

Vision of the "seven mountains" of the society

May 2020
by Ignace Demaerel

In 1975, the vision of the "seven mountains" was launched (by Bill Bright, founder of "Campus Crusade", Loren Cunningham, founder of "Youth With a Mission", and Francis Schaeffer at the same time, but



separately). The basic idea is that a society is made up of **seven spheres of influence or sectors** (compared to "Mountains", also sometimes called "doors"), which determine our culture. These seven mountains are as follows :

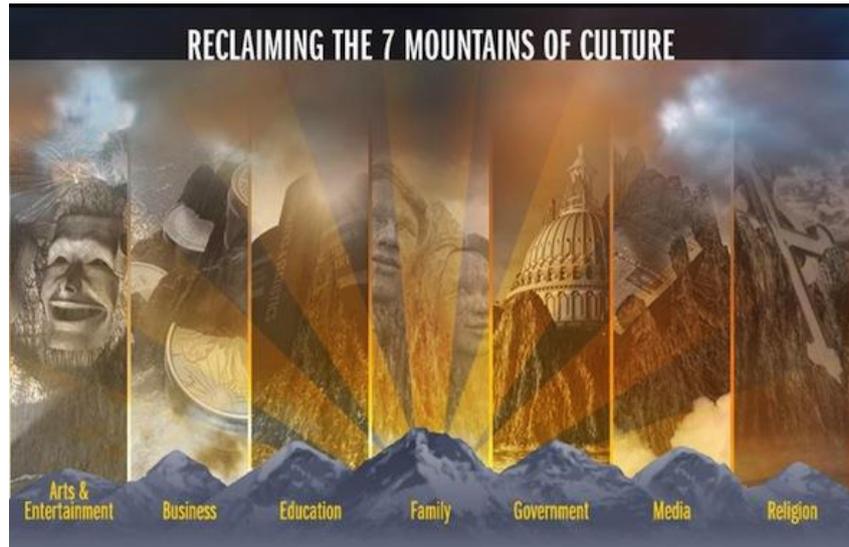
- Government (authority, politics)
- Economy (business, finance)
- Education (education, science)
- Family (marriage)
- Media (press)
- Church (religion)
- Art / relaxation (entertainment, sport)

What is it all about? In each of these sectors, there are a handful of people standing **on top of the mountain** and setting its course. They could be a leader or a "top-level celebrity" from the sector itself who leaves his mark on the whole sector: a great artist, athlete, scientist, fashion designer, actor/actress, writer, journalist, businessman, bishop, thinker, professor... They are **influencers** or opinion makers. When they say something, hardly anyone dares to contradict them. This influence can be for better or for worse (or both).

What does this mean for us Christians? If we believe that the whole world belongs to God, this goes for the seven mountains as well. *"For God is King of all the earth"* (Psalm 47 : 8). *"The earth is the LORD's, and that which is in it, the world and those who dwell therein"* (Psalm 24:1, ESV). He deserves the first place in politics, art, science, etc. Each of these mountains works well if God and his laws are respected there, also in economics, for example. We cannot **abandon "the world" to the devil** by retreating to our Christian islands. We cannot stand back and watch it go "rocky" and do nothing ourselves. What is decided in government, for example, has an impact on us,

our churches and our children. We must **oppose "secularism"¹** which wants to push the Churches back to their "little corner", onto their own little mountain, in order to silence them and make them "harmless". So that means we need to pray for each of these spheres of influence, but maybe engage in them as well. We are called to "be the head, and not the tail" (Deut 28,13). We can claim them for the Kingdom of God : let Him be honoured with music, cinema, science... Do it locally (our city), or nationally (our country), or internationally. God has given us the authority to rule², to "reign" together with Christ (Rom 5:17) - at least through prayer.

If you are active in any of these areas (for example, because of your job or your hobby), use your influence! Be present (salt and light!), make your voice heard, be positively involved, **get involved** in a committee or a board of directors. And of course : pray for your mountain. **Pray for the decision makers :** that they meet God, or, at least, that they



recognize and respect Him. Pray that Christians will be promoted to the top of the mountains (think of Joseph, David, Daniel or Esther in the OT) or find an open door there to witness (think of Paul who was able to testify before kings, governors and even the emperor). There are countries and cities where Christian leaders regularly pray with the president or mayor, giving him or her advice, in the best possible way. There are top musicians or athletes who are converted and so receive a very broad platform from which they can witness to God.

¹ There is also a call (abusive) e.g. "**The separation between church and state**" in order to muzzle churches and Christians. Of course, these two have each their own domain and other "weapons", but in no case can this lead to the "separation between faith and politics": as if it were **taboo** to talk about God in politics. (and the other mountains).

For example, secularism wants to stop all subsidies for religions, abolish religious broadcasts on public TV or religious education in school, in other words, to make all of society religion-free and godless.

² Beware : this is not the same as the "**dominion theology**" : the belief that we Christians are going to conquer and rule all these mountains - soon? - to plan and realize the Kingdom of God. This is God's business, which men cannot force or fix for a moment. Only Jesus can achieve it, when the history of the world is over, and that in a fully divine way.

In an ideal world, God's name is honoured in artistic projects, theatre and painting, He is welcome in child welfare and psychiatry, in the world of music and in the courts; He is given a central place in asylum policy and the banking sector, in architecture and in the Public Social Help Centres; His Word is proclaimed in literature and on the Internet, in games, TV programs and shows; His will is fulfilled, be it at the town hall or in the police, among outreach workers or in prisons; His blessing descends on school benches and cinemas, in kindergartens and retirement homes, in cafes and parliament... Of course, we are very far from that now. And yet, if we don't believe it, it certainly won't happen. It's going against the tide, but every step is a step in the right direction. And every prayer or seed **gives space to God**. There are wonderful testimonies from people already doing this on their mountain, and with great success, even Christians who have received Nobel Prizes or other high honours. Jesus calls us anyway, as members of His Kingdom, to be "in the world" as missionaries and ambassadors. The Kingdom of God is greater than the community alone. And it is written about Christ: "*Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, the ends of the earth for your possession*" (Ps 2:8). Are we going to do our part to enable Him to enter into His legacy (in this case, our country, our city)? Because He is worth it and paid the price for it!

Proclamation texts below :

Ps 95:4 *In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the **mountains** are his also.*

Ps 97:5 *The **mountains** melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.*

Ps 104:32 *Who looks on the earth, and it trembles, who touches the **mountains**, and they are smoke.*

Ps 144:5 *Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down! Touch the **mountains**, so that they smoke!*

Prov 8:25 *Before the **mountains** had been shaped, before the hills [existed], I was brought forth;*

Dan 2:35 *But the stone that struck the image became **a great mountain**, and filled the whole earth [speaking of the Kingdom of God].*

(All verses in the English Standard Version - ESV)

