

A Naturalistic Approach to Society

By Larry Leininger

"**Naturalism** commonly refers to the philosophical belief that only natural laws and forces (as opposed to supernatural ones) operate in the world and that nothing exists beyond the natural world. Followers of naturalism (naturalists) assert that natural laws are the rules that govern the structure and behavior of the natural world, that the universe is a product of these laws."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturalism_in_philosophy

The "**Biological imperatives** are the needs of living organisms required to perpetuate their existence to survive. Include the following hierarchy of logical imperatives for a living organism: **survival, territorialism, competition, reproduction, quality of life-seeking, and group forming**. Living organisms that do not attempt to follow or do not succeed in satisfying these imperatives are described as maladaptive; those that do are adaptive."

[Biological imperative - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

Applying this to humans would generate a moral code which specifies the following;

Reproduction

It has been found in many cultures and religions that the following, possibly innate behaviors, are required for stable societies, marriages and production of children;

Limiting sex to marriage

Lifetime commitment of married couples

Monogamy

A desire to have at least 2 children to sustain the population and give the marriage a physical and continuing basis for existence.

Differentiation of sexual roles so there is an enhancement through interdependence of function of each of the partners within the marriage according to the genetically determined biological and psychological differences between the sexes.

Antagonism within society for sexual behavior which undermines marriage such as homosexuality, a deviant, unnatural behavior or pornography and promiscuity.

An expectation by society for a man to financially support his family and only his family and a wife to provide the domestic duties necessary for a wholesome existence for the family.

Group forming requires a group norm which establishes trust and unity within the group such as the a doctrine of what Christians call the "Golden Rule" which by the way is expounded in one form or another in most of the other major religions and is probably an inherited biological tendency, for example;

In Hinduism "do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you." Mahabharata, 5, 1517. From a Indo-Aryan text written 300 to 500 BC

This is the basis for most moral behavior such as honesty, integrity, respect for life, marriage, civility etc., and also compassion.

Competition is based on the passing on of the genes of an individual and or the most closely related group to that individual. In society this is conducted using the previously summarized code of morality. A production oriented, free enterprise system, within the bounds of the Constitution and the first Ten Amendments is an example of economic Darwinism which is conducive to individual **competition** on a societal level and facilitates **quality of life-seeking**

Territorialism is a natural instinct based on the protection of the family and the geographical area which provides sustenance for **survival** of the family. This can be extended to the community and then to a nation or nations when genetically related individuals unite into tribes and nations. If this is extended to the least related individuals, such a relationship in the long run will be maladaptive and fail.