Sent as an **open letter** to **a group of scientists concerned about the social effects of climate change.**

Greetings, your article raises social issues which are complexly inter-related with climate change.

On my Webb-site I advocate the following….

We need to reverse mass lateral expansion; by aiming for population reduction of say, -2% pa. Also aim for negative economic growth; reduce GDP *again* by say -2% pa. Simultaneously we need invest in technological & scientific advance to reduce environmental impacts. These 3 practical steps working in partnership with each other should reduce environmental impacts, by say -5% pa.

Such a gradual retreat from the brink may be tough; but will be better than the economic recessions & wars induced by cataclysmic collapse.

Simultaneous with mass lateral contraction we must pursue continuous vertical development in growing science, technology & knowledge generally. Humans get out of bed every morning aiming to build a better tomorrow, *what is the point of human effort & striving if we don’t.*  With the door to continuous mass lateral expansion closed in our face; progressive stage by stage higher vertical development is the **only viable better tomorrow** we can aspire to.

We also need to restore Biblical concepts of SIN, which is not a product of bad people lusting after evil, but of human excess x over-reach in the pursuit of more good than we can have.

The ethos of all civil religions is contribute to society by finding a job, working hard, providing for your family, obey the law, pay your taxes & care for your neighbor so we all have a great future.

The current civil religious ethos has done all that; only to face a world where creative accounting bequeaths us a world awash with fabricated fiat of dubious veracity. We face global warming & possible environmental collapse; are laterally overextended in every direction & also overpopulated.

The civil religions are not exactly paying the dividends claimed for them.

Off note is none of our current existential crises are a product of evil people intentionally wrongful; but a product of too many good people all striving to have too good a life. Such is the **paradoxical nature** of SIN.

Off note is despite conspiracy theories to the contrary humans have little propensity for evil; most humans strive for some concept of good. Only good has the power; only excess x over-reach in pursuit of more good than we can have; commands a **sufficient power** to finish us off in our entirety.

Such is the paradoxical nature of SIN, which the Biblical faiths have battled with for the whole of our developed existence. Off note is, as humanity acquires more power & developed capacity the power of SIN keeps increasing on a pro-rata basis. Thus, the biggest threat to our existence is our most ancient of enemies; too many good people striving for too good a life.

If we are to successfully engage this one, we needs throw out the civil religions & restore Christianity.

The manta of the last 2 centuries 1,800 - 2,000 AD; has been **it’s the economy stupid** not least as recent economic growth has facilitated human development in all fields.

The incoming mantra for the next two centuries will be **its sustainability stupid**; not least as without environmental sustainability we will not even be here to be doing anything else.

What the mantra of the centuries after ,2200 will be depends on whether space migration proves a viable proposition or not. If space migration is not viable, we will have to focus on vertical development within the material limits of this biosphere.

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As an addendum;below is a **simple condensation** of positions more laboriously advanced on my Webb-site.

Evil or intentionally wrongful acts are easy to counter. The Bible condemns them, & most societies subscribe to various laws holding ~thou shalt not seek to know or do anything which is willfully wrongful~ Such edicts have a sound moral & practical base; also humans find it virtuous to take a stand against intentional evil & wrongdoing.

Yet for all the trouble it causes, evil does not attract much popular following or uptake; thus evil’s **relative power** to harm us is quite small. By comparison humans naturally aspire to various forms of good, thus **only SIN** (excess x over-reach in pursuit of more good than we can have) commands a sufficient power to deliver us to eternal damnation or eternal extinction.

Yet it is very difficult to restrain human pursuit of good. The Bible seeks to **redeem** sin, rather than condemn it the way it condemns evil. *Where humans naturally, deeply & strongly aspire to seek that perceived to be good; we can hardly be condemned for excess in pursuit thereof.*

If any human office proclaimed a law ~thou shalt not seek to know or do anything that is good~ public reaction would be such they would not remain in office for long enough for the ink to dry on the proclamation. There is no possible moral or practical basis for such a law.

Instead the Church holds ~thou shalt not seek to know or do anything which is good in our fallen humanity; rather seek to know, do & serve only the **true goodness** of the Biblical God~

I further subscribe to the Biblical position ~**all are born sinners**~ All are born with a driving hunger for more good than we can *currently* have, not least as such is an essential driver for any progressively developing species.

*In consequence the resultant Church Canon Law is* ***a restraint of human appetites ethos****, it is not a condemnation of natural human appetites ethos. It holds SIN (hungering for that perceived to be good) a natural aspiration of man; but also holds excess* ***so consequential*** *it must be restrained.*

Or on listening to a conversation on a public bus a few days ago, as one young Island lady explained to her boyfriend ~Sometimes when you pray to God & he does not give you what you want; it is because he has a better plan~ *Good one girl, you are on the right track.*

Ken Maynard.

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