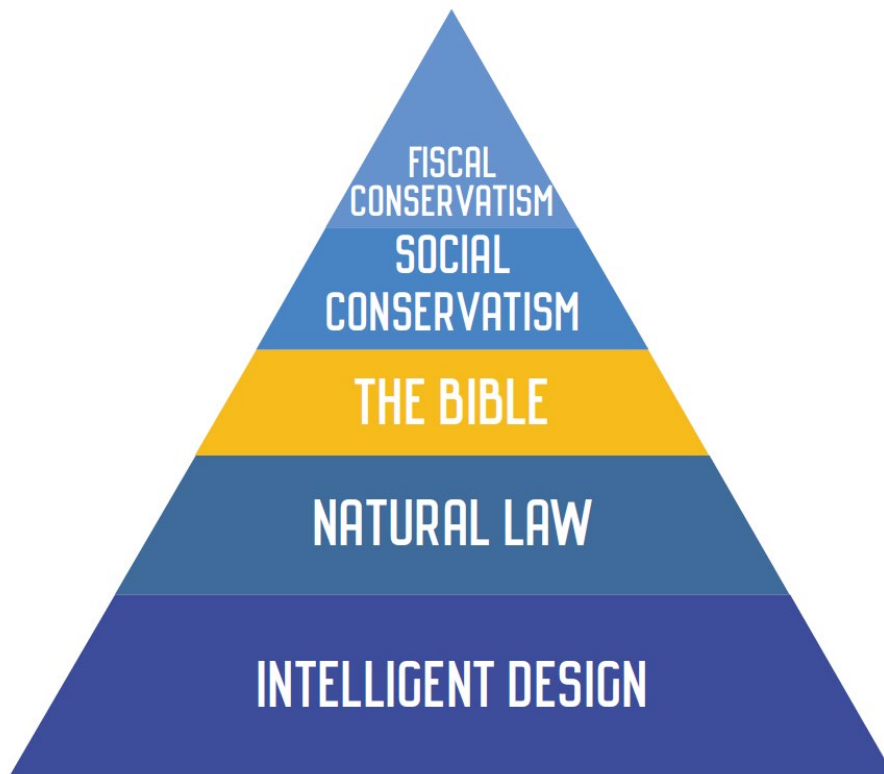


## What is True Conservatism? \*

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\* For the unabridged version with full referencing and appendices please refer to the accompanying email or check the website [wisdomwithwealth.org](http://wisdomwithwealth.org)

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## What is True Conservatism?

We all want good government. As a financial professional, I believe that that fiscal conservatism will be effective *only* if it is supported by traditional Judeo-Christian social conservatism. It's not just about the economy. People are more important than things—even if those “things” are dollars. True social conservatism is stabilized by Natural Law, which transcends time, culture, and government. The Oxford Dictionary defines Natural Law as “a body of unchanging moral principles regarded as the basis for all human conduct.” Natural Law is based on nature itself and nature, being reproductive, is also self-sustaining. Nature does not operate on the basis of randomness but by intelligence. The theory Intelligent Design is the fastest-growing, yet most suppressed scientific explanation for earth's origin. It is the foundation of Natural Law and true social conservatism. But conservatism differs from culture to culture. A conservative Jew acts differently from a conservative Muslim, a conservative Hindu, a conservative Christian, and certainly than a conservative Communist.

Conservative social values change over time, as do the associated fiscal government policies. Let's look at one example: The legality of gambling and games of chance. Currently, it's not a political hot button, but it once was, and it certainly affects people's financial well-being.

In 1892 the Canadian Criminal Code banned every form of gambling. Two generations later in 1969, under Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau, the Canadian government saw huge value in lotteries. They amended the Criminal Code to allow both federal and provincial governments to run lotteries to fund special projects. The first lottery was held in 1974 to raise funds for the Olympic Games in Montreal. Over the years the provinces were given more freedom to run lotteries, horse races, video slot machines, casinos, and other forms of gambling. Today you can find casinos in every province.<sup>i</sup> What the Canadian Government once forbade, it now promotes!

Social values have shifted. The majority of the populace once recognized the social danger of gambling, but not anymore.

Lotteries have been called a tax on the poor. They give false hope to those desperate for money and they undermine the entrepreneurial spirit. Lotteries hurt many more people than they help. Although they were popularized by a Liberal government, even Conservative governments now use lotteries as an acceptable method of fund raising, being either unaware or unconcerned about the negative social impact of gambling. They are an example of an ill-conceived fiscal initiative that never had socially-conservative foundations. As a financial planner, I have spoken with other planners who have counselled lottery winners and heard the words, “Winning that twenty-million-dollar lottery was the worst thing that happened in my life. My wife divorced me. My kids are all on drugs. Yes, I have seven million left, but I feel my life is ruined.” Misguided fiscal initiatives create social fallout both for the poor and the rich.

But what do fiscal and social conservatism *conserve*? Traditional values start with *original* values. Some refer to such values and governance as the *moral compass* pointing out right and wrong. They are deep-seated, universal—albeit usually suppressed—moral truths, not subjective, personal preferences or convictions. In legal terms, this is referred to as Natural Law.

The experience of Natural Law maintains that certain moral laws transcend time, culture, and government. There are universal standards that apply to all humanity throughout all time. These universal, moral principles are inherent in and discoverable by all of us, and form the basis of a just society. To look at the origins of Natural Law, we need to consider the earth itself—the natural world, since everyone experiences nature and is influenced by it. We need to look at how nature is organized and operates. Science has discovered much on this topic during the past few decades.

In the mid-1990s, as computer technology and microbiology joined the disciplines, a group of scientists became more aware of the extreme complexity within the microscopic cell, down to the molecular level. Where scientists, such as Charles Darwin, in the 1850s thought the microscopic cell was a simple dot, now—over 160 years later—they understand that the “simple” cell is a million times more complex than the “simple” cellphone. A new theory of origins emerged called “Intelligent Design.” The theory holds that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected, randomized process—that information and intelligence are *hard-coded* into the natural world. The sheer complexity of micro structures and processes precludes a mindless process such as natural selection.

My favourite example to illustrate Intelligent Design and micro engineering is a caterpillar’s transformation into a butterfly. A caterpillar is essentially a long stomach with legs. All it does is eat leaves, crawl, and eat more leaves, until one day it stops eating and starts to weave a cocoon around itself. Then after a while, it emerges as an elegant butterfly, never to eat leaves again. The transformation is utterly amazing! It’s like a model T Ford driving into a small tent, and then, without any external agent, emerging as a Sikorski helicopter. This complex process cannot



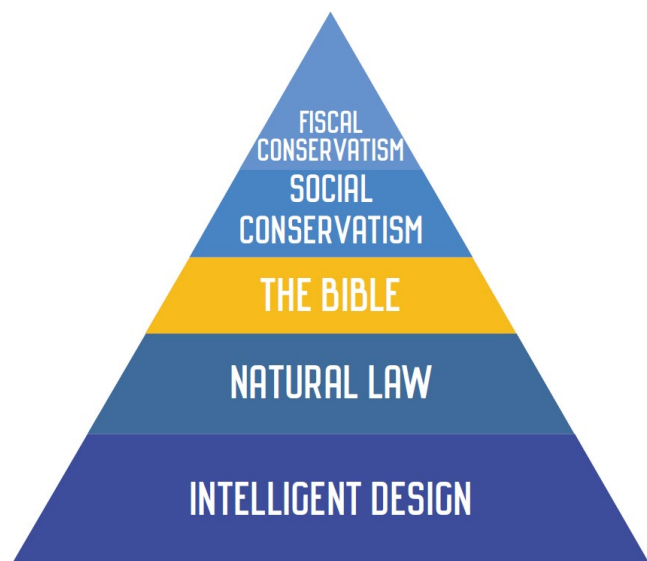
Figure 1

be explained by natural selection. Scientists who have taken MRI-sliced images of the cocoon stage are astonished at the complex systematic changes. Many scientists now conclude that the best way to understand the complexities in our universe is not by combining matter, energy, and *time*, but matter, energy, and *intelligence*. Figure 1 displays how the four concepts fit together.

In contrast to lotteries, we see socially-prudent financial incentives in granting special tax credits for employment. The Working Income Tax Benefit is a federal, refundable tax credit, which has been available since 2007, for low-income individuals or families with *working* income over \$3,000. It is intended to provide tax relief for eligible individuals and families who are already in the workforce, and to encourage other Canadians to enter the workforce. Unlike lotteries, this prudent financial policy serves to increase Canada's GDP by encouraging labour and productivity. It adds real goods and services to stabilize and even grow our economy.

How can we test or evaluate the stability of differing conservative values? Let's look at a clash of conservative cultural *family* values with an extreme example: Murder. In this case, Sharia social conservatism clashes with Judeo-Christian social conservatism. An article reported by Rob Tripp describes one such case where differing views of conservatism clash.<sup>ii</sup> On June 30, 2009 four members of an Afghan family were found dead in a car, discovered submerged in a shallow canal in Kingston, ON. Mohammad Shafia (58), Tooba (41), and Hamed (20), are accused of killing Zainab (19), Sahar (17), Geeti (13), and Rona Amir Mohammad (52), who was Shafia's first wife. This was Canada's first mass "honour" killing. Jurors at his murder trial were told that, in the days after Mohammad Shafia's three daughters died, he spoke privately to family about how they had dishonoured him by consorting with boys. "God's curse on them ... May the devil shit on their graves," Shafia said, in a conversation with his second wife, Tooba, and son, Hamed, that was secretly recorded by police. "Is that what a daughter should be? Would (a daughter) be such a whore?"

Under conservative Islam, this was honour killing, but under Judeo-Christian law, the basis of Canadian Criminal Code, this was first degree murder. Which conservative values are right? Ingrained religious values are usually based upon sacred scriptures from a “Holy Book,” which becomes the basis for social conservatism of a given culture. A Holy Book provides a culture with



its own laws, rules and regulations, and policies and procedures. The resulting social religious values are the foundation for all law, and are placed above Natural Law as shown in Figure II. Religious and cultural values underlay a country’s social conservatism.

**Figure II: Stability**

The question of true conservatism now becomes which Holy Book is it founded upon? What is conservative for one culture is not conservative for another culture, at least, not when filtered through a different Holy Book. Every religion is biased towards itself. Furthermore, many religions- except Judaism, Christianity, Confucianism and Buddhism – do not tolerate other religions. All ideas have consequences and differing ideas have differing consequences. Everyone does what is right in their own eyes, but how do they fare when confronted with reality? Do people love to stay in their country/culture, or do they want to escape?

My parents escaped from communist Europe when I was four years old. Years later, when I made my first return to Europe, I saw the border between East and West Germany. It was like a brown ribbon cutting over the rolling green hills—a ribbon of sterilized soil with mine fields, tank blocks, and machine gun towers about every five-hundred metres. Communist East Germany and

Capitalist West Germany had built their societies on different values stemming from different Holy Books. East Germany was governed by the principles of the Communist Manifesto. West Germany had a legal system based on the Judeo-Christian teachings in the Bible. Citizens of East Germany were not allowed to leave or pass this border into West Germany, for fear of being killed. My wife's parents, for example, escaped East Germany by night, shortly before this border was built. This extreme type of border control in East Germany is similar to the current-day example of North Korea. Any Holy Book that prohibits an exodus of its people is seriously flawed. Such a Holy Book is not grounded on Natural Law and Intelligent Design. People want to flee, even in time of government imposed "peace."

There are many so called "Holy Books". The evaluation of religions is highly personal. Everyone thinks their religion is right and the others are wrong. One of Canada's most popular religions is Humanism. Religion introduces the topic of God. Most Canadians either do not know or have forgotten that the first sentence in Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms reads thus: *"Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law..."* Everyone has personal beliefs about God. Humanism, for example, is atheistic; it opposes the supremacy of God. I have my own bias as a follower of Jesus Christ. For the purpose of this analysis I will sort Holy Books into three categories: 1. those that advocate No God, 2. those that advocate the Wrong God(s), and 3. those that advocate the True God.

What makes a god, the true God? Creatorship. The one true God is the Creator of the universe. **"The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under the heavens,"** Jeremiah 10:11. The Bible is based on the historical fact of the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ. To the best of my knowledge, no other Holy Book speaks of its protagonist as being voluntarily slaughtered for the sins of his followers and physically rising

from the dead, as he predicted he would. He sacrificed himself for the sins of his people. These events are historic facts, validated by sources outside the Bible. Independent history is one way to test the trustworthiness of any Holy Book.

The second way to test the authenticity of a Holy Book is through its promotion of kindness and compassion. Are its basic principles and messages being promoted in a loving way? A Holy Book’s truthfulness and its kindness should fit with Natural Law. An un-Holy Book will promote deception and cruelty. The subsequent effects on social and fiscal conservatism are shown in Figure III and Figure IV.

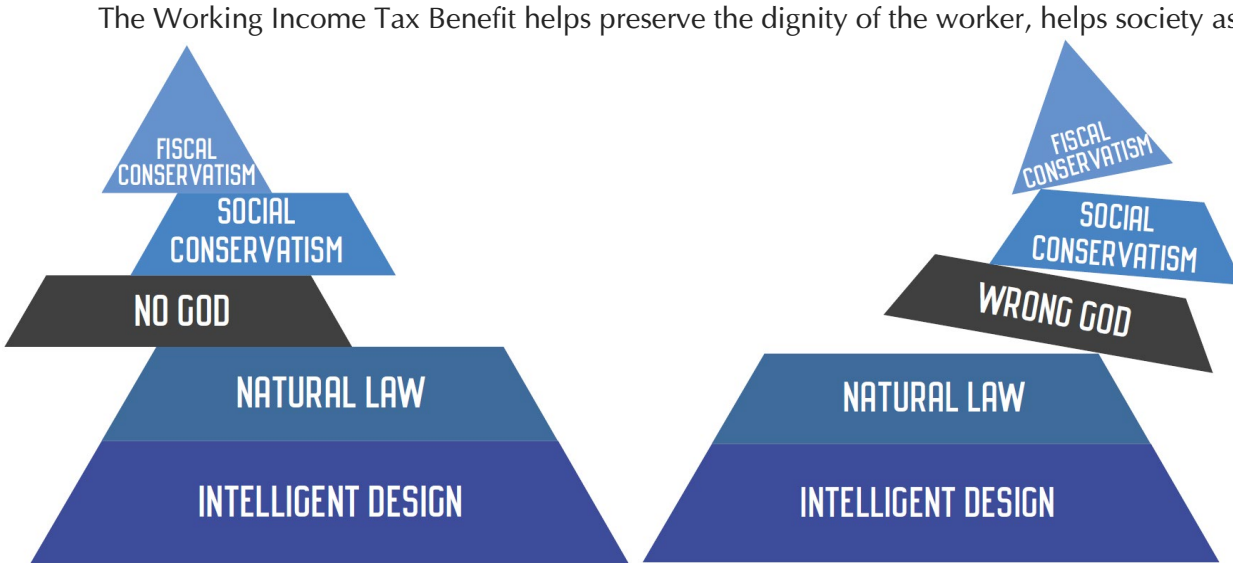


Figure III: Instability – No God

whole, and produces a

Figure IV: Instability – Wrong God

real good or service. As another example, in 2008 the Federal Conservatives under Prime Minister Steven Harper introduced the Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) for Canadians, to encourage them to save for future. This is a solid fiscal tool. It promotes savings, which is a key to prosperity. True

social conservatism avoids the perils of idle debt accumulation in liberal governments like California, Ontario and Greece.

What is of concern at this point is the attack on law and order—specifically engineered order. It’s a war of ideas and one of the political casualties is a veteran federal conservative MP, James D. Lunney. He dared to question the credibility of earth’s origin through the undirected workings of Darwinian evolution. In a public forum, Mr. Lunney said that evolution should be called a *theory* and not a *fact*. Writing in the National Post, April 13, 2015, “Evolutionism is based on a false construct from another century.”<sup>iii</sup> He questioned the ability of randomness to produce such incredible complexity down to a molecular level. True science is agnostic, but when the evolution morphs into *evolutionism*, it becomes a religion of its own and opposes other viewpoints. “Any scientist who declares that the theory of evolution is a fact has already abandoned the foundations of science. For science establishes fact through the study of things observable and reproducible. Since origins can neither be reproduced nor observed, they remain in the realm of hypothesis.”<sup>iv</sup> For such statements, Mr. Lunney was attacked by NDP strategist, Ian Capsick. Unfortunately he was not supported by fellow conservative MPs. “In a statement explaining his subsequent decision to sit as an independent, Mr. Lunney said he wants to place some distance between himself and the Harper government so he can “defend his beliefs” without it reflecting back on the Conservative caucus, which he made a point of framing as diverse.<sup>v</sup> The theory of Intelligent Design is not politically correct; the theory of Evolution is. True conservatism conserves law and order, not chaos and randomness. If we suppress or ignore the foundational truths of Natural Law and Intelligent Design, our society will surely collapse.

In October 2016 a thought-provoking video, “Origin,” was released by Illustra Media to explore the question “How did life on earth begin?” Growing evidence demonstrates that matter and energy or chemistry and physics are unable to account for the astounding sophisticated

engineering at the molecular level. Please watch this two minute trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6x3h1WEJf4>.<sup>vi</sup> As a financial professional I have learned that successful financial initiatives will resonate with reality and harmonize with Intelligent Design.

That's the only way we will get good government.

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<sup>i</sup> "History of Gambling," OnlineCasino.ca, accessed February 27, 2017, <https://www.onlinecasino.ca/guides/history#>.

<sup>ii</sup> Rob Tripp, "Shafia parents and son, convicted in honour killing of four family members, seek new trial," *National Post*, October 13, 2015, accessed February 28, 2017, <http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/shafia-parents-and-son-convicted-in-honour-killing-of-four-family-members-seek-new-trial>.

<sup>iii</sup> James Lunney, "Christianity under siege," *National Post*, April 13, 2015, accessed February 28, 2017, <http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/james-lunney-christianity-under-siege>.

<sup>iv</sup> Steven Chase, "B.C. MP quits Conservatives to defend views on evolution," *The Globe and Mail*, March 31, 2015, accessed February 28, 2017, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/bc-mp-quits-conservatives-says-his-christian-worldview-was-suppressed/article23709160/>.

<sup>v</sup> Chase, "B.C. MP quits Conservatives to defend views on evolution."

<sup>vi</sup> "Origin – Trailer 2," YouTube video, 1:49, posted by "Illustra Media," October 7, 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6x3h1WEJf4>.