

Nov. 27, 1974

The New Human

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Nadine Ward

We are in a great time of transition where everything is just upset, but it is the greatest time to be alive that there is. And I remember that movie *Persistence of Vision* where at a deep, deep level of that mighty ocean that was coming at those men and the look on their faces as they saw that wave coming over and slowly over turning that ship. That submarine in that situation the wave won that time by upsetting that submarine, but you and I riding a crest of the wave. You and I have not a hint of what it's going to look like, but we have some ideas. We have images of what that's going to look like. At one time we were in the midst of a pre civilization where man had to define what it meant to be man and then moved to post civilization and again the question of what it meant to be man was being raised. And now you and I are standing here like in the midst of a hurricane and it has caused a wave and a ground swell. And the question of what it means to be man is being raised again at hand and you and I hold within our hands at this time in history and in society the social paralysis that we experience because of collapse of covenant because of everything is being redefined, because we stand in this generation deciding what that is because every generation has to decide for itself what it means to live as a total human being. And another movie is one called "Law and Disorder", where this man has a taxi-cab job and he volunteers for a police service and his family is in a state of collapse and he cannot talk with his daughter, she bangs the door, slaps him in the face and she is off on pot or something and when he goes and tries to get this drug store. He lays out this fantastic plan how he is going to get his money and what he's going to do after he opens up chains and he goes and talks to his daughter and she said to him "no", so that collapses on him, and at the end of that movie the setting is something like this, there are two passengers in a taxi cab and they are trying to get to the airport, the whole thing is in New York, and the lady says that this man doesn't act like he wants to drive this taxi cab at all, he doesn't want to get us there and he is taking up the wrong way, I think a person should not do something they think they ought not to be doing. As a matter of fact he doesn't know how to do it. So he turns around to her and says, "Lady you are alright". He stops the cab right on the expressway and is walking back and that is the end of the movie. That's part of the collapse we are facing today in the midst of social paralysis. And the whole issue of the kind of ethics we have in our time. You know we are over the period of situational ethics, we are dealing with conceptual ethics where we are redefining values and trying to decide what are the moral issues that we need to address ourselves to. You and I know that all is possible and anything can go, but the question is what is necessary, what values need to be held, what trends need to be picked up and continued on into the 21 century and which ones need to be changed and what needs to be dropped. That is the kind of issues. We are experiencing a rebirth of mankind, a new man coming into being. Humanness all over again. Like the

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community called "Church", he said this is one of the greatest human re-velution there are in the midst of history and we are experiencing it today. This is one of the most human times we are experiencing in the midst of history today. It's a advent of mankind. The line that there is wonder in most everything I see, is decerning the meaning of every situation you show up in today. The question about meaning is not one related to the past, but is talking about that moment and that time in that situation, how do I live in this situation I'm in, right now. There is a lady at work, and her name is Mrs. Sandine and yesterday her conversation went something like this, "How are you you today?"; I said, "I'm fine. she said, "you know I'm fine too." I'm alive and I'm well. I said well me too. Then she said well there will be at least two people who will live their lives today fully, and that was the end of the conversation. and we went right on with our business, may I speak with Mrs. Becker was here next line. Then there is something like there will be not more TDRX days or blue Mondays, because of the situation we are in now decovering the meaning of life, right now, we can do that. This mundane conversation like "how are you", how you address the life of a person who is saying I would not continue this silence, I understand exactly what we are doing here. Or grasping for a context of how it is he experiences life at that particular time. Well, one thing that is going to change the social process, the church, the world and all of mankind is understanding that you and I are creating the future. You and I are the social process we are the world, the church and we are symbols of what it means to be human in the world that we show up in today. And we can break through the limits of human beings. We can transform our lives. You and I stand out here in the midst of creation and talk about the new human. Well, I'm going to draw this brief picture right now and give some content to that. It 's like addressing the lives you encounter, you become a configurations of events, that you show up being a self when you dare to bleed the meaning out of every situation and dare to transform your neighbor's life as you encounter and as he encounters you. You know no one can see your name and no one can see what you are doing. All they see is being. All they see is being. That you can transform your life and the life of everyman in being itself. And we are talking about some stuff here just to get our minds around that new humanness. I'm not talking about what it should be, not what it ought to be, but a way you and I grasp our lives today, the uniqueness, the gift of life itself. And because of the interwovenness of our social relationships we show up being. We have to decide how it is we will relate to one another. How every it is that we relate to our neighbor and how it is he relates to his neighbor's life, and back to you, how do you relate to the mystery of life itself. That is how you grasp ahold of humanness. How it is I relate to the Mystery of Life. Another chain being that of the phases. You and I show up in four phases. Four great life times. Everytime we are participating we are in some phase of life itself. It is either experimenting, pioneering, being the guardians of the firms and the structures, or being the elder of transferring the wisdom to those coming behind us. There was a 92 year of old lady in the course in Cincinnati, a fantastic woman who raised up and said, "I'm 92 years old and my name is Mrs. Jones and am here to tell you that I lived through the assassination of President McKinley and I was also present when the Wright Brothers experimented with flying the airplane. I marveled at that woman being

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able to sit there and talk about that kind of history. I would never do that, but by her life history was rewritten for me. Now we have the possibility living in the age where global polity, new economy system is coming into being. And who knows about the schools that are going to be recreated and that education systems will never be the same and the community is selfconsciously picking up the possibility of what it means to be community and daring to suffer through the issues of the family, society and daring to make changes. That's longings all about, that's at the deeps of the wave that has been coming into being. And I'm just 5 years old, that all, just 5 years old, in the midst of the phases of life. And I look forward to living those other two. And becoming 1,2,3,4 and 5 all over again. On top of that, the sexual gift of being human. It is great to be a man. It is great to be a woman. It is one in the same. It is just being itself, one and the same. But, you don't understand either one of those, or being itself without both of those, the maleness and femaleness. When you ask the question of what it means to be a man in the midst of the situation, your question really is how do I be being overagainst the radical revealness of the Mystery. ~~that you encounter.~~ It's the same question with the women, How do I be being overagainst the radical revealness of the Mystery that you encounter because of the otherness present. It is great to be male and female today. Another key to humanness is vocation. Vocation is a style of life. How do I participate in the greatest privilege that has been granted to me by God himself. in creating the destiny of everyman. This becomes a free venture. And that free venture knows itself a divine guidance, comprehensive vision, tactical thinking and practical application or action that we show up in. That's the move to the fact those keys to understanding humanness is understanding how it is you are going to responsibility respond to call and cry of the world when it is standing screaming. How in the world do I live in such a complex society and knowing that suicide is nothing anymore. And talk about trying to escape, you just don't, you can't get away. That call to the significant task of being human is one from the world. Saying how it is that I be human. You talk about an interrelatedness there, there was a man in the course talking about trends, because of this interrelatedness what trends do you see going on there, with economic, political, cultural and disestablishment, establishment? He said I see a global communism, and he did not mean communism like we don't mean religion, he means commonality that we are grasping for. Global commonness. Not com-mun-ism. He discovered he was talking about being a global man. This silly little poem I learn in Sunday School when growing up-Jesus loves the little children of the world. Red and yellow black and white-they are precious in his sight. That you show up as a global human being. Now that didn't make any sense to me at first, until a few days ago, my son was sort of kidding me about how it is he needs more brothers and sisters. And I said you have enough. And he said, mom, I'm not serious about that issue, but I discovered that Tom is my brother, Tad, Mathew Mann. He gave me this list of seven that was his brother. He was clear that he showed up as a global human being. And everytime we go to the store he thinks Sandy, Todd, Mathew, Tom should have suckers just like he has. Well, we got to work on how we care for brothers and sisters of the globe. That son is a sign of being a world citizen showing up in the midst of globality. You don't have a home anymore. The whole world is your home. And how you live in it is discovering how is it to be a human in the situation. It's like life is going to climb on you in the midst of this kind of a cry that we are

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experiencing and raising up the whole issue of being human, of being the spirit man, of being a tactical thinker, of being a social pioneer and I want to talk about that in the realm of prayer. That kind of prayer of a human being is one that folding out the models, of experiencing the freedom of being human and it shows up in the form of social demonstration. To give prayers practicality in our time. To give them form in social demonstration, daring to risk the future, boldness, bold tactics. Then reminding ourselves of what it is we stand before in the midst of life., being utterly human. What kind of realities are we operating out of. If you want to find out anything, go to worship. Showing up in the form of primal community, as we discovery how it is you care for human life overagainst that kind of dynamic in the midst of the new humanness struggling with creation. I think about those men like Martin Luther King Jr. who knew the power of death, and knew the power of social demonstration. He was a radical demonstration. I think about the originator of Sesame Street They've got something there. They have how you use imaginal education, The bilingual stations on T.V.- how you see the word in other languages. And then there are the corporations. I read in an airline magazine how the corporations are changing their image today. U.S. Rubber is now Uni-royal; they emphasise that uni-royal. It's like all creation is standing on tiptoe looking at and waiting for the signs of the new world, the signs of sons of God coming into their own. I'd like to read something to you before I close; this is my favourite part of it: "The present distress is temporary and negligible. In my opinion whatever we have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind but because in God's purposes it has been so limited. Yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyrrany of change and decay and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God. It is plain to anyone with the eyes to see that at the present time all created life groans in a sort of universal travail, and it is plain too that we who have a foretaste of the spirit are in a state of painful tension while we wait for the redemption of our bodies which will mean that at last we will have realized our full sonship with him. We were saved by this hope, but in our moments of impatience let us remember that our hope always means waiting for something that we do not yet possess. But if we hope for something we cannot see then we must settle down and wait for it in patience." Do not worry about the times in which we live. The Word allows us to live in these most radical of changing times. Only ~~participated~~ ~~in~~ what we've discovered has been a law in humanness, and you shall see the coming of the son in the world today.