At the last Worship/Committee meeting I threw out some abstract and complex ideas, that take some time to process.

I thought I would try to clarify and provide more info if you’re interested.

Brett Stephens is labeled a Conservative Republican. He is anti-Trump. I am not trying to hold him up as an icon. I, and I believe you, can find plenty to disagree with; however, what I find appealing about him is his refusal to follow a party line. He takes an issue and ramps it up a couple of levels. HE THINKS!

In this 40-minute speech, Stephens addresses several issues, but here are my notes on some questions he asked that I think we can use to ramp up our thought processes, and that of the congregation.

Since I don’t think too many of you will have 40 minutes to listen to the speech (you can email the link to yourself and listen in the car). I am providing a link to a 10-minute video in an interview with Bill Maher. Bill Maher asks him what is it that makes people hate liberals, and Stephen answers, “cultural condescension.”

**Bret Stephens: Out of the Echo Chamber 10 minutes**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60JPl6G791E>

The link to the longer speech is below, but check out my notes below.

Rancho Mirage Writers Festival /Published on Feb 17, 2017

Link to speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrU8kYNbFHk>

Bret Stephens: Asking a series of questions… (these are my notes, I was unable to find the text.)

This speech is 40 minutes. I do recommend it, but realize that you may not have time to listen to the whole thing, so **I have made some notes of the ideas I thought could tie into some of the UU goals, such as**

1. **“How can we inspire leaders for a complex world?”**
2. **2017-18 “How do we create a world of our values?”**

Rancho Mirage Writers Festival /Published on Feb 17, 2017

Bret Stephens asks:

1. Are we a country that seeks and attracts human capital and believes in

 being fundamentally open to the world ?,Or are we not?

2 Are we a self-critical country or are we a country of blamers…blaming one roup or another for our problems?

**3. Do we define our interests according to our values, or our values according to our interests?**

**Do we decide what our values are because we have xy and z interests around the world, or do we ask ourselves what are our values and what interests would follow from those values? That is a fundamental question.**

1. Do we have a healthy innovation culture in our country?
2. Do we have a healthy civic culture?

 6. Are we still a nation of optimists?

*Stephens asks the Same questions in different forms*

What is our attitude towards

 1. Foreigners

 2. Failure

3. Global Leadership

 4. Change

 5.Towards each other

 6. Toward the future.

 ATTITUDE toward human capital /

Immigrants They steal our jobs/They overwhelm our welfare system/ They bring cultures and values that we have yet to assimilate which may not be in tune with our own…

 OR immigrants represent IMMENSE HUMAN POTENTIAL

Human Capital:

1.The US has won 42 % of Nobel Prizes awarded between 2001 and last year.

And more than 30% of those were Americans who were not born in the US… interesting little detail

2.Did you know that 90 of the fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants?

And another 114 of those companies were founded by the children of immigrants? ***HE GIVES many examples***

Google: Sergei Brin eBay \_founder born in France. \_

Comcast refugee from Nazi Germany

40% of the Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or the children of immigrants.

Did you know

Revenue from THOSE companies had combined revenues larger than the GDP of all countries outside the U.S. except for China and Japan

4.2 Trillion

382 billion dollars a year would disappear with undocumented workers.

No immigration, the population would go down.

*Peggy here:*

*ENOUGH just go listen to him. You won’t be sorry.*

Notes for future.

The role of THE OUTSIDER…connecting with THE OTHER

The Role of the Outsider or I like White People Jokes

 Chimanda Ngozie Adichie Marty Baron

Trevor Noah Brett Stephen Noah Goldberg

THE OTHER

THE ROLE OF THE OUTSIDER