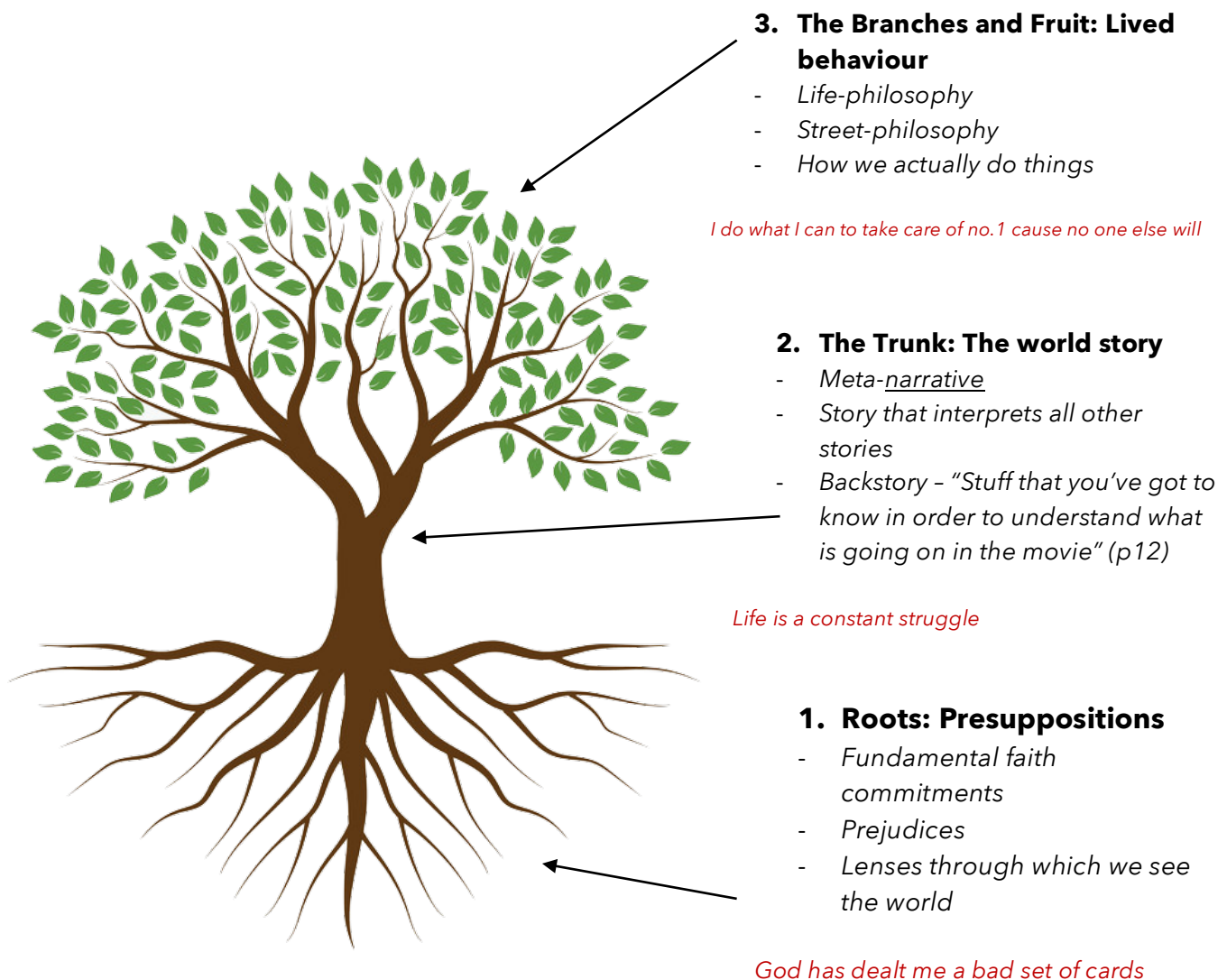


Place: Cultural Exegesis: Part 2

Ted Turnau's Worldview Tree¹

"Worldviews are rooted in assumptions about reality (presuppositions); and from these assumptions flows a story that tries to make sense of our lives and reality (world-story); and out of this world-story flows a specific life-philosophy system (even if it is only a rudimentary street philosophy); and from this life-philosophy flows our applied beliefs about all sorts of things; and from these beliefs we live and act. Worldviews are organic, complex roots-to-fruits systems." Turnau, 14-15.



¹ Ted Turnau, Popologetics: Popular Culture in Christian Perspective, (Phillipsburg, New Jersey.: P&R Publishing, 2012), 8-15

Ted Turnau's 5 Questions to engage with cultural artefacts/ideas²

- 1. What's the story?**
- 2. Where am I? What is the world of this story? What are the rules in this world?**
- 3. What is good and true and beautiful in this world?**
- 4. What is false and ugly and perverse in this world?**
- 5. How does the Gospel apply here?**

Therefore.... a sixth question....

- 6. How does this help shape our church plant plans and culture?**

Avoiding Ethnocentrism

Ethno-centricity = judging another culture by your own culture

Duncan Forbes³

1. Different cultures see the *same things* in different ways
2. Different cultures have different perspectives on *basic values of life*
3. Different cultures have different *worldviews*

What's the danger?

- We approve or disapprove of others actions based on our own cultural bias
- We mistake cultural issues as sin issues
- We bring sinful elements of our own culture into the church
- We think someone has been converted to Christ when they have just been converted to our culture
- We think someone hasn't been converted to Christ if they haven't been converted to our culture
- We miss what God is actually doing in people lives
- A confused and divided church

² Ted Turnau, *Popologetics: Popular Culture in Christian Perspective*, (Phillipsburg, New Jersey.: P&R Publishing, 2012), 211, 215-246

³ Duncan Forbes, *UMPlite 3: Ethnocentrism and How Cultures think* (Video)

How to try to avoid Ethnocentrism (Duncan Forbes and Tim Keller)

1. **Self-Critique** – Critique your own culture first (and continually)
2. **Enter: Appreciate and Empathise** – how do they reflect God better? What heart issues do we share?
3. **Engage: Confront and appeal** – How might the gospel challenge this culture? How might the gospel bring hope in this culture?

Let's give it a go...

Situation	Self-Critique, Enter, Engage	Decision
Choosing a church name		
Deciding on how to do membership		
What time does church start?		
Pub trip after the service?		
Teaching God as Father		
What to do at midweek groups		
Preaching Matthew 27:26		
A member stops coming to church		
A new believer is living with her partner, 3 kids, but not married and wants to get baptised		
What to call the leadership team? Elders, pastors, leaders...		

How to do church discipline?		
Man who bets on the horses and a man who works on the stock exchange. Any difference?		
Should women wear head coverings to speak in church?		
What do you wear at the front of church?		
Tea and Coffee in the service.		
Smoking break? Yes or no.		
Do we let the church know how much the pastor is paid?		
How do you engage new comers?		