

Watershed Discipleship

Cherice Bock
Berkeley Friends Church
Quaker Heritage Day
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Affluenza Quiz

- Which of the following is comparable in size to today's typical three-car garage?
 - a) A basketball court
 - b) A McDonald's restaurant
 - c) An RV (recreational vehicle)
 - d) The average home in the 1950s

Affluenza Quiz

- Since the 1950s, Americans have used more resources than:
 - a) Everyone who ever lived before them
 - b) The combined Third World populations
 - c) The Romans at the height of the Roman Empire
 - d) All of the above

Affluenza

- “A painful, contagious, socially transmitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety, and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more.”
(John de Graff, David Wann, Thomas H. Naylor, *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic*)

Affluenza

“Our technologically advanced society has achieved wonders our ancestors could never have envisioned. We’ve put people on the moon, decoded DNA, and cured diseases. The problem is this collective level of power is also destroying our world. Countless seemingly innocent activities and choices are acting together to bring about the sixth mass extinction in our planet’s history.”

(Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone, *Active Hope*)

Structural Sin

- “Sin in its fullest sense refers to disorientation from right relationship with God, which then leads to disorientation from right relationship with self, others, and all of creation.”

(Moe-Lobeda, Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation, 58)

Privilege Paradox

- Structural sin can't be dismantled by individual actions, but...
- It can't be dismantled without them
- Need collective action, "collective moral agency" (Moe-Lobeda, 62)

Watershed Conquest

- Doctrine of Discovery: 15th century papal bulls
 - “Discovered” lands, territories, resources, and people claimed for state
 - Entire watershed: “principle of contiguity”
 - Colonizing claims in the name of the church
- Based on “Great Commission”



Watershed Conquest

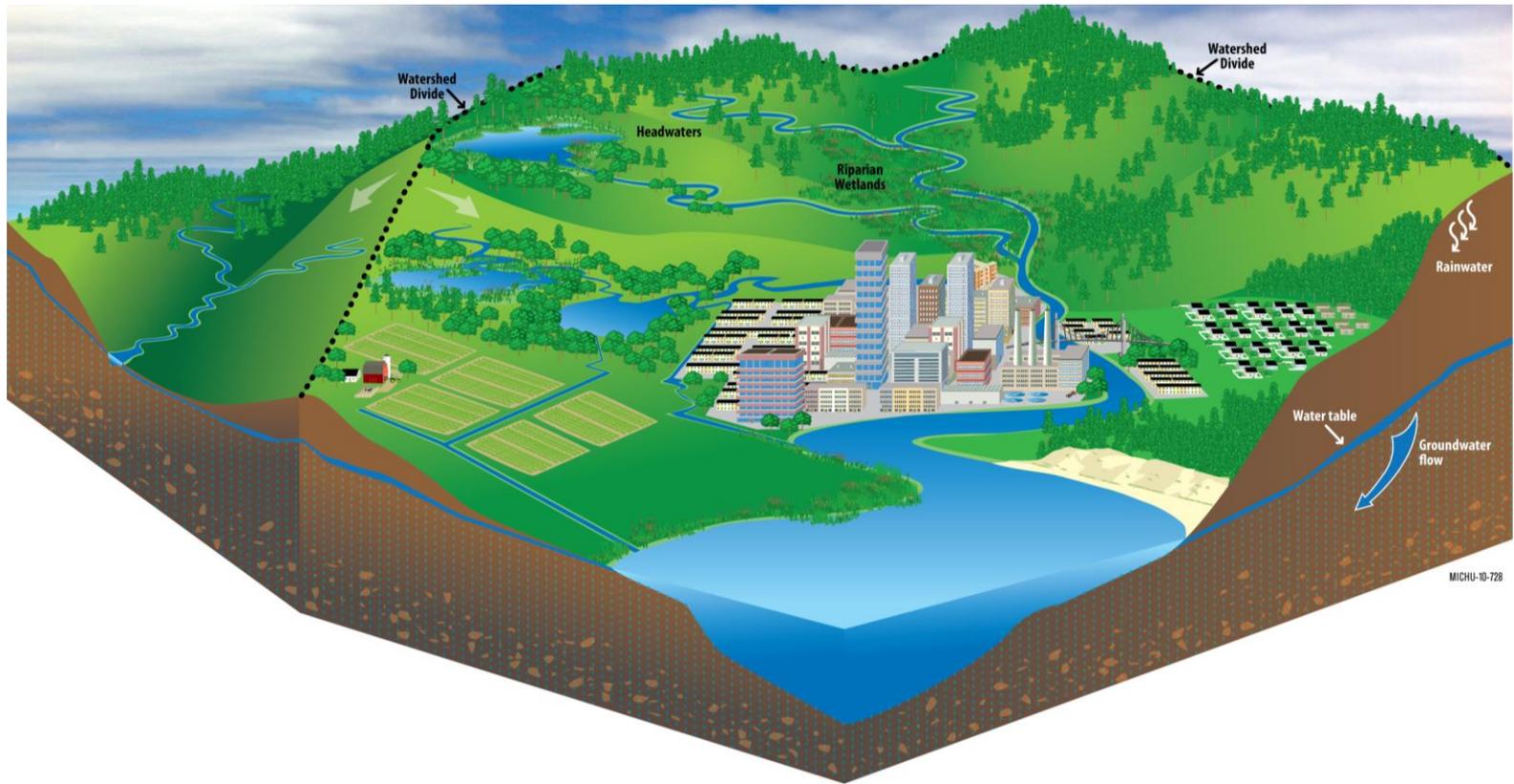
- Functional Docetism: separate souls and bodies
- Humanity hierarchically above rest of creation, closer to God; creation here for us
- Claiming divine grant of the land to European nations because they were spreading the “Gospel”

Watershed Discipleship

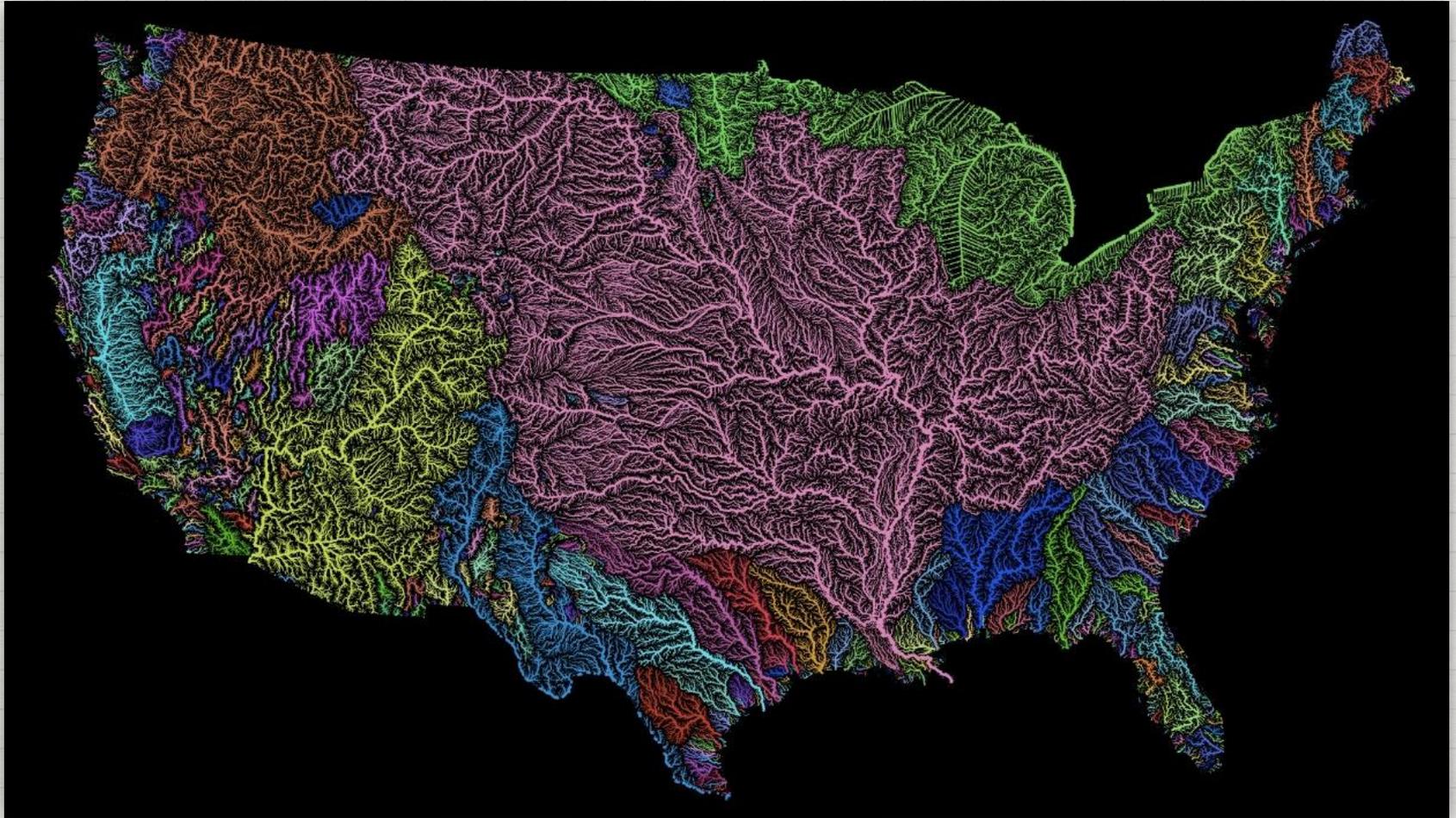
- Watershed moment
- Disciples **in** our watersheds (reinhabiting, re-placed)
- Disciples **of** our watersheds



What is a watershed?



WATERSHEDS IN THE USA

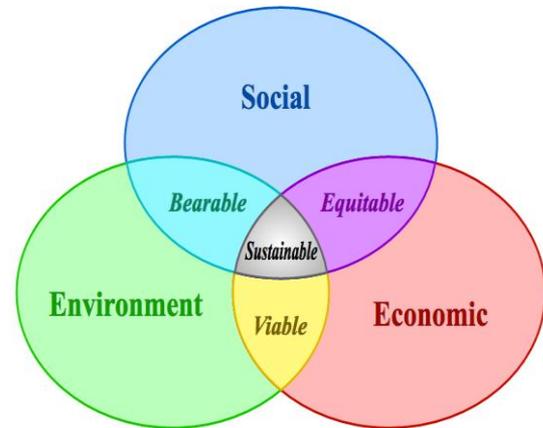


Avoiding NIMBYism

- “Do unto others downstream what you would have those upstream do unto you.” (Wendell Berry)
- “Tending to our place tends the world.” (Jonathan McRay)
- “We won’t save places we don’t love; we can’t love places we don’t know; and we don’t know places we haven’t learned.” (Ched Myers, paraphrasing Baba Dioum)

Potentials of watershed discipleship

- Shalom balances NIMBYism
- Local economy
- Palatable to the political spectrum
- Doable
- Future of the church





Despair and pain
are normal
responses

What do we do?

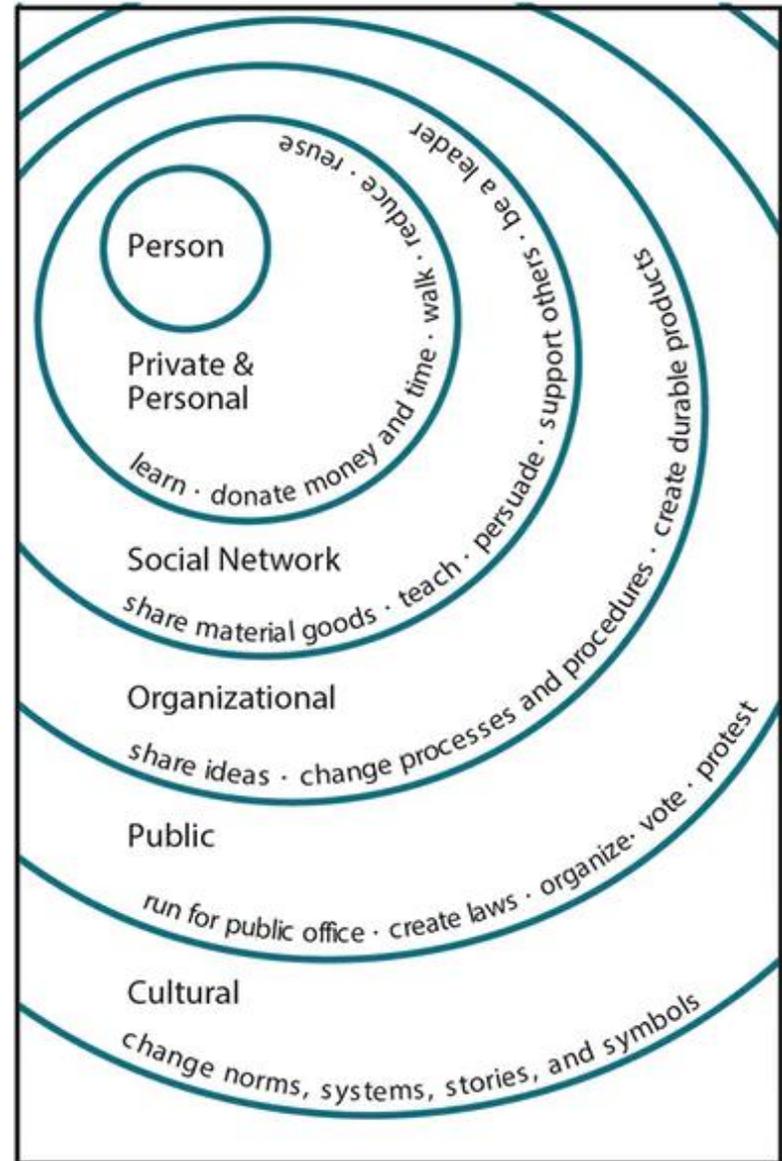
- Lament
- Confession
- Repentance
- Atonement

Hope & Climate Change

- See reality as it is
- Grieve, commit to turning around
- Imagine
- Plan
- Take a step...and another...with people
- Celebrate & reevaluate
- Practice trust and gratitude



Spheres of influence & individual actions



Make a Plan

- Personal
- Neighborhood and social network
- Organization: Berkeley Friends (or other community group)
- Public
- Cultural

Focus on Berkeley

- Based on what we've learned in this series, what do we envision for Berkeley, moving forward?
- What steps can we take today to start moving in that direction?