

Binding Up our Nation's Wounds

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Matthew 13: Purpose of Parables

The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply: "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted... This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see, and hear but do not listen or understand... But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it..."

Who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:29-37)

A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to a place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him upon his own animal, took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, "Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I will repay you on my way back."

Integral Ethics for Social Workers

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- Integral ethics is a meta-ethical model for both practitioners and educators
- Purpose: To help practitioners and educators SEE more and filter out LESS, so that they can more authentically engage differing perspectives and experiences WITHOUT compromising their own beliefs and ethical orientations.
- Last 4 pages is a non-Catholic's attempt to discuss Pope Francis as an example of integral ethics in action.



Once *seen* in this more complicated and nuanced way, ethical decision-making becomes more dynamic ...

- To understand our own decisions more fully as well as the decisions of others, we need to move from quadrant to quadrant, depending on the issue and the particular context we are in.
- The integral paradigm helps us see where we get stuck, and also gives us insight into how and where others may also be getting stuck.
- And, it can offer us ideas about how we can keep *moving*, and still be true to ourselves (not just fake it).

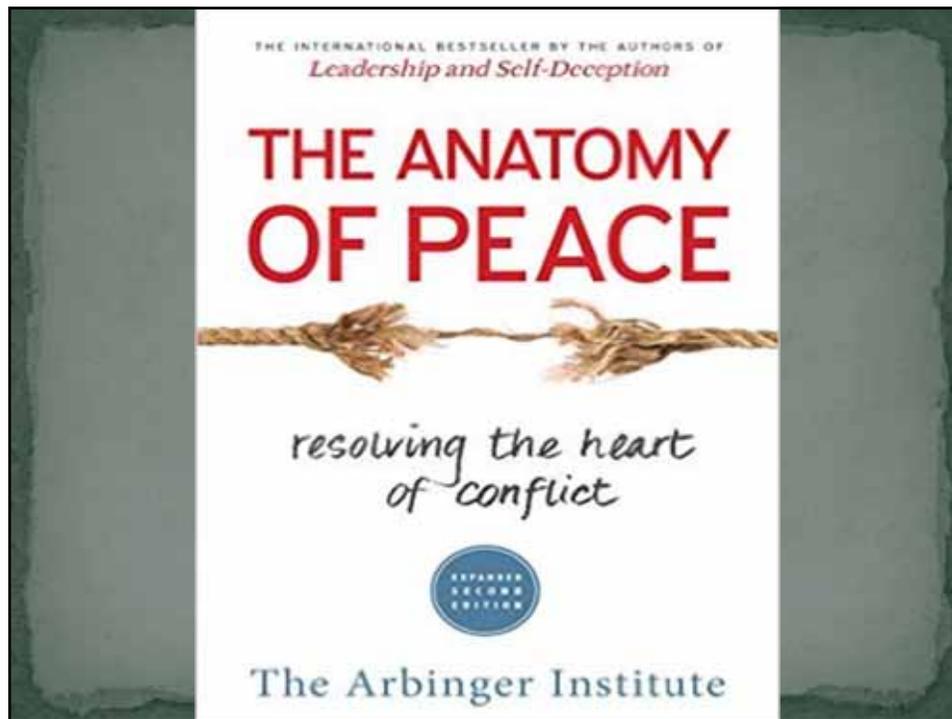
Identifying your “dominant hand”

- Why this is important
- Need for self-reflection time and practice SEEING
- Homework

Here's the good news ...

When we use this model to become more conscious, we actually create more space for ourselves to respond to all of the complexities authentically and with less fear. We don't feel pressured to agree with every point of view, nor do we feel pressured to defend one particular position exclusively *because* we can actually... **see** a more **complicated**, *interconnected* reality !!!

This perspective provides us with a nonjudgmental reference point for maintaining consciousness of our own development instead of becoming cynical or hard-hearted towards others who are reasoning differently because of where they are in *theirs*.



As painful as it is to receive contempt *from* another, it is more debilitating by far to be filled with contempt *for* another. In this too I speak from painful experience. My own contempt for others is the most debilitating contempt of all, for when I am in the middle of it— **when I'm seeing resentfully and disdainfully— I condemn myself to living in a disdained and resentful world (emphasis added).**

-- *Anatomy of Peace*, p.96

THE BETTER-THAN BOX		THE I-DESERVE BOX	
View of Myself Superior Important Virtuous/Right	View of Others Inferior Incapable/Irrelevant False/Wrong	View of Myself Meritorious Mistreated/Victim Unappreciated	View of Others Mistaken Mistreating Ungrateful
Feelings Impatient Disdainful Indifferent	View of World Competitive Troubled Needs me	Feelings Entitled Deprived Resentful	View of World Unfair Unjust Owes me
THE MUST-BE-SEEN-AS BOX		THE WORSE-THAN BOX	
View of Myself Need to be well thought of Fake	View of Others Judgmental Threatening My audience	View of Myself Not as good Broken/Deficient Fated	View of Others Advantaged Privileged Blessed
Feelings Anxious/Afraid Needy/Stressed Overwhelmed	View of World Dangerous Watching Judging me	Feelings Helpless Jealous/Bitter Depressed	View of World Hard/Difficult Against me Ignoring me



Recovering Inner Clarity and Peace

- Look for the signs of the box (blame, justification, horribilization, common box styles, etc.)
- Find an out-of-the-box place (out-of-the-box relationships, memories, activities, places etc.)
- Ponder the situation anew (i.e., from this out-of-the-box perspective).
- Act upon what I have discovered; do what I am feeling I should do.

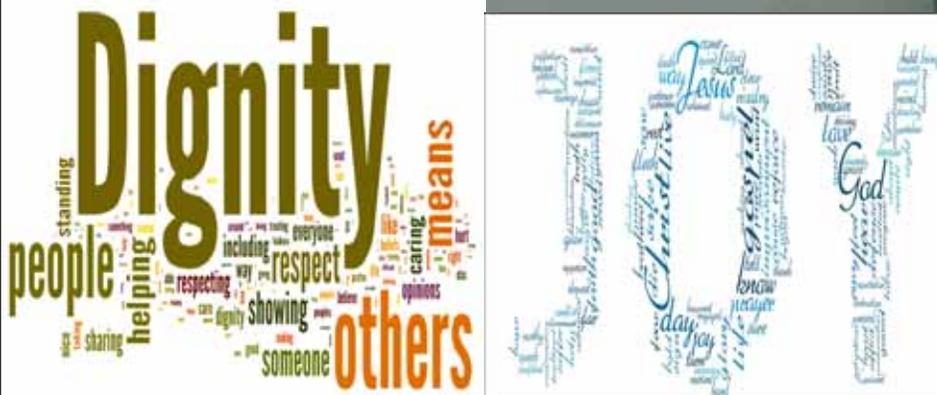
To get out and stay out of the boxes, say NOPE:

- N: Notice the red flags
- O: Find an Out-of-the-box space
- P: Ponder the situation anew
- E: Execute (ACT upon) what you can now SEE!

When our hearts are at peace we can actually consider:

- What are this person's or people's challenges, trials, burdens or pains?
- How am I or some group of which I am a part, adding to these challenges, trials, burdens, and pains?
- In what ways have I (or some people in my group) neglected or mistreated this person or group?
- How have my boxes been getting in the way?
- What am I feeling I need to DO now? What could I do to help?

Since we want to serve with



So be it!