

# THE POWER THAT BE:

Walter Wink, *The Power That Be* ( : Galilee Double Day Press, ),

## Chapter 1: Identifying the Powers

Power is in institutions, structures and systems.

Power is visible and invisible at the same time.

Powers are simultaneously an outer, visible structure and an inner, spiritual reality.

Power can become idolatry .

### Powers can be transformed.

The powers are good. The powers are fallen. The powers must be redeemed.

They are good by virtue of their creation to serve the humanizing purposes of God.

They are fallen because they put their own interests above the interests of the whole.

They can be redeemed in time, temporally, simultaneously, or in sequence and all at once.

God at one and the same time **upholds** a given political or economic systems, since some such system is required to support human life; **condemns** that system insofar as it is destructive of fully human life; and **presses for its transformation** into more humane order. Conservatives stress the first, revolutionaries the second, reformers the third. **The Christian is expected to hold together all three.**

**I have never thought about power this way. It has been very helpful for me to understand the power.**

**Powers** are inextricably locked into God's system, whose human face is revealed by Jesus. Powers are answerable to God.

**That God** created powers does not imply that God endorses any particular Power at any given time. God not only liberates us from the Powers, but liberates the Powers from their destructive behaviors as well. **It is important for us to see this point. Our mission will be liberating the power of the empire into more humane power and transform the power for common good.**