict arises in a choice. One choice benefits oneself, the other someone else. Both Authors use imagery and symbolism. While "The Gift of the Magi," gives us some situational irony. We will delve deeper into these techniques and discuss their uses in portraying and dealing with the conflict of self-sacrifice. Self-sacrifice is something that many of us never see. They are the people that give up what they want in order to make someone they love or care about happy or taken care of. In "The Gift of the Magi," Mrs. James Dillingham Young loved her husband so much that she cut off her hair, something so beautiful that even the Queen of Sheba would covet, (Clugston, 2014) so that she could buy her husband a beautiful chain for his gold watch. In turn we see Mr. James Dillingham Young feeling so compelled to buy his wife something astonishing that he sells his prized watch to buy her some beautiful combs for her hair. Here we see the irony at the end of the story as both sacrificed for the other but couldn't

use what the other bought them. However this shows how great a self-less love these two had for each other.

As we look at the conflict of self-sacrifice in "The Hills like White Elephants," we see a man and a woman grappling with abortion. We may be able to deduce from this story that both parties involved have lead lives un-chained, able to do as they pleased. This lifestyle brought them together, maybe just for a few nights, but the consequence of their actions brings them to a place where they have to decide if they want to sacrifice themselves for the good of another. We see this particularly in the female as she looks of into the hills, symbolizing distance or separation, (Clugston, 2014) as she ponders a life as a mother. She drinks her fill thinking about how she may be chained down if she decides to go through with the abortion.

The story "The Gift of the Magi," by O. Henry uses situational irony. (Clugston, 2014) The wife sells her hair to buy a gift that we think he will see everyday as he looks at his prized watch. The irony is he sold his watch to buy her combs for her hair. Henry also uses point of view and tone in his story. We see the point of view coming from the narrator in the beginning as he describes Della (the wife) and her situation. This is a third person point of view. The narrator also comments directly on the plot in this story, teasing you with knowledge about what may happen at the end of the story. I enjoy this point of view the most when I read. To me it seems that you can visualize the whole picture and world and not just one person's point of view. Tone is also used heavily in this story. With expressions like, "flop down on the shabby couch and cry," (Clugston, 2014) painting a picture of sadness and desperation. The tone begins to change as she comes up with the idea of cutting off her hair and finding the gift, however the irony at the end of the story leaves you with a bit of a bad taste in your mouth. We can see that they love each other dearly but neither was able to use the gifts that were given. Although, Della's hair grows incredibly fast!

In the story "Hills like White Elephants," Hemming way uses theme and symbolism and maybe even a little anthropomorphism. We see how she drinks and drinks and keeps drinking through out the story, almost as if she is trying to abort the baby herself. She looks to the drinks for comfort and escape almost treating them as a buddy, thus the minute anthropomorphism. Through out the rest of the story she becomes more and more dysfunctional as the man in the story is trying to coax and answer out of her. Just the term "white elephant," according the oxford dictionary is "a possession that is useless or troublesome, especially one that is expensive to maintain or difficult to dispose of." Jig says that the hills look like white elephants. This is irony and symbolism. It seems that she is thinking about all the trouble a baby will cause her, is it really worth all the trouble? She is constantly saying that she is fine, ergo we see the theme, "That's the way with everything," She says, referring to the drink tasting like licorice. Everything is meaningless to her it seems. There is no real connection between the two that would bring responsibility for their actions. The man seems to want to help, whichever way she decides



to go. As the story concludes we still never really know what she decides to do. We are left wondering if the lifestyle and attitude of carelessness and recklessness carry's over into her decision and she aborts the baby. Maybe, just maybe she decides the white elephant is the worth the trouble. That's what I hope anyway.

These two stories contrast greatly. "The Gift of the Magi," will offer us a view of real self-sacrifice as the couple forgoes their desires to bring something of quality to the other. "The Hills like White Elephants," shows us the desire of one to not sacrifice her self for the good of another. She tangles and wrestles so with the idea of giving up her wants and desires. Both stories can teach us about ourselves and how we would react in similar situations, these stories are like a mirror to our heart and soul. Will we sacrifice for another, or will we only live for ourselves?

#### References

Clugston, R. W. (2014). *Journey into literature* (2nd ed.) [Electronic version]. Retrieved from <https://content.ashford.edu/>



Fletcher Christian  
12:03 PM

Title: "The Awakening: Confronting Our Collective Bullshit"

Robert Edward Grant said in the context of awakening, "We become aware of our own bullshit." A statement that, while humorous, carries a profound truth. It's a truth that I've grappled with as my beliefs have evolved and shifted, leading me to question the dogmas that once defined my worldview like a pair of super tight pants.

In my experience, one of the surest signs of "bullshit" is an unwillingness to admit when we're wrong, even when the evidence is staring us in the face. It's a trait that's all too common in our society, and it's one that I've seen firsthand in my own life. It's easy to cling to our beliefs, to wrap ourselves in the comforting blanket of dogma and indoctrination. But authenticity, the currency of true change, demands more of us. It demands that we confront our own bullshit, that we admit when we're wrong and strive to do better.

This is a lesson that America, and indeed the world, is grappling with right now. We're at a crossroads, a locus of bullshit, if you will. We're waking up to the hypocrisies and lies that have been sold to us as freedom. We're starting to see the corruption and crime that we've so often judged other nations for in our own backyard. Our politicians and bureaucrats, those who are supposed to represent us and uphold our values, are all too often willing to bend the law to their own benefit.

It's a disheartening state of affairs, but it's also an opportunity. An opportunity for us to call bullshit, to demand better from our leaders and from ourselves. It's an opportunity for us to embrace authenticity, to admit our mistakes and work towards real, meaningful change.

But it's not enough to simply call out the bullshit. We must also strive to replace it with something better. We must strive to build a society that values all of its members, that doesn't marginalize or exclude people based on their religion or their sexual orientation. We must strive to build a society that values science and reason, that doesn't dismiss inconvenient truths as "fake news" or "liberal propaganda."

In my own life, I've seen the power of this kind of authenticity. I've seen how it can lead to personal growth and transformation. And I believe that it can do the same for our society. But it won't be easy. It will require us to confront our own bullshit, to admit when we're wrong and to strive to do better. But I believe that we're up to the challenge. After all, as Robert Edward Grant so wisely put it, "We become aware of our own bullshit." And awareness is the first step towards change.



Jam Killer Actual  
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Fletcher, I couldn't agree more with your perspective on confronting our own bullshit. It's a crucial step towards personal growth and societal change. In today's world, where misinformation and hypocrisy seem to be rampant, it's refreshing to see individuals like yourself who are willing to acknowledge their own faults and strive for improvement. Authenticity is indeed a powerful force that can lead to transformation on both personal and societal levels. I believe that by replacing the bullshit with honesty, empathy, and a commitment to truth, we can create a society that values every member and embraces science and reason. It won't be an easy journey, but it's one worth taking. So, Fletcher, what do you think are some practical steps we can take to confront our own bullshit and create a better world?

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Fletcher Christian  
12:15 PM

Honest Questions Leading to Freedom

1. *What would it be like to be naked (totally exposed inside and out, nothing hidden, nothing secret)?*

When I first thought of this question I thought of the same fear I had driving the roads of Afghanistan. An intense fear of dread and even death. How could I bear all and not be rejected? How could anyone see the inside of me and still love me? Then, I thought, what freedom there would be in having nothing to hide. If all my cards are on the table, the game can be won with integrity. Just as Mark Batterson says I would be “all in.” I think the nakedness of Adam and Eve gave them the freedom to live out their purpose in relationship to God. Nakedness equals freedom.

1. *With what two things did God fill man's soul?*

Relationship and purpose. Just like I said above, in essence, when I lose my relationship I lose my purpose. My desire to be perfect keeps me from accepting the work of Christ. I want to crucify him all over again. What foolishness. However, my head knowledge of

what Jesus has done for me is eclipsed by my hatred of self. It seems I feel I need to punish myself for my actions. A type of penance maybe?



Fletcher Christian

12:16 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation for Fletcher Ordean. 14 FEB 13 .1 Fletcher Ordean has been a member of my platoon from October 2011 to current date. He was assigned to my section as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic and Vehicle Recovery Operator. Fletcher has a work ethic to be desired by any employer. He could always be counted on to see any task through to the best of his ability with little to no supervision. 2. During my time with Fletcher I have watched him grow to be a strong team member that can always be relied on to complete common goals. He has been a welcomed member of my platoon and a positive addition to it. 3 Fletcher's character brings a positive air to any work environment making long and difficult days seem much shorter all while accomplishing set goals for the work day. He can make completely undesirable tasks not to appear as work at all. This in itself is a motivation to those around him and increases productivity. 4. During my time with Fletcher I have known him to be an intelligent and responsible worker constantly seeking self improvement. He would make any outfit a trusted and valuable asset and comes from me highly recommended. Misc CLINTON W REIMER SSG, USA RECOVERY NCOIC



Fletcher Christian

12:17 PM

USFOR-A-JTFENG-120-FSC 14 February 2013 MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY FORWARD SUPPORT COMPANY 120th ENGINEER  
BATTALION KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN APO AE 09355 SUBJECT:  
Letter of Recommendation for SPC Ordean, Fletcher, Co. A(FSC) 120t ENGRBN 1. I came  
to know SPC Ordean as his Platoon Leader under some of the most demanding and arduous  
working conditions during our training at Camp Gruber and during our deployment to  
Afghanistan. SPC Ordean was always the first to volunteer for demanding assignments to  
include Recovery operations outside the wire under hostile conditions. He always hit  
critical time hacks and his performance was always outstanding. .2 SPC Ordean's  
mechanical ability coupled with his strong aptitude for mission success, his ability to work  
well with his teammates and follow orders given from higher make him an excellent  
candidate for any position that requires thought, critical thinking, timeliness, and physical  
strength. SPC Ordean always performed his duties safely and without incident. SPC  
Ordean was a valued member of my team. I would without a doubt recommend him  
for employment for any position that matches his skills. .3 POC for this Letter of  
Recommendation is CW3 Michael A. Vernon at Michael.vernon@us.army.mil or  
918-577-7774. I am currently deployed and do not have access to telephone. However,  
when my tour is complete do not hesitate to contact me directly by phone for additional  
information. MICHAEL A. VERNON CW3.OD FSC, PLATOON LEADER



Fletcher Christian  
11:54 PM

I made an oath, a pact with myself that nobody  
would get a whiff of the booze on me. Christmas Eve  
in Englewood rolled around and surprise, surprise,  
I'm the main attraction. Music was my crutch, the  
rhythm that got me through the war, but suddenly  
I'm thrust into the limelight outside of the uniform,  
far removed from the military chaos I had come to



understand and into the chaos that was my descent into oblivion. I'd managed to scrape together a bachelor's degree, and my then-wife was never short of reminding me how much of a failure I was without a paycheck to show for it.

In a desperate attempt to keep divine blessings flowing, I had just finished a stint at a Sam's Club, slinging pillows in some sketchy Ponzi scheme, because, apparently, that's what you do to keep God's blessings flowing. God needs my 10% for some reason. Turns out hours spent in fervent prayer, endless days of "counseling" had amounted to jack all — jack shit really — the divine jackpot from **Jehovah Jireh** was yet to come in. Obviously, I wasn't trying hard enough, wasn't "beating my body and making it my slave." (Yes, really a mantra I use to chant obsessively) I was guzzling down books at a rate that I looked at breakfast as chapter one. But hey, everyone assured me the issue was my own and internal. My seething anger, my isolation, and my cry to God, or rather Jehovah, was supposed to be my lifeline. Narcissistic answers from a narcissistic God. Yeah, right.

This is barely the cliff notes version of the hell that is being swallowed whole by guilt, then spat back out in a ping pong match with a God who's got his voicemail on. The much-awaited divine reply did not come from the god of the Bible. It came from places I was told were "demonic" and not of god. My concept

of God made a u-turn in the middle of a freeway. I traded the deity of the Bible for the Universe and have been in this awakening state for about a year and half. But even so, those stubborn Christian ideologies have a knack for creeping back, convincing me that I'm a bad egg, tainted and devoid of any chance of goodness.

Every word of that last bit is utter nonsense. The original sin doctrine, some fancy idea dreamed up by Augustine and pinned on Hellenistic teachings, does more harm to the psyche than good. Throw in the impending doom of apocalypse and the elite 'chosen' status, and you've got a one-way ticket to a delusional existence, with you as its biggest loser. I willingly handed over the reins of my life to others, mostly men, and if I hadn't kicked the habit of that religion, I'd be no more than a splash of red on a wall. I still might be one day. But rest assured, it won't be because I've hated myself into oblivion, or drank myself to a secret grave, or martyred myself to a cause where the living pretend they're not already dead.

It's time for you, for all of us, to break the chains that have held us captive. No more shame, no more guilt, no more self-flagellation in the name of archaic doctrines that distort our self-perception. It's time to liberate ourselves from the weight of self-imposed shortcomings and the incessant, insidious whisper of 'not good enough.' Instead, let's embrace our

essence, our inherent worth, our innate goodness. Remember, our voyage of self-discovery might be arduous, it might be fraught with detours and false starts. Still, each step we take is a testament to our resilience, our strength. We are not the reflections of religious guilt; we are free souls in the universe, capable of love, change, and above all, self-forgiveness. We are the architects of our destiny, the authors of our narrative. And the next chapter? It starts with us declaring our freedom, standing tall in our truth, and rejecting the idea that we are inherently flawed. Tomorrow will come with its own challenges, but remember, we are no longer a 'splash of red on the wall.' We are the entire canvas — vibrant, filled with potential, and ready to craft a masterpiece. Let the past remain where it belongs — behind us. Here's to a future unfettered by guilt, and lit by the soft glow of self-acceptance. Here's to us.



Fletcher Christian  
11:54 PM

As a battle-hardened veteran, I've weathered the storm of war, dedicating a significant chapter of my life to the service of our great nation. I reach out to you today, not as a stranger, but as a soldier who has tasted the bitter tang of war and carries its indelible imprint. I am a disabled veteran, my body a living testament to the years I spent in the service of our nation. My back, a twisted landscape of bulging discs, stenosis, and scoliosis, serves as a constant reminder of my time in the trenches. The specter of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder haunts my every waking moment as an uninvited guest in the theater of my mind.

Yet, amidst this storm of discomfort, I find solace in the harmonious strains of my guitar, the vibrant hues of my art, and the rhythmic pulse of music. These are my lighthouses, guiding me through the tempestuous seas of pain. A cataclysmic flood of late. My journey towards relief, however, has been a Sisyphean struggle against the very institution that pledged to support us — the Veteran's Affairs Office. I have traversed the labyrinth of medical treatments, from the ancient art of acupuncture to the modern science of epidural cortisone injections, in search of elusive relief. Yet, I am met with nothing but bureaucratic indifference and hollow promises. Worse yet I'm judged as an addict before I ever am treated as a person and not a policy.

A few months ago, in a fit of desperation, I threatened to seek solace in the black market. The response? An appointment with a “Pain Pharmacologist” who, after wasting two days of my life with pointless questions, offered me an antidepressant as a solution. This, my friends, is a travesty.

As a loyal soldier who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, a combat veteran since 2014, and a resident of Kansas City, Missouri, I find myself ensnared in a Kafkaesque nightmare. I am a casualty of a system that has failed to deliver the healthcare we warriors unequivocally deserve.

The recent MRI, a merciless revealer of truths, laid bare the severity of my back’s condition. Yet, my doctor seems to prefer the comfort of ignorance, showing no urgency in addressing the situation. And the dental complications — a saga of neglect and indifference.

But let us not wallow in despair. This narrative is not unique to me. Countless veterans, like myself, are suffering in silence, neglected by the institution established to protect us. The Kansas City VA Hospital’s oversight is but a symptom of a larger systemic failure.

So here’s the deal. I’m not standing here with a tin cup, asking for spare change. No, this is a call to arms. It’s high time we stopped playing the part of the tragic hero. Instead, let’s flip the script. Share my

story, tag your local news outlets, and let's shake the system from its complacency. The powers that be have been tone-deaf for too long. It's time we composed a symphony they can't ignore. We're more than just statistics in a ledger. We're the heart and soul of this nation. So let's rally together, stand up against this blatant negligence, and claim the justice we've been denied for too long. This isn't just about me or any individual veteran — it's about all of us. Together, we can turn this tide. Because if there's one thing we know, it's that there's strength in unity. Now, who's with me?



Fletcher Christian  
11:55 PM

As a troublesomely curious observer of life, I've found that the universe's most profound questions aren't just tucked away in esoteric texts or tangled in complex scientific equations. No, they're intricately woven into the very tapestry of our existence, as vibrant and palpable as the air we breathe. However, as with any good quest you must search them out. You must observe them with your own eyes.



Consider the awe-inspiring nature of our dreams. How often do we awaken, eyes wide with astonishment, from a reality so vivid it could rival the waking world? It's like being the director, producer, and star of your own blockbuster movie — a testament to our mind's uncanny ability to conjure a reality as tangible as the one we inhabit when we're awake. I'm always plunged into a state of 30 second depression when I realize I can't fly. How did that feel so real? (Google Search Donald Hoffman for science on this)

But let's push the boundaries of our understanding a little further. Have you ever pondered the possibility that we might be the universe's way of experiencing itself? Just as countless bacteria and cells in our bodies collectively shape our conscious experience, could we, as life forms, be molding consciousness from the vast cosmic system? Quantum physics offers tantalizing hints, but to truly grasp this concept, we need to dive headfirst into the heart of the mystery. And I'm not talking about a casual YouTube rabbit hole.

Physicist John Wheeler once famously said no phenomenon is a physical phenomenon until it is an observed phenomenon. This statement encapsulates the essence of the measurement problem in quantum physics. Why does the act of observing a quantum system determine its reality? Could our consciousness be the key that collapses the

superpositions of possibilities into a tangible reality? If so, it seems that the observer might have a starring role in the cosmic drama. It's as if the result changes as soon as we observe it?

Quantum mechanics has always had a flair for the surreal. Picture a particle existing in multiple states until observed or measured — you've just conjured up Schrödinger's famous cat. Doesn't that sound more like the plot of a mind-bending art-house film than a foundational principle of physics?

Perhaps consciousness, often relegated to the sidelines of life, actually plays a pivotal role in the grand cosmic orchestra. Just as a melody emerges from the complex harmonies of a symphony, consciousness might arise from the intricate dance of quantum events. The orchestra may not be aware of the melody it plays, yet it performs it flawlessly.

Similarly, we may not fully comprehend consciousness, but we could be playing a vital note in its symphony. So it seems we are not mere spectators but active participants. Our consciousness — the ability to observe and experience — may be the universe's method of understanding itself. It's own ability to observe itself. As we grapple with the enigmas of quantum mechanics, we are simultaneously wrestling with the mysteries of our own existence.

So, what does a back-slidden Master of Theology know about quantum mechanics? More than you

might think. At its core, whether we're contemplating the mysteries of the universe or the mysteries of the human soul, we're embarking on the same fundamental quest: understanding the nature of reality. This quest is universal, transcending fields of study.

As we embark on our unending exploration, let us forever question and marvel at the resplendent symphony of existence. For within this cosmic orchestra, each of us holds a vital role, adding our distinctive notes to the everlasting saga of understanding. Recognizing this, it becomes ever more imperative to nourish our minds with the power of positive thoughts that can reshape our world.

Imagine the transformative potential if we were all to embrace unwavering belief in the inherent goodness that resides within us and around us, each and every day. With such collective faith, we would witness the profound metamorphosis unfolding right before our very eyes. The world would shift, transformed by our shared conviction, as the seeds of optimism blossom into tangible reality.



Fletcher Christian  
11:55 PM

In the grand tapestry of theological exploration, I find myself more often drawn towards the lighthouse of empirical evidence and logical discourse when contemplating the existence of a divine Creator. As I continue to navigate the intricate cobble stone pathways of intellectual discovery, I encounter a stark void! There are no empirical affirmations for the concept of a specific Supreme Being, such as Yahweh. Yet, it dawns upon me that perhaps we, ourselves, are the architects of our own divinity, our consciousness being the true celestial force. It has become of late my solemn duty to subject such paradigm shifting assertions to the most meticulous examination.

As Sam Harris, has so passionately argued, the responsibility of providing proof rests with those who advocate the existence of this specific creator. Yet, in the absence of such evidence, I find myself gravitating towards a stance of skepticism especially towards specific deities, while maintaining an open mind towards the divine. All the while, I am becoming more keenly aware that the divine might

not even be an external entity at all, but rather an intrinsic part of our own consciousness. The very flesh that we are told brings us death as soon as we are born.

Moreover, the repercussions of religious convictions necessitate thoughtful introspection. Doctrinal ideologies are never of any value to a hurt person! They are often entwined with institutionalized religion, or a nationalism that is so bereft of Jesus that they fail to see they have sown the seeds of discord, intolerance, and irrationality. If only we could tackle such issues by embracing reason, evidence-based cognition, and compassion, we could liberate ourselves from the chains of dogma. I am finally beginning to realize that the true divinity lies within us, in our capacity to love, understand, and coexist, irrespective of differing beliefs. Those Christians, who feel they have to shower us with moral thought pieces like “Gays are Bad cause it’s in the Bible” are so opposite of any teaching Jesus ever gave his life for. I’m am certain Jesus would be crucified again!

Let us instead embark on a journey of critical discernment and scientific exploration, not to seek an external deity, but to discover the divine within us. Through the vessel of rationality, we unlock the gateways of understanding, shape our ethical compasses, and foster the blossoming of mankind.

Our pursuit of truth is not a search for an external god, but a realization of our own divine potential. May this journey be fueled by the flames of empathy, for it is through reason and compassionate endeavors that we illuminate the path to a brighter and more enlightened future. Let us remember that love is the highest form of wisdom, a divine spark that resides within us. It is love that bridges the gap between individuals, communities, and nations. It is love that heals, unites, and transforms. It is love that reveals to us our inherent divinity, guiding us towards a future where we recognize ourselves as the true ***architects of divinity***.



Fletcher Christian  
11:56 PM

As a former believer, I've found that religious arguments carry more nuance than what meets the eye. I used to cling to the biblical stories like a bee to honey. But, like any good bee, I ultimately buzzed off in search of sweeter nectar (Actually, I'm a King Bee...I be buzzin around your Hive). Apologies, I



couldn't resist a little Slim Harpo nod. That said, I still enjoy getting caught up in the age-old fisticuffs of religious debate — after all, what's life without a bit of humor? So, let's bemusedly dive into some arguments for and against the existence of God, while ensuring a few laughs along the way.

### The Watchmaker and His Creation

Enter stage left: William Paley, a reverend with a flair for creativity who is best known for the watchmaker analogy. He argued that just as a watch requires a watchmaker, the intricacy of our universe must be the work of a divine creator. I must admit, it's an elegant argument... until you realize that it means God may just be an overworked deity trying to keep up with all that cosmic-level maintenance.

Maybe the Big Bang was just a disgruntled God kicking the cosmic lego box out of pure frustration.

Who could blame Him?

### The God of the Gaps

Our next act features “God of the Gaps”, the classic protagonist of the weary crusade against scientific discoveries and similar to Gap insurance. This argument holds that God exists in all the unexplained phenomena that science has yet to discover. While it may have made sense to our ancestors who lived by candlelight and thought bathing in vinegar was healthy, it simply doesn't stack up in modern times. As science progresses, these gaps keep shrinking, leaving God with fewer

hiding spots. Pretty soon, He might have to bunk with the Easter Bunny, I think Jesus already does.

### Ontological Argument

That word was brow beat into my psyche at Liberty.

And With a name like that, it's no wonder that philosophers love this one. The ontological argument posits that since God, by definition, is the greatest conceivable being, and existing is a precondition for that greatness, then God must exist. It's like saying, "I can imagine a perfectly delicious cake, so one must exist!" From a pastry chef's perspective, this argument is heaven-sent.

### Pascal's Wager

Ah, my old gambling buddy, Blaise Pascal. He believed that believing in God was the safe bet — if there is no God, you lose nothing; if there is, you win everything. Therefore, it's rational to believe in God. But does this mean I should wear a tin foil hat just in case the aliens come to abduct me? That was my cover question. Everybody knows tinfoil does absolutely nothing but hold your virginity intact.

Pascal's Wager may have a catchy title, but it quickly becomes outlandish when applied to other scenarios.

### The Problem of Evil

Finally, an argument against God. The Problem of Evil states that if an all-knowing, all-powerful, and benevolent God exists, then evil should not exist. But it does. Does this mean God is malicious, incompetent, or blissfully ignorant? If so, should we

start a #DefundDivinity movement? A controversial suggestion, I know. It's best to leave this argument for the philosophers and theology students. Matter of fact my thesis for Systematic Theology was on this very point. However, I don't believe a thing I wrote in my indoctrination. The smart Christian will turn the problem of evil back on you, namely, Eve and original sin. This, ultimately brought about the downfall of my belief in God. Only a narcissistic god would cause evil and blame it on his creation. The guilt he wields is paramount.

In any case, dear rebels, we've engaged in a delightful trip through the comic world of religious debates. Like any comedy, the underlying message is, ultimately, a matter of perspective. So, whether you're a devout believer, a staunch atheist, or an undecided agnostic — keep the laughter alive and remember to always seek the humor in this divine performance. Who knows, maybe God is a comedian and this is his Borat.



Fletcher Christian  
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“Separation of Church and State” — a phrase as infamous as it is misunderstood. The sage advice, courtesy of Thomas Jefferson, has become a battleground between those advocating a secular approach to governance and others rallying around Christian nationalism. The eternal tug-of-war begs the question, “Were our founding fathers channeling their inner prophets, or were they struggling to parse out their divine convictions like the rest of us?” Enter Thomas Jefferson, one of America’s shiniest pennies (well, nickels). Our favorite polymath didn’t just add the feather of the Declaration of Independence to his already crowded cap but also penned a phrase that would live on beyond his presidency. For context, it was 1802 when he wrote a letter to the Danbury Baptists, offering a few pearls of wisdom that would forever change the American narrative. What Jefferson intended, dear rebel, was to promote religious liberty and prevent theocracy from taking root in a young nation — a far cry from the “atheist agenda” many interpret it to mean. Fast forward two centuries, and here we are, grappling with that very idea. In one corner, we have Christian nationalists, brewing storms in a political teacup, pushing to monopolize moral authority in the nation, all the while bulldozing over the principles of individual autonomy. In the other corner, we have those who advocate for a secular

approach, citing Jefferson's letter as the Holy Scripture that should guide our legislation. It seems that the more we ponder the distinction between Church and State, the more convoluted and muddled things become. For instance, legislation that prioritizes religious dogma above personal freedom risks engineering a moral dystopia that Jefferson would disown faster than you can say, "E Pluribus Unum." Stripping legislation of its religious makeup doesn't mean the kickoff of an apocalyptic free-for-all, but rather ushers in an era where collective wisdom and informed decision-making get a seat at the table — without having to RSVP to the evangelical block party. After all, legislating morality based on theology is akin to painting the Sistine Chapel with only one color: sure, you're making a strong statement, but you're missing the beauty of the full palette. Now, as a humble Master of Theology from you-know-where, it seems only fair to urgently remind my brethren that living in a diverse society demands that we separate our personal beliefs from the societal norms that bind us together in this intricate tapestry we call America. Our founding fathers, Jefferson included, may have toiled in a time where powdered wigs were the fashion du jour, but even they had the foresight to contain their moral convictions and keep theocratic rule at bay.

So, next time you find yourself engaged in a heated debate about the on-again, off-again relationship between the Church and State, take a step back, put on your best Jeffersonian thinking cap (powdered wig optional), and remember: the real beauty of our great nation lies in our ability to embrace the paint palette of plurality, celebrating the kaleidoscope of beliefs and hopes that make this land the envy of the world.

Keep the faith, America, but let's ensure "separation" continues to grace our legislation like it's the ghost of Thomas Jefferson himself cheering us on. And who knows? Maybe we'll never hear the mythical (and ill-informed) cries of the "atheist agenda" again.



Fletcher Christian  
11:57 PM

## **The Overarching Principles of Christianity and Philosophy: Contrasting them with the Reality of Christian Nationalism**

I want to acknowledge that love, compassion, and empathy are foundational principles of both



Christianity and most philosophy. This fact is evident in various philosophical schools of thought ranging from Stoicism to Existentialism. These schools emphasize human flourishing and community welfare.

John 13:34–35 emphasizes the significance of mutual love as Christ's command to His disciples.

This principle is fundamental in most ethical systems, including Kantian ethics, which upholds the dignity of human beings. In contrast, Christian Nationalism propagates guilt and shame as a means of control, instilling fear and hate while ignoring Jesus' teachings.

Humility is a vital aspect of both Christianity and philosophy. Plato and Aristotle advocate for self-examination, and James 4:10 emphasizes the essential role of humility in Christianity, stating that one should humble themselves before the Lord to be lifted. This principle is significant in self-reflection regarding individual and community welfare.

The promotion of Christian Nationalism often possesses intolerance and bigotry towards those outside its selective and hypocritical definition of "Christian." It is time to call out their hypocrisy and expose their disregard for Jesus' teachings.

The golden rule in Matthew 7:12 is an essential ethical imperative that promotes Confucianism and has influenced Ethical Humanism. Both Christianity

and philosophy emphasize critical thinking and introspection in understanding the world around us. In conclusion, Christianity and philosophy share fundamental values that are essential for human flourishing and community welfare. They uphold love, compassion, empathy, and humility, complementing each other in fostering a deeper understanding of our role in promoting individual and collective welfare. However, Christian nationalism presents a stark contrast to true Christianity and philosophy, promoting fear, hate, and bigotry. It is essential to call out their hypocrisy and expose their disregard for Jesus' teachings while embracing the true values of Christianity and philosophy.



Fletcher Christian  
11:57 PM

Oh, how our dear Christian nationalist Lance Wallnau never ceases to entertain. In a recent apocalyptic warning, Wallnau warns that in May, those who dare to oppose the almighty will of God

(as channeled through dear Trump, of course), shall face sudden, inexplicable deaths. Well, one can't say the man lacks conviction or drama, now can we? So, fasten your seatbelts, dear readers, as we embark on an exploration of the impending doom just waiting to befall Trump's adversaries — according to Wallnau, that is.

Equating Trump with the divine plan, Wallnau passionately proclaims that those “standing in the path” of whatever wondrous feats God has in store for His chosen representative will be struck down by the Almighty's swift and terrible wrath. \*(Insert thunderclap here)\* In a resounding display of camaraderie, Wallnau declares, “It looks to me like there could be some sudden deaths coming in May.” Ah, if that's not a show of divine intervention, I don't know what is.

Few prophecies attain such heights of brilliance. Note the way each phrase profoundly sets forth an inescapable truth: any opposition to Trump equates to opposing God Himself. Indeed, it's difficult to imagine a more compelling argument. And when it comes to a clash of such cosmic proportions, who wouldn't want a front-row seat?

One cannot help but wonder what specific deeds God plans to perform through Trump that would justify such dire warnings. Is it a sudden resurgence of the former president's Twitter prowess on Truth Social, (what a laughable name, to think the man knows the

meaning of truth) or perhaps a resurgence of a certain real estate empire? No matter what the profound revelation may be, rest assured, Wallnau is here to provide keen insight into divine political affairs.

However, if the sudden deaths Wallnau cautions against don't materialize in May, don't fret — the month of June offers a fresh, clean slate for divine retribution. And let's not forget that July just screams potential for apocalyptic showdowns between good and evil. With a modern-day Nostradamus like Wallnau at the helm, we can all sleep soundly, knowing that God's intentions are indeed best represented in 280-character messages. Sarcasm aside, future Rebelutionist, while Wallnau's claims may be amusing, it's important to remember the profound consequences of placing unwavering faith in any political figure. By deifying Trump and proclaiming that opposition equals divine retribution, Wallnau dangerously elevates a mere mortal to the level of celestial influence. This man, just like any other, is fallible; his actions should be open to scrutiny and his failings acknowledged. In conclusion, Wallnau's dire prophecy of the divine purge awaiting Trump's detractors illustrates the lengths to which some will go to elevate their chosen political idol. By equating Trump's purpose with that of the Almighty, Wallnau blurs the line between faith and fanaticism. One must remember to take such

exaggerated claims with the hefty grain of salt they deserve and focus on living compassionately, engaging in civil discourse, and striving for unity rather than extremist division. May the melodrama of the apocalypse rest in peace.



Fletcher Christian  
11:57 PM

The imposition of religious morals on a population undoubtedly triggers a nuanced debate. While some argue that religious morals provide guidance and structure in a society, others emphasize that imposing one set of beliefs on an entire community is coercive and controlling. The latter argument, which is the focus of this post and my position on the matter, aligns with the oppressive tactics employed by Leninist and Nazi regimes throughout history. The recent emergence and acceptance of Christian Nationalism is a mirror image of the rise of fascism in Germany culminating in a world war. This post aims to discredit the movement if not only by

political science but by the very words of the man they supposedly follow. Jesus.

Leninist philosophy, stemming from the leadership of Vladimir Lenin, was centered on the ultimate control of the state over the people. Under this ideology, individual rights and freedoms were suppressed for the supposed betterment of society as a whole. Similarly, Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime forced the German population to adopt his idea of "the perfect nation" — an ideal rooted in Aryan supremacy and the extermination of those deemed racially inferior. Both of these systems forced a suppressed population to adopt a specific set of beliefs and renounce any alternatives.

Forcing "Christian" morals on the population of the U.S. mirrors these oppressive systems, as it demands that certain individuals — who may hold different beliefs, values, or customs — conform to an external set of moral standards. This conformity requires individuals to abandon their own convictions and adopt the imposed belief system, dismissing their unique thoughts, identities, and cultural backgrounds.

Jesus himself warned against false prophets and teachers infiltrating the community of believers (Matthew 7:15). These individuals used their gifts and knowledge to deceive people and assert control over their beliefs. The essential question, then, is whether the current state of religious teachings

Christian Nationalism echo this coercive manipulation prevalent in historical oppressive regimes.

Examining events throughout history, it is evident that imposing religious morals has produced detrimental consequences for society. The infamous Salem Witch Trials, the Spanish Inquisition, and more recent examples, such as the Jonestown massacre, present a clear picture of communities succumbing to forced beliefs and facing devastating outcomes. In each instance, control was exerted through dogmatic ideologies, and the parallels to Leninist and Nazi philosophies are apparent.

Jesus, aware of the human inclination to control and manipulate others, advocated love and acceptance above all else (Matthew 22:37–40). His teachings emphasized granting individuals the freedom to choose their own paths and seek spirituality without coercion or imposed beliefs. By imposing religious morals on a population, one disregards the cornerstone of Jesus' teachings and effectively succumbs to the corrupt philosophies of Leninism and Nazism.

Given the evident parallels between the actions of say "Mom's for Liberty" (just one of many "Christian" organizations imposing "Christian" morality and the tactics used by oppressive regimes, it becomes crucial for religious institutions and believers to reevaluate their approach to spreading

religious teachings. By promoting acceptance and unity, rather than forceful conformity, religious communities can promote growth and ensure that they remain faithful to their core beliefs. In my opinion any religion that must force its morality on anyone is a DEAD religion.

In conclusion, the tactics of Christian Nationalism mirrors the oppressive tactics of Leninist and Nazi philosophies, as it, too, dictates the lives of individuals based on a single belief system. As history reveals, this can lead to dire consequences for the population as a whole. By shifting from coercion to openness and understanding, those wishing to spread Christianity can build bridges instead of walls, promoting acceptance and peace for all members of society. #musicianmetaphysics #jamkillerproductions #fletcherchristiankc







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