

Lay and Religious States of Life: Their Distinction and Complementarity

The Goodness of Achieving and the Goodness of Letting Go
(or: What does it mean to pray “Thy Kingdom Come”?)

Therefore, THE HUMAN TASKS OF	are not just and not only defeated by the sins of	And therefore the GOSPEL VALUES (evangelical counsels) of	must be met privately and along the road of life in the forms of	or else overtaken from the start and publicly in religious life	
				<u>NOT</u> BECAUSE	
				1 —Business, marriage, and government are evil or because	
BUILDING THE EARTH (Cosmic Environment)	greed	but also encounter a real <u>zero</u> point on the way to completion, a zero point inherent in any finite effort towards upbuilding and organizing	poverty	almsgiving (mercy)	2—business, marriage, and government are good but dangerous or because
FORMING THE SELF (Embodied spirit)	lust		chastity	fasting and continence	3—business, marriage and government are good, but God is better
ORGANIZING THE BODY OF HUMAN SOCIETY (Societal milieu)	tyranny		obedience	prayer and solitude	<u>BUT</u> BECAUSE BUSINESS, MARRIAGE AND GOVERNMENT ARE NOT BY THEMSELVES SUFFICIENT TO BRING THE KINGDOM.
					We save the world (person, society, and cosmos) by carrying it forward and by letting it go into the hands of God who saves.
					The lay and religious states of life are not distinguished by the <u>exercise</u> of different <u>degrees</u> of Christian <u>love</u> for the world and society, but by the <u>expression</u> of different <u>modes</u> of Christian truth about their salvation. Each mode of truth leads to its own proper <u>style</u> of love.
					The double truth: everything is destined for transformation and there is no transformation without death/rupture.