

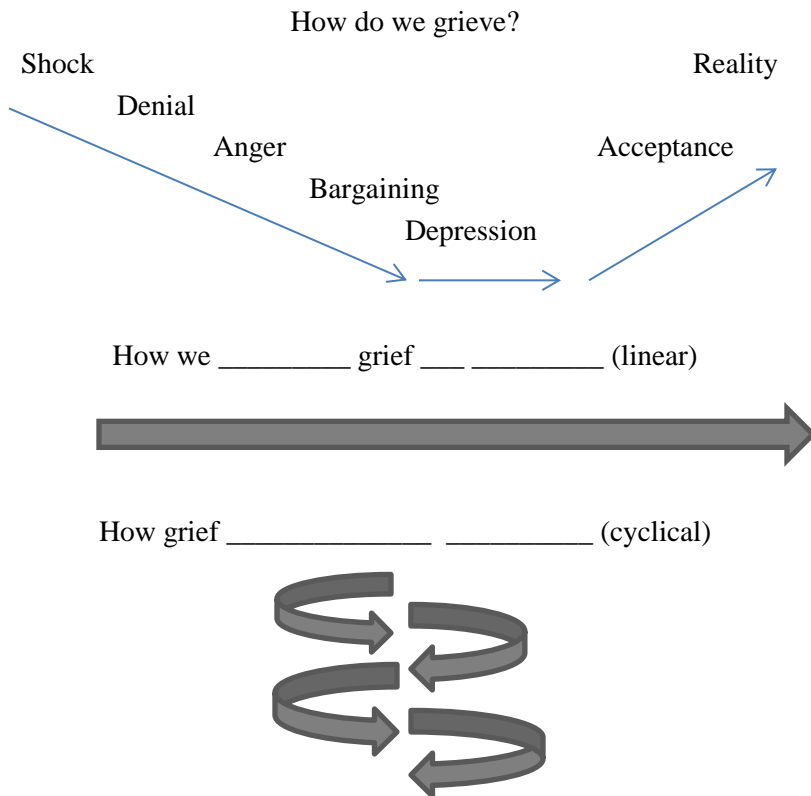
Ultimate Reality – Part 2

The Cycle You Should Not Break

Matthew 5:4
James 4:8-10
“Blessed are those who mourn . . .”

*We live in response to the Beatitudes.
We do not try to live up to the Beatitudes.*

1. Mourning for _____



2. Mourning for _____

Hunger

- 925 million people are hungry in our world
- Every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes. That's one child every five seconds.

Clean Water

- 3.4 million die each year from water related illnesses
- Lack of clean water and sanitation kills children at the rate of a jumbo jet crashing every four hours.

HIV / AIDS

- More than 34 million people now live with HIV/AIDS
- 3.3 million are under the age of 15.
- In 2011, 2.5 million people newly infected & 1.7 million people died
- Since the beginning of the epidemic, more than 60 million people have contracted HIV and nearly 30 million have died of HIV-related causes.

When you read statistics like this, does it do anything to you?

3. Mourning for _____

This is the root cause for the other two reasons for suffering.

⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. – James 4:8-10

“The disciple-community does not shake off sorrow as though it were no concern of its own, but willingly bears it. And in this way they show how close are the bonds which bind them to the rest of humanity. But at the same time they do not go out of their way to look for suffering, or try to contract out of it by adopting an attitude of contempt or disdain. They simply bear the suffering which comes their way as they try to follow Jesus Christ, and bear it for his sake.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Q: How long does grief take? A: As long as it takes.