

The Secular Age and the Search for Meaning

*The West is in the middle of an
existential meaning crisis*

Our current miraculous state of relative peace and economic tranquillity should not blind us to the fact that gaping holes remain in our spirits.

Jordan Peterson - Maps of Meaning

“(People) are lacking the awareness of a meaning worth living for. They are haunted by the experience of their inner emptiness, a void within themselves; they are caught in that situation which I have called ‘existential vacuum’.

Victor Frankl – The Feeling of Meaninglessness

”This research (on meaning) reflects a broader shift in our culture. Across the country—and across the world—educators, business leaders, doctors, politicians, and ordinary people are beginning to turn away from the gospel of happiness and focus on meaning.”

Emily Smith - The Power of Meaning

The Quadrilateral of Meaning

<p>Coherence</p> <p><i>Making sense of it</i></p>	<p>Purpose</p> <p><i>Clarity on what it's for</i></p>
<p>Significance</p> <p><i>Why it matters (the weight)</i></p>	<p>Belonging</p> <p><i>How I share in this</i></p>

**How does the Christian artist offer
high-level meaning into the present
meaning vacuum?**

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Meaning is missing in the world as described by many a science. This, however, does not imply that the world is void of meaning but only that many a science is blind to it.

(Victor Frankl)

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1

*Making sense of the coherence of
Christianity*

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*I cry out to God Most High,
To God who fulfils his purpose for me.*

(Psalm 57:2)

*Making sense of the grand purpose
of Christianity?*

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¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.

(Colossians 1)

*Making sense of the grand
significance of Christianity?*

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Giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Colossians 1:12

*How can we do better on the
belonging side of meaning?*