

-We've been talking about **The Tyranny of 'Form' versus The Freedom of 'Function'**

In John White's book *Magnificent Obsession* he records part of an actual letter written by an American communist living in Mexico City who was writing to break up with his fiancée. Here's a portion of that letter:

"We communists suffer many casualties. We are those whom they shoot, hang, lynch, tar and feather, imprison, slander, fire from our jobs and whose lives people make miserable in every way possible. Some of us are killed and imprisoned. We live in poverty. From what we earn we turn over to the Party every cent, which we do not absolutely need to live.

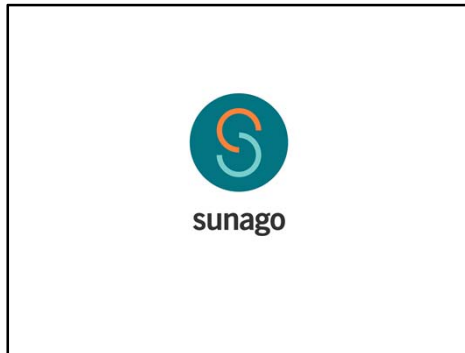
We communists have neither time nor money to go to movies very often, nor for concerts, nor for beautiful homes and new cars. They call us fanatics. We are fanatics. Our lives are dominated by one supreme factor – the struggle for world communism. We communists have a philosophy of life that money could not buy.

We have a cause to fight for, a specific goal in life. We lose our insignificant identities in the great river of humanity; and if our personal lives seem hard or if our egos seem bruised through subordination to the Party, we are amply rewarded in the thought that all of us, even though it be in a very small way, are contributing something new and better for humanity.

There is one thing about which I am completely in earnest – the communist cause. It is my life, my business, my religion, my hobby, my sweetheart, my wife, my mistress, my meat and drink. I work at it by day and dream of it by night. Its control over me grows greater with the passage of time. Therefore I cannot have a friend, a lover or even a conversation without relating them to this power that animates and controls my life. I measure people, books, ideas, and deeds according to the way they affect the communist cause and by their attitude to it. I have already been in jail for my ideas, and if need be I am ready to face death."

2 Corinthians 11:3³ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:14–18 ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,



Sunago: *the gathering*

Why did we start Sunago?

Our mandates are simple:

Matthew 22:36-40

Matthew 28:18-20

Does my life reflect these mandates?

Whose business (John 4:34) am I really about?

Are my priorities consistent with Jesus' priorities?

John 8:28–29 ²⁸ So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. ²⁹ "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

John 17:4 ⁴ "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

What I learned from Jim:

1. An uncompromising commitment to the truth of God's Word
2. An ever increasing love of God's Word / Jesus
3. A simple philosophy of life: "read, pray, obey"
4. An infectious joy of the Lord was his strength ("...Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10)
5. An unwavering faithfulness to God's people (the church/ the bride of Christ) **Mark 10:45**
~last night looking for EIN Jim filled back in November 2003
6. A relentless love of his family
7. An abandoned, selfless, self sacrificing love for Jo
~Tack Room (Tucson) Cinderella
~Nintendo all night
~"Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her."
8. A passion for people to know Jesus
~Dr. - "99% sure your husband will be in your bed on Saturday night."
After surgery: "I'm done, I'm done, this never should have happened." "Today these hands didn't take a life." Larry: "Joanne cries at grocery store grand openings."
~Nurse Timothy - "I've been working in this hospital for 20 years and I have never seen this kind of response to a loved one's death."
~Jo: "I didn't get left behind, this is about Jim's reward not my loss."
"Jim passed from life to life"

**5 results when FORM submits to FUNCTION
(Matthew 13:24-33, 44-46)**

1. Kingdom conflict: a given (vs. 24-25)
2. Kingdom clothing: fruit (vs. 26)
3. Kingdom context: among them (vs. 27-30)
4. Kingdom consequence: transformation (vs. 31-33)
5. Kingdom cause: JESUS (vs. 44-46)

- 1) John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12
- 2) Galatians 5:22-23; John 13:34-35
- 3) Mark 2:14-17
- 4) Romans 12:1-3
- 5) Psalms 73:25; Matthew 6:33

**3 attitudes for FORM to submit to FUNCTION
(Matthew 28:16-18)**

1. Availability not ability = surrendered heart
2. Worship not self satisfaction = selfless heart
3. Submission not control = humble heart

sunago

**2 commands in making FORM submit to FUNCTION
(Matthew 28:19-20)**

1. “make disciples”
 - a. When: “as you go” or “having gone”
 - b. Who & Where: “all the nations”
 - c. How: “baptizing” & “teaching”
2. “lo” or “behold” Jesus

~1 Cor. 9:19-23

2 Corinthians 3:18 ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 ²⁴ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

**1 priority for FORM to submit to FUNCTION
(Matthew 22:36-40)**

1. LOVE

- a. God – Deuteronomy 6:5
- b. People – Leviticus 19:18
 - 1) John 14:1-12, 18-20; 15:1-10

2 Corinthians 5:14–18 ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. ¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

1 John 4:19–21 ¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

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John 14:15 ¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:21 ²¹ "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

John 14:23 ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

John 14:31 ³¹ but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

John 15:10 ¹⁰ "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

JOHN 14:1-12, 18-20; 15:1-10

DOES THE LOVE OF CHRIST CONTROL US?

DOES MY LIFE REFLECT HIS PRIORITIES?

HOW CAN I CHANGE?

-sick of where you're at

-accountability (Hebrews 3:12-13)

Application:

Revelation 2:4-5

Luke 14:16-33

Matthew 9:36-38 (Mark 1:40-41)