

CULTURE AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES

ENGAGING THE PROPHETIC EDGE IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION



Culture

- Elements of culture
 - Fundamental beliefs and core values
 - Broad social norms
 - Arrangements for governance, social control
 - Processes for acculturation
- Power, Privilege, and Prestige
 - Modes of allocating and exercising social standing
 - The marginalized

“Money alone does not guarantee a fulfilling life, and excessive amounts of money more often become an obstacle to it.” Lynne Twist

Social Structures

- Operate within cultures to organize human activity
- Examples
 - Family, work institutions, churches, associations, governments, legal structures, economic structures
- Defined by rules, roles, and relationships
- We operate within multiple structures, but mostly within one culture

God Acts Within Cultures and Structures

- Cultures and structures are human creations
- And are also within the creative activity of God
- The Divine intention is that cultures and structures align with God's commonwealth (or "kingdom of heaven")
- Cultures and structures both open up and restrict possibilities for human action
 - Humans can shape cultures and structures
 - That shaping action can be either toward or away from the heart of God