Worldviews  
Mr. Myers

Sociology: The “Tribe”

1. Definitions and examples
   1. Definition

For our purposes, the “tribe” is a group of people united by some common goals or interests, that provides identity and meaning for its members, and works toward some end in a structured way. A tribe normally provides certain benefits for its members in return for a commitment from that person to do their share and follow the guidelines of the group.

* 1. Examples
     1. Social organizations
        1. Recreation-social clubs (Country club (golf club), Rotary Club, Optimist Club, Masons)
        2. Teams of people from work
        3. Hobby clubs (Jeeps, motorcycles, quilting, rock climbing, hot air ballooning, flower shows, sports teams)
        4. Charitable organizations (Habitat for Humanity, Shriners, United Way)
        5. Educational institutions (schools, colleges, fraternities, sororities, Greek organizations)
        6. Economic organizations (trade unions, cooperatives)
     2. Religious organizations
        1. Churches/synagogues/mosques/temples
        2. “Secular” churches
     3. Virtual organizations
        1. Facebook
        2. Twitter
        3. Google Plus
        4. Internet forums or games

1. Functions of the tribe
   1. Gives identity
   2. Provides camaraderie
   3. Works together to accomplish goals
   4. Trains and develops its members
   5. Provides activities that are meaningful and/or fun
2. The Christian tribe: the church
   1. Provides support in times of tragedy or loss
   2. Celebrates the high points of life together
   3. Shares financially in time of need
   4. Teaches what is true and what is right
   5. Trains wisdom and godliness
   6. Provides accountability
   7. Relationships become a means of God’s grace: members of this tribe encourage each other, challenge each other, sympathize with each other, believe in each other
   8. Brings a wide range of people together in one group: old people/young, English-speaking/Spanish-speaking, white/black, rich/poor
   9. Provides historical roots, a story to be a part of
   10. Casts a vision for the future; the tribe of Jesus has goals and objectives that it is reaching for
   11. Portrays Jesus to each other and to people outside the tribe
   12. Serves each other in love and humility
   13. Serves the community, reaching out to meet physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs
   14. Creates a healthy culture which incarnates value-laden, truth-cultivating practices and rituals
   15. Lives under God’s umbrella of protection and blessing; has the joy of God claiming them as belonging to Him
   16. Exists primarily for someone else’s benefit: Christ’s