

## What is True Conservatism?

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May 12, 2017

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## Executive Summary: What is True Conservatism?

The purpose of this paper is to define true conservatism, especially true fiscal conservatism. As a financial professional, I am very concerned about the long-term benefits of any financial initiative. My company's motto is *Building Lasting Prosperity*. My thesis is 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 of 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. Different Holy Books breed different conservatives. The Holy Books themselves are best vetted against Natural Law and Intelligent Design. All ideas have consequences and the consequences are not all equally desirable. Some cultures have become so internally uncomfortable that they need closed borders to keep their citizens from escaping. The basis of wholesome, flourishing societies is conformity to Natural Law. The acid tests of any Holy Book is its truthfulness and its kindness. Financial conservatism will be successful only when it is based on social conservatism, which is congruent with *the* Holy Book, based on Natural Law and Intelligent Design. That's the way to *Build Lasting Prosperity*.

## What is True Conservatism?

We all want good government, and there are many thoughts on what that entails. However, good government must rely upon true conservatism, grounded through Natural Law and Intelligent Design. By extension, true *fiscal* conservatism is supported by true conservatism. Without these foundations, fiscal initiatives will collapse.

The term ‘conservative’ first found its way into public discourse during the time of the French Revolution, specifically through the French weekly journal, *Le Conservateur*, founded in 1818 by François-René de Chateaubriand with the aid of Louis de Bonald. “The *Conservateur* upholds religion, the King, liberty, the Charter and respectable people.”<sup>i</sup> Edmund Burke, a classic political theorist and spokesman during that time, charged the revolutionaries (conservative opponents) with destroying time-tested institutions without any assurance that they could replace them with anything better. He wrote, “Political power is not a license to rebuild society according to some abstract, untested scheme; it is a trust to be held by those who are mindful of both the value of what they have inherited and of their duties to their inheritors.”<sup>ii</sup> Thus conservatives were, by nature, slow to make changes in the government of a nation, and especially opposed to change simply for the sake of change. But changes do come; social values change over time, as do the associated fiscal government policies.

One example of such change is a Canadian one, dealing with what is now taken for granted: The legality of gambling and games of chance. Currently, it’s not a hot button in Canadian politics, 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>iii</sup> What the Canadian Government once forbade is now being promoted! 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.

During the past few decades we have seen a growing gap between fiscal and social conservatism in Canada. Simply put, fiscal conservatism<sup>iv</sup> deals with money issues, while social conservatism<sup>v</sup> deals with people issues. Thus in a sense it's about managing things (dollars) and leading free people.

But what do fiscal and social conservatism *conserve*? Traditional values and governance, even before the time of the French Revolution, start with *original* values and governance. 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.<sup>vi</sup> Natural law must not be confused with no law (the absence of law), where everyone does whatever is right in their own eyes. It is also not the law of jungle, where might makes right.

The experience of Natural Law maintains that certain moral laws transcend time, culture, and government such that when Nature is violated, Nature retaliates. That is why family breakdown often leads to STD and opioid epidemics. 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—understand that the “simple” cell is a million times more complex than the “simple” cellphone. A new theory of origins emerged called “Intelligent Design.”<sup>vii</sup> 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



Figure 1

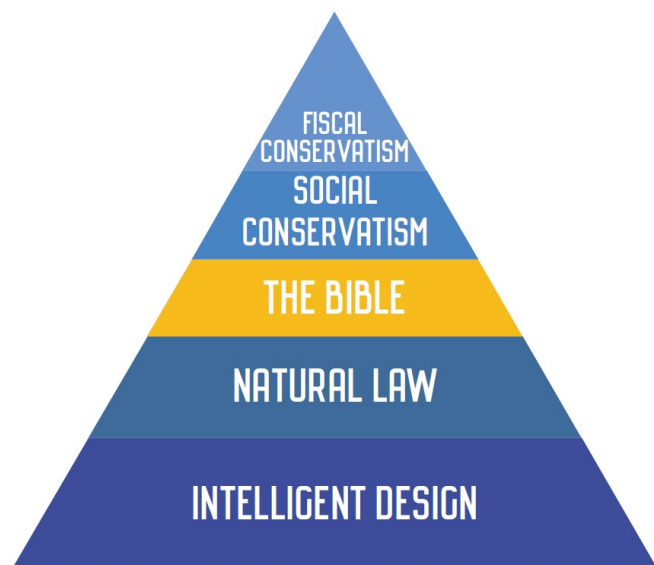
it does is eat leaves, crawl, and eat more leaves, until one day it stops eating and starts to weave a cocoon around itself. Then after a while, it emerges as an elegant butterfly, never to eat leaves again. The transformation is amazing! It's like a model T Ford driving into a small tent, and then, without any external agent, emerging as a Sikorski helicopter. This complex

process cannot 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 a diagram.

In contrast to lotteries, we see socially-prudent financial incentives in granting special tax credits for employment. The Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB) 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, by encouraging labour and productivity this prudent policy serves to increase Canada's Gross Domestic Product. It adds real goods and services to help grow and keep our economy stable.

What happens when conservative values clash with each other? All the indices of a failing society—drug abuse, sexual obsession, infertility, depopulation, psychotic violence, infanticide, suicide, and generational poverty—are all correlated with family breakdown. Where you have family breakdown, you have dependency. Where you have dependency, you have Big Government feeding the dependent. Anyone who wants an economy of productive, self-reliant individuals needs a society of healthy families. Fiscal conservatives can't get the healthy economy they want unless they first get healthy families.

How can we test or evaluate the stability of 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>viii</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?"



**Figure II: Stability**

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.

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. For example, Sharia law, which promotes honour killing, certainly does not mesh well with Natural Law, which promotes love within the family unit. Family is foundational to a healthy society and parental rights are paramount as witnessed by the UN declaration of Rights Article 26 (3), which states that “Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.<sup>ix</sup> Do Muslim parents have a right to educate their children as they choose—even to homeschool their children to become suicide bombers? Yes, absolutely. Are these the “right”

values to teach? Absolutely not. Do they reflect traditional and historic Canadian values? Again, no. Why? The answer is found in Natural Law. This is demonstrated practically by a people's desire to remain in their country/culture or 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 Holy Books, twelve of which are listed in Appendix 5. 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, and therefore the Humanist Manifesto is attached with Appendix 5. 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 God, 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. Sharia Law from the Koran is a poor transmitter of Natural Law simply because the god Allah is not the Creator God of the universe. The teachings of the Qur’an do not resonate with reality; they are not true. The following is one simple, but critically important, example of aligning with reality: The physical death and physical resurrection of Jesus Christ are historic facts, attested both outside and inside the Bible. 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. Independent history is one way to test the trustworthiness of any Holy Book.

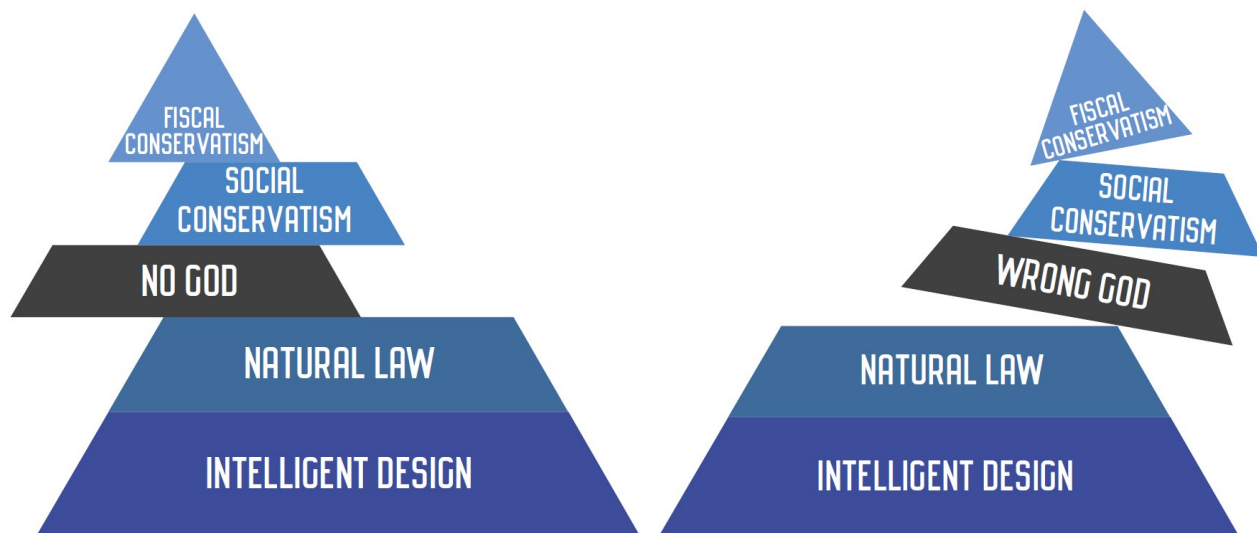


Figure III: Instability – No God

Figure IV: Instability – Wrong God

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. Definitions of truth and love can be found in Appendix VI. 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. For example, the Working Income Tax Benefit helps preserve the dignity of the worker, helps society as whole, and produces a 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. Straight lines from the top to the bottom of this pyramid could also be drawn for matters pertaining to gender<sup>x</sup> and even to life itself, but these topics are beyond the scope of this essay.

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. Mr. Lunney dared to question the credibility of earth's origin through the undirected workings of Darwinian evolution. In a public forum, he 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>xi</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>xii</sup> For such statements, Mr. Lunney was attacked by NDP strategist, Ian

Capsick. Unfortunately Mr. Lunney was not supported by fellow conservative MPs as they feared public ridicule. “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>xiii</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 the foundational truths of Natural Law and Intelligent Design, our society will surely crumble.

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=l6x3h1WEIf4>.<sup>xiv</sup> The implications of Intelligent Design are extreme, to say the least. It is becoming more and more evident that the foundations of our world are not based on random chance accident. As my father used to say when he was training me in orderliness, “Ordnung erhält die Welt.” That’s German for, “The world is sustained by order.” Successful and sustainable financial initiatives will harmonize with Intelligent Design.

In conclusion, Canada’s fiscal initiatives—even if they are labeled as being fiscally conservative—will be a waste of money unless they have true, socially-conservative foundations, are supported by Natural Law, and reflect Intelligent Design. As a financial professional, I don’t like to see money being wasted by individuals, companies, or even by governments.

For further clarification visit: <http://wisdomwithwealth.org/>

## Appendix I. Fiscal Conservatism

Fiscal Conservatism is a political-economic philosophy with a lesser government role.

1. Lower, flatter income taxes
2. Reduced government spending
3. Minimal government debt
4. Privatization of property and charity
5. Free trade
6. De-regulation of the economy and less regulation of business
7. Personal economic freedom
8. Minimal government subsidies to business
9. Encourages a free market system

In contrast, **fiscal liberalism** involves a greater role of government in the economy through items such as:

- A more progressive income tax system
- A minimum wage
- Increase government spending
- More social welfare
- More government regulations in all aspects of business

## Appendix II. Social Conservatism

Social Conservatism represents conservative positions on issues of family, sexuality, and morality. In the European and North American context, social conservatives believe in natural law as well as traditional family values and policies.

1. Traditional family unit
2. Protection of the weak and vulnerable (Guard those easily harmed or abused. Love and respect all human life.)
3. Pro-Life (anti-abortion, anti-euthanasia—protect unborn children and frail seniors)
4. Heterosexual but not homosexual haters
5. Role of women in society—focus on the family, complementarian
6. Pro marriage – Encourage the lifelong marriage covenant
7. Justice—tough on crime and compassionate toward victims

In contrast, Social Liberalism, is an emphasis on the State, giving specific civil rights (the granting of rights explicitly rather than implicitly).

## Appendix III. Natural Law

### Oxford Dictionary:<sup>xv</sup>

Natural Law (noun): A body of unchanging moral principles regarded as a basis for all human conduct.

### Merriam-Webster Dictionary:<sup>xvi</sup>

*Natural law* (noun): a body of law or a specific principle of law that is held to be derived from nature and binding upon human society in the absence of or in addition to positive law.

## Philosophy's Perspective: Natural Law<sup>xvii</sup>

### Natural Law – A Moral Theory of Jurisprudence

Natural Law is a moral theory of jurisprudence, which maintains that law should be based on morality and ethics. Natural Law holds that the law is based on what's "correct." Natural Law is "discovered" by humans through the use of reason and choosing between good and evil.

Therefore, Natural Law finds its power in discovering certain universal standards in morality and ethics.

### Natural Law – The History

**The Greeks:** Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle emphasized the distinction between "nature" (*physis*, *ύ ις*) and "law," "custom," or "convention" (*nomos*, *νόμος*). What the law commanded varied from place to place, but what was "by nature" should be the same everywhere. Aristotle (BC 384—322) is considered by many to be the father of "natural law." In *Rhetoric*, he argues that

aside from “particular” laws that each people has set up for itself, there is a “common law” or “higher law” that is according to nature (*Rhetoric* 1373b2–8).

**The Stoics:** The development of natural law theory continued in the Hellenistic school of philosophy, particularly with the Stoics. The Stoics pointed to the existence of a rational and purposeful order to the universe. The means by which a rational being lived in accordance with this cosmic order was considered natural law. Unlike Aristotle’s “higher law,” Stoic natural law was indifferent to the divine or natural source of that law. Stoic philosophy was very influential with Roman jurists such as Cicero, thus playing a significant role in the development of Roman legal theory.

**The Christians:** Augustine (AD 354—430) equates natural law with man’s Pre-Fall state. Therefore, life according to nature is no longer possible and mankind must instead seek salvation through the divine law and Christ’s grace. Gratian (12<sup>th</sup> century) reconnected the concept of natural law and divine law. “The Human Race is ruled by two things: namely, natural law and usages (*mos, moris, mores*). Natural law is what is contained in the law and the Gospel. By it, each person is commanded to do to others what he wants done to himself and is prohibited from inflicting on others what he does not want done to himself.” (*Decretum*, D.1 d.a.c.1; ca. 1140 AD)

### **Natural Law: The Conclusion**

In the end, where does law come from? The Theory of Natural Law maintains that certain moral laws transcend time, culture, and government. There are universal standards that apply to all mankind throughout all time. These universal moral standards are inherent in and discoverable by all of us, and form the basis of a just society.

## Appendix IV. A Holy Book – Which holy book?

A holy book is a set of sacred scriptures for a specific religion. The most common ones are: the Bible (Christians), the Torah & Talmud (Jews), the Qur'an (Muslims), the Upanishads & Vedas (Hindus), and the Tao-Te-Ching (Taoists).

Some less common ones are: the Book of Mormon (Mormons- Latter Day Saints), the Humanist Manifesto\* (Humanism), the Communist Manifesto (Communists), the Bhagavad Gita (Certain Hindus), and the Tripitakas (Buddhists).

In addition to holy books, history is full of many oral traditions and religious beliefs such as the Great Spirit, Gitchi Manitou, of the Ojibwe, Algonquin, and Mohican tribes.

The Urukagina code of ethics is the oldest written legal system on the planet. A portion is in the Louvre museum in Paris. It was written about 5,000 years ago—200 years *before* the Xia dynasty of China, 600 years *before* the Hammurabi code of Babylon, and 900 years *before* the Ten Commandments. It was discovered in the ruins of the ancient city of Lagash, at the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in what is now Iraq. This part of the world is sometimes called the “Cradle of Civilization,” since it had the first known system of writing.

\*The Humanist Manifesto has been heavily promoted and even integrated into the North American school system largely through the works of Mr. John Dewey and is attached for easy reference.

## Appendix V. The Humanist Manifesto<sup>xviii</sup>

### “Humanism and Its Aspirations: Humanist Manifesto III, a Successor to the Humanist Manifesto of 1933”

Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.

The lifeway of Humanism—guided by reason, inspired by compassion, and informed by experience—encourages us to live life well and fully. It evolved through the ages and continues to develop through the efforts of thoughtful people who recognize that values and ideals, however carefully wrought, are subject to change as our knowledge and understandings advance.

This document is part of an ongoing effort to manifest in clear and positive terms the conceptual boundaries of Humanism, not what we must believe but a consensus of what we do believe. It is in this sense that we affirm the following:

Knowledge of the world is derived by observation, experimentation, and rational analysis. Humanists find that science is the best method for determining this knowledge as well as for solving problems and developing beneficial technologies. We also recognize the value of new departures in thought, the arts, and inner experience—each subject to analysis by critical intelligence.

Humans are an integral part of nature, the result of unguided evolutionary change. Humanists recognize nature as self-existing. We accept our life as all and enough, distinguishing things as they are from things as we might wish or imagine them to be. We welcome the challenges of the future, and are drawn to and undaunted by the yet to be known.

Ethical values are derived from human need and interest as tested by experience. Humanists ground values in human welfare shaped by human circumstances, interests, and concerns and extended to the global ecosystem and beyond. We are committed to treating each person as having inherent worth and dignity, and to making informed choices in a context of freedom consonant with responsibility.

Life’s fulfillment emerges from individual participation in the service of humane ideals. We aim for our fullest possible development and animate our lives with a deep sense of purpose, finding wonder and awe in the joys and beauties of human existence, its challenges and tragedies, and even in the inevitability and finality of death. Humanists rely on the rich heritage of human culture and the life stance of Humanism to provide comfort in times of want and encouragement in times of plenty.

Humans are social by nature and find meaning in relationships. Humanists long for and strive toward a world of mutual care and concern, free of cruelty and its consequences, where

differences are resolved cooperatively without resorting to violence. The joining of individuality with interdependence enriches our lives, encourages us to enrich the lives of others, and inspires hope of attaining peace, justice, and opportunity for all.

Working to benefit society maximizes individual happiness. Progressive cultures have worked to free humanity from the brutalities of mere survival and to reduce suffering, improve society, and develop global community. We seek to minimize the inequities of circumstance and ability, and we support a just distribution of nature's resources and the fruits of human effort so that as many as possible can enjoy a good life.

Humanists are concerned for the well-being of all, are committed to diversity, and respect those of differing yet humane views. We work to uphold the equal enjoyment of human rights and civil liberties in an open, secular society and maintain it is a civic duty to participate in the democratic process and a planetary duty to protect nature's integrity, diversity, and beauty in a secure, sustainable manner.

Thus engaged in the flow of life, we aspire to this vision with the informed conviction that humanity has the ability to progress toward its highest ideals. The responsibility for our lives and the kind of world in which we live is ours and ours alone.

## Appendix VI. The Holy Book Test: What is Truth? What is Love?

### The Truth Test: What is Truth?

Merriam-Webster Dictionary<sup>xix</sup>

*a* (1): the state of being the case : FACT (2): the body of real things, events, and facts : ACTUALITY (3) *often capitalized*: a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality  
*b*: a judgment, proposition, or idea that is true or accepted as true *truths of thermodynamics* *c*: the body of true statements and propositions

*3a*: the property (as of a statement) of being in accord with fact or reality *b chiefly British*: TRUE *2c*: fidelity to an original or to a standard

### The Love Test: What is Love?<sup>xx</sup>

Love is willing, self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not demand that the other person being loved deserves to be loved. When you have this, you have something beautiful, sturdy, perseverant, and lasting that can weather the storm. A person needs to love a person the most when they are least deserving, when it cannot be reciprocated.

The tests can be applied to the oldest known legal system, the Urukagina code of Mesopotamia in what is now Iraq, at the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. The king of the city state of Lagash, in his efforts to combat corruption, included this financial edict: "The rich must use silver when purchasing from the poor, and if the poor does not wish to sell, the powerful man (the rich man or the priest) cannot force him to do so."<sup>xxi</sup>

As a financial professional, I find it significant that this simple legislation enshrines property rights while upholding both truth and kindness. 1. Truth: Payment must be made in silver (commercial standard currency), and 2. Kindness: The sale must not be forced, but be voluntary. It's amazing that such an old law is also such a good law.

The Hammurabi code of Babylon, discovered in 1901, was written in stone 600 years before the Ten Commandments. With its 282 laws, it is much more extensive than the Urukagina code of Mesopotamia. It is similar to the Mosaic Law in that it imposed penalties against murder, theft, adultery, and kidnapping. It is significantly different in that it directs worship toward the sun, as opposed to directing worship to the LORD God of the Ten Commandments—the One who created the sun.

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<sup>i</sup> Jerry Z. Muller, *Conservatism: An Anthology of Social and Political Thought from David Hume to the Present* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997), 26.

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- ii "Conservatism," Britannica Academic, accessed February 27, 2017, <http://library.mtroyal.ca:2745/levels/collegiate/article/conservatism/117289>.
- iii "History of Gambling," OnlineCasino.ca, accessed February 27, 2017, <https://www.onlinecasino.ca/guides/history#>.
- iv Appendix I: Fiscal Conservatism.
- v Appendix II: Social Conservatism.
- vi Appendix III: Natural Law.
- vii Appendix IV: Intelligent Design.
- viii 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>.
- ix "Article 26." Claiming Human Rights. Accessed April 26, 2017. [http://www.claiminghumanrights.org/udhr\\_article\\_26.html](http://www.claiminghumanrights.org/udhr_article_26.html).
- x For an example of an unwise fiscal initiatives consider the 2017 Federal Liberal Budget. It clarifies the medical expense tax credit so that same-sex couples and individuals can now claim a credit for expenses related to fertility treatments or the equivalent.
- xi 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>.
- xii 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/>.
- xiii Chase, "B.C. MP quits Conservatives to defend views on evolution."
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