

Introduction

In a world under the judgment of sin and death, there is nothing more valuable than a solution to the problem of sin and death. Therefore, the most important gift anyone can receive is the gift of eternal life.

If you have received the gift of eternal life, the second-most-important gift is the understanding of why you exist and, therefore, how you should live.

This book addresses the second of these questions: How should we live?

The proposed answer is presented from a Christian worldview. Accordingly, the Bible is assumed to be the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God, who is the sovereign, intentional, strategic Creator of the heavens and the earth. The Bible, as historically interpreted by the Christian church (*ekklesia*) under the illumination of the Holy Spirit, is the authority for defining all the worldview building blocks—*theology, ontology, epistemology, hermeneutics, anthropology, teleology, and ethics*. This means a Christian worldview is based on the triune God revealed in the Bible who is the transcendent reference point for understanding all truth and reality.

One of the keys to unlocking the revelation of Scripture for mankind is that Jesus, the second person of the triune God of the Bible, is both Lord and Christ. Many readily claim that Jesus is Christ, the suffering servant of Old Testament Scripture, who died to pay for the sin of fallen mankind. But a smaller number understand that Jesus is Lord of all. This book presumes the truth that all authentic Christians will submit holistically to the lordship of Jesus. Such people will grow progressively in their capacity to live under the lordship of Jesus.

Given that Scripture is the best revelation about God, it is the foundation for building a Christian worldview. Scripture reveals God to be the sovereign Creator, sustainer, and ultimate purpose of the existence of the universe. This means that God creates and rules with intent and purpose. From God's perspective, there are no accidents. Everything happens in accordance with his will and to serve his purpose. This intimates that all humans and all organizations exist to serve God's purpose. And God has given biblical principles to guide mankind into alignment with God's will and ways. One of these principles is the C4 Principle.

The C4 Principle is not an invention of man, but a principle revealed in Scripture. The principle is used to assign work to people based on their divinely ordained calling. Numerous biblical texts illustrate how we can use the principle today.

To properly apply the C4 Principle requires basic understanding of Scripture regarding truths such as the depth of the fallen condition of mankind, the metanarrative of redemption, the true Great Commission, and the continuity between the Old and New Testaments.

Based on sound scriptural understanding, the C4 Principle can be applied to guide mankind into work assignments holistically, that is, in every jurisdiction—personal, families, Christian communities, workplaces, and civil government.

The book concludes by applying the C4 Principle individually and organizationally.

The predicate for building organizations of any type congruent with the will of God is to build utilizing people called by God to serve in the organizations, that is, C4 people. The Beyond Babel model presented in my book *Beyond Babel* is a tool used to facilitate building accordingly. A prerequisite to building organizations biblically is building with the right

people—those who have C4 specifically to be part of the organization.

Individual success is finding and fulfilling God’s purpose. The C4 Principle is a tool to guide each person.

And organizational success is finding and fulfilling God’s purpose. Building an organization with C4 people is, therefore, a necessary predicate.

This understanding is not common today. To facilitate your understanding, a section of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found at the end.

The journey of learning and applying the C4 Principle is progressive. Life has many phases and each phase is an opportunity to gain clarity regarding your purpose and to make course corrections accordingly. One example of the scriptural mandate on this point is found in the book of Hebrews:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (12:1–2 NIV)

In this text, life is compared to a race that happens over time and requires coaching, training, maturing, perseverance, suffering, and faith. This is excellent imagery for the journey of life.

May the Lord grant you grace to align your life with his purpose and may you have grace to run your race well for his glory. May this book be a tool to help you to this end.

The 4 Principle

