

THE PARADOXE OF MODERN LIFE

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A Compass-less World

Introduction:

These notes are inspired in a letter-message of George Carlin, a comedian of the 1970's and 1980's it's amazing that a modern comedian could write something so relevant and appropriate for us men of the XXI Century

Intent of these jottings

We – modern men - have become a paradox, a bundle of contradictions lost and unhappy exiles in a pseudo-earthly paradise.

We are disoriented, confused and frustrated, living in a meaningless and enigmatic world. These jottings may set us thinking and reflecting on how.

- *To find our way in the tangle what life is today.*
- *To build our selfhood amidst an impersonal society*
- *To discover meaning in a meaningless and contradicting world*
- *To make our days count, rather than count our days.*

The paradoxes of our time

1. We have taller buildings but shorter tempers,
2. Wider freeways but narrower view points.
3. We spend more, but have less,
4. We buy more, but enjoy little
5. We have bigger houses and smaller families,
6. We have more conveniences, but less time.
7. We have more degrees but less wisdom.
8. More knowledge, but less judgment,
9. More experts, yet more problems,
10. More medicines, but less wellness.
11. More cosmetics, less beauty
12. More pleasures, but less joy.
13. We come to know more people, yet we have less friends.
14. We drink and eat too much but laugh too little,
15. We drive too fast, stay up too late, but rest too little
16. Watch TV and internet too much, but read too little,
17. We have more possessions, but fewer values.
18. We talk too much, and say too little
19. We abuse too often and apologize too seldom
20. We have more pleasures, but less happiness
21. More sex but less love
22. More closeness, less intimacy.
23. More parties and celebrations but less fellowship

24. We have more information, but less formation.
25. We have too much surface and little depth,
26. We've been all the way to the moon but we can't
27. cross the street to meet a neighbor in need.
28. We conquered outer space but not inner space.
29. We've done larger things, but not better things.
30. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice
31. We plan more, but accomplish less.
32. We've learned to rush, but not to wait.
33. We have lots of mass media communication gadgets,
34. But, we communicate less
35. These are the times of fast foods and slow digestions,
36. We have more celebrities, but puny characters,
37. High profits and ;low personal relationships.
38. These are the days of two incomes but more divorces,
39. Fancier houses, but broken homes.
40. These are days of disposable commodities, and
of throw-away morality,
41. Over-weight bodies and starved souls.
42. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life.
43. We've added years to life but not life to years.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Modern man lost the coordinates of a meaningful living, namely **God and Neighbor**.
- As a ship cannot cross the seas without keeping in touch with the altitude and the longitude of her position, so man cannot lead a meaningful life without being in touch with the coordinates of his life, namely: **God and Neighbor**
- Once God is lost sight of in our compass box, **our attitude is erased**. We shall not be able to move higher. Our world becomes a **godless world**.
- If we lose control of the **longitude** in our compass box, namely our contact and concern for our brothers and sisters, we shall get stuck into our poor egos.
- We shall not be able to go to others in love. Our world becomes a **selfish-egoistic and puny world**.
- In such a egoistic, materialistic and puny world, material progress and advances may be possible, but not happiness and meaning
- In a world without God and concern for others, life becomes contradicting and incongruent. .
- In fact, it is the loss of God and the loss of concern for others, that explains the paradoxes of our modern life..
- We keep endlessly moving right and left, left and right, up and own, down an up frantically, looking for meaning and purpose in life. but we find none!
- Unless we reclaim **God and neighbor** as the coordinates of life. living will be chaos and absurd.

Thoughts for Prayer and Action

Remember

Make time for God

Raise your eyes and mind upwards

Trust Him as a father

Abandon yourself to His providence

Make Him the polar star of your life

Make time for others.

People are not strangers, but brothers and sisters yet to be discovered.

Share your life with them.

Time spent with others is better than time spent for others.

All humanity, you and me also, travel in the ship to a common destination.

Spend some time with your loved ones,

They are not going to be around forever.

Say a kind word to the little one, who look up to you in awe,

These little ones soon will grow up

and plunge into our compass-less world

Give a warm hug to anyone next door, because

that is the best treasure you can give without much cost.

Say, 'I love you' to your partner and to your loved ones.

Give a sympathetic kiss and embrace to those who are hurting.

Surely, you will heal their hurts if your hugs and kisses come from deep inside of you.

Cherish any happy moments that comes your way

Keep your compass-box in order

Keep God and Man as the two poles of your transient life.

Love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take,

But by the moments that take our breath away

Do not count your days, make your days count

The world of men is made of persons not of things.

Love persons as persons

Not as things

