

The Foundations of Decision Making

by Bill & Kaye Cooper

The first priority of the URANTIA movement should be to foster personal religion--in particular to find for each of ourselves and share with others and the religion of the spirit (see especially pp. 1728-1733). There can be no priority that transcends this, the central purpose of the revelation.

Quite aside, however, from its religious importance, the establishment of a genuine personal religion in the hearts of URANTIA Book readers is the foundation of all good decision making (both individual and group) about what we should be doing. What we individuals should be doing begins to evolve as we come to be progressively more successful at seeking and doing the Father's will. We are promised that as we are transformed by the Spirit of Truth, we are "endowed with the power of the certain and joyous performance of the gracious, acceptable and perfect will of God." (p. 1609)

Religionists who are living a religion of the spirit form the foundation for a whole

new level of group decision making. Once individuals begin experiencing a growing, vital religion, their relationship to fellow believers begins to change. In their dealings with each other they begin to evidence more fairness and honesty, loyalty and tolerance, more confiding trust and peace. Such fruits of the spirit enable a group to function in the "co-ordinated working harmony" which produces "a force far greater than the simple sum of its parts." (p. 1477)

When a group achieves co-ordinated working harmony, it can rise above the ability of single individuals to make decisions. It can produce group wisdom. Where true group wisdom is functioning, great confidence can be placed in the group's decisions.

While the fruits of the spirit may enable a group to function in co-ordinated working harmony, the actual achievement of that harmony may take a lot of hard work, dedication and faith on the part of each member of the group. It may help us in this effort to refocus our collective energies on two goals of top priority; (1) to foster personal, living religion and (2) to seek and achieve group wisdom through spiritual methods of relating to each other in groups. •