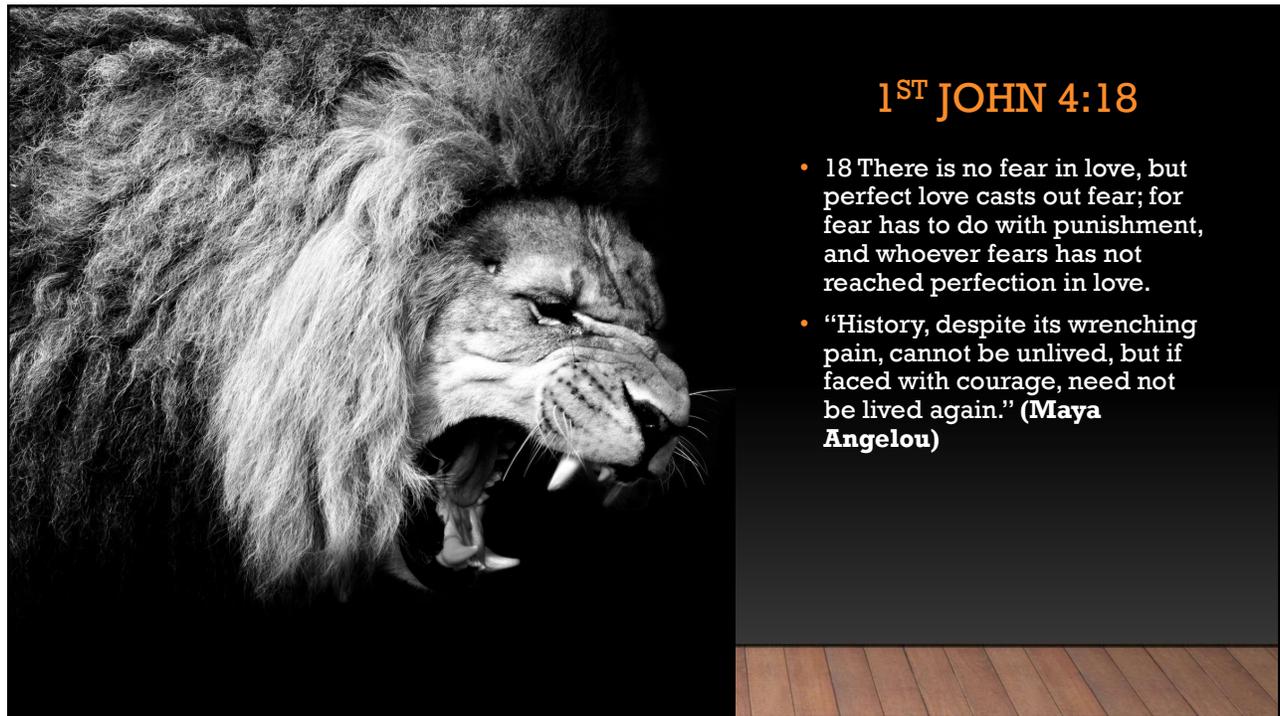


# REDEEMING FEAR IN A PLURALISTIC AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

FACILITATOR PERCY D. JOHNSON JR., THD,  
DMIN

1



## 1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN 4:18

- 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.
- “History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.” (Maya Angelou)

2

## WHAT IS FEAR?

- Fear is a natural, powerful, and primitive human emotion. According to psychology research, it involves a universal biochemical response and a high individual emotional response.
- Fear alerts us to the presence of danger or the threat of harm, whether that danger is physical or psychological.

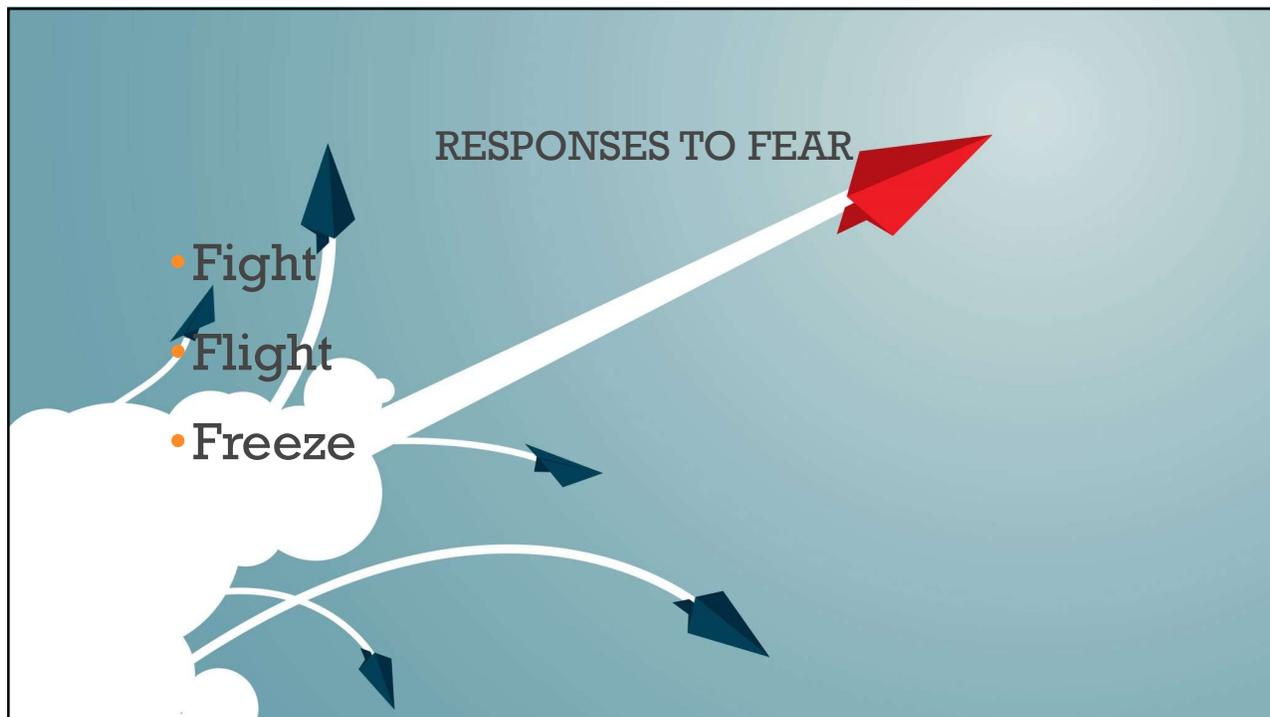


3

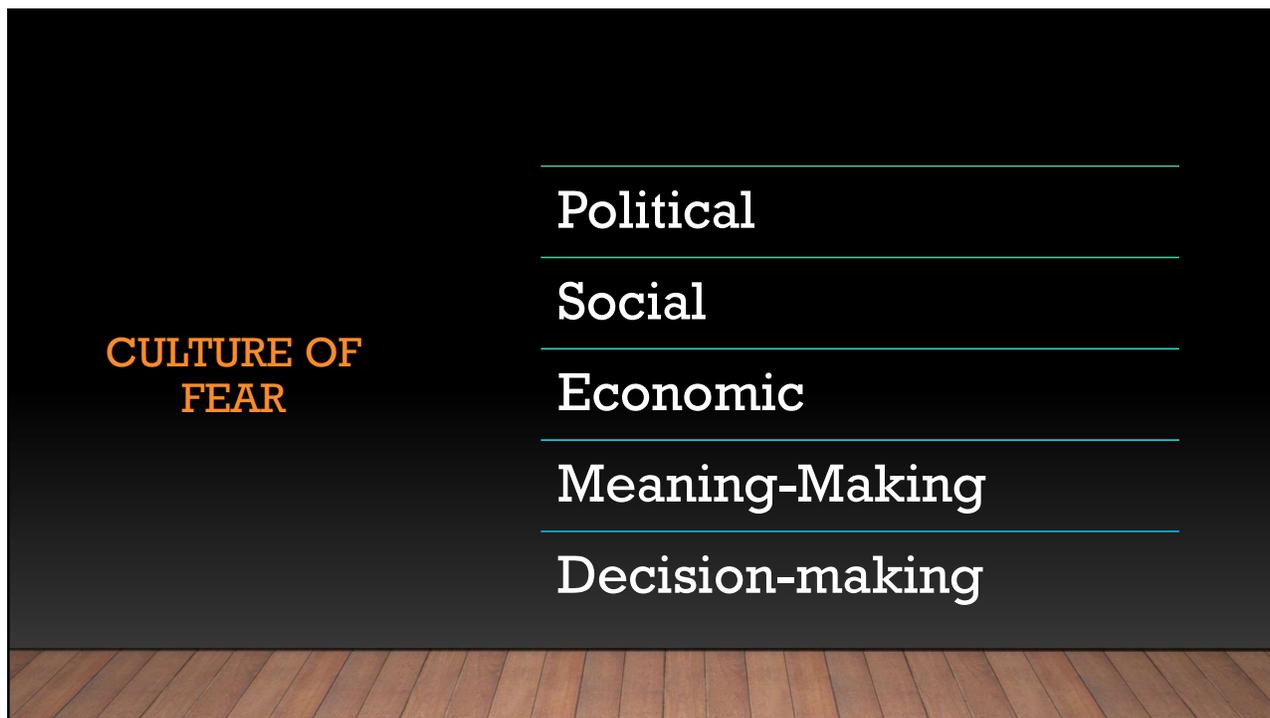
## DICTIONARY OF PSYCHOLOGY

- a basic, intense emotion aroused by the detection of imminent threat, involving an immediate alarm reaction that mobilizes the organism by triggering a set of physiological changes.
- These include rapid heartbeat, redirection of blood flow away from the periphery toward the gut, tensing of the muscles, and a general mobilization of the organism to take action.

4



5



6



## FEAR AND THE LIMINAL SEASON

- Living without meaning and purpose creates a greater sense of uncertainty.
- In the heart of a liminal season when something has ended and they don't know where they are headed, they need help interpreting the past.
- The absence of meaning and purpose produces fear.

7



- Fearful people will attach to anyone who promises to reduce their anxiety.
- Involves attaching to a person, system, or method that promises a return to the past.
- Overromanticizing the past,
- Non-critical assessment and one angle interpretation of the past.

8

## CONFRONTING THE FEAR

- **Begins with an Investigative Spirit**
- **Open Mind** -- Openness and invitation to the unknown
- **Open Heart** ---Inquisitiveness and interest in diverse perspectives, beliefs, and interpretations
- **Open Will** ---Engaging and a willingness to sit in uncomfortable and unfamiliar spaces

9

## INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, AND PLURALITY

- Incorporate, include, and integrate the perspectives, norms, idioms, mores, and ideologies of human beings from different cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, sexual orientation, ages, physical conditions, etc. into the power sharing, decision-making, and futuring of a company or institution.
- Assimilation, Integration,
- Plurality is being open to the possibilities that there are diverse lenses and approaches that are viable.

10

## REFLECTION AND PERSONAL INVENTORY

- What scares you and why?
- What makes you uncomfortable and why?
- What memories, beliefs, and triggers are informing you?
- What vision and image of otherness troubles you?

11

## OTHERING

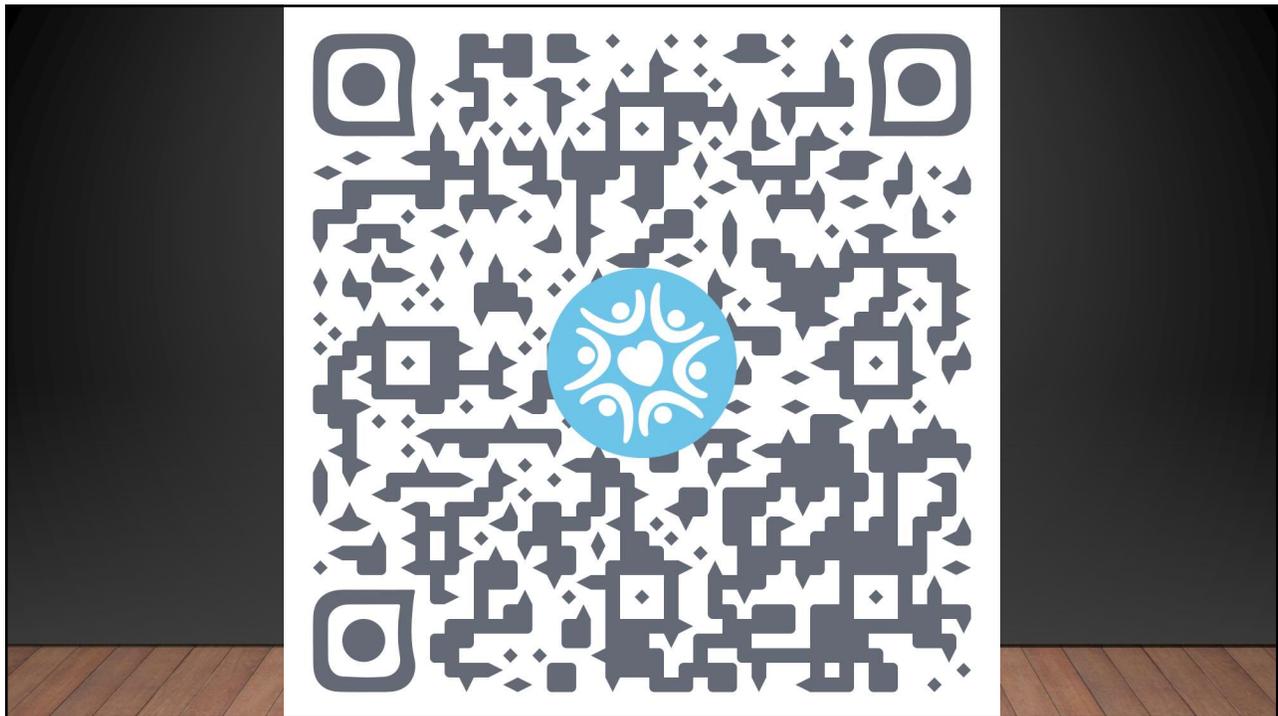
- Inferiority
- Exclusion
- Seen as an enemy
- Opposition and danger to whatever is familiar or something I hold dear.

12

## TRANSCENDING OTHERING

- Seeing the person as a living human document “
- Exploring and listening non-judgmentally to the narratives, experiences, and perceptions that of each human being
- Recognition and honoring that the living human web ( that the human person resided and resides within the ‘web’ of his/her ‘wider cultural, social and religious context)“ and the impact and influences these factors have on their understanding of self, decision-making, meaning-making, ethics, worldview, and behavior.

13



14