



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We trust that you have continued to find our *Care Conversations* a welcome part of your week. The feedback has been encouraging. We want to keep supporting you in your important role in this ministry of Christian education.

In this next series of *Care Conversations*, Stephen looks at some important historical moments through the eyes of Rodney Stark, and in particular his *How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity* (ISI Books, 2015). We trust that this gives you a fresh lens about some common themes in our world of education.

Please remember to contact us at The Excellence Centre if we can assist you with any of the topics raised in these Conversations.

Sincerely,

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 3:

NOTIONS
OF THE
WEST



REFLECTION BY
STEPHEN J FYSON *PHD*
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT



Number 7:

What it takes to
make a difference
for good...



If one has the privilege of traveling to different nations, it can be helpful to ask “What has been attempted to help all people here, and by whom?” For example, in India, I was taught by a Brahman priest that to help the “Backward Castes – the Dalits” to improve themselves was “interfering with the order of the Universe”.

The way we think about people, particularly through any hierarchical lens, does make a difference as to how much we think we *ought* to try to help others. That is why the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) is so dramatic. Jesus tore through such expectations to demonstrate Genesis 1:26-27, and the sixth commandment, in action.

Rodney Stark explained the impact of this social dynamic in this way:

... since they were committed to reasoning about God, the Jews were quick to embrace the Greek concern for valid reasoning... They also added and emphasized the proposition that our knowledge of God and his creation is progressive. Faith in both reason and progress were essential to the rise of the West. [29]

Much of this progress was in science and technology that helped people. Let us pray for that same Godly and progressive vision in our schools of today.

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre



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