

Discovering Directions for Future Christian Flourishing

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Situational Statement – Six Issues:

- #1. **America**, as we have known it, **is on a collision course with extinction**.
- #2. **The majority** of the previously orthodox **churches are shifting Progressive**.
- #3. **Spiritual-Ethical issues** (same-sex marriage, abortion, transgenderism, etc.) became **political because the church refused to deal with them first**.
- #4. The **one institution** charged with being the *preserving influence* in the culture has failed. **How can I say that... we will get there**.
- #5. The demise of America is largely due to **this failure of the churches**.
- #6. **This situation only increases our obligation** to be diligent influencers in the culture while planning well now for a **different future**.

While America Is Burning – how do we reshape the future of the church?

Marxist-based Critical Race Theory (CRT) is fast becoming [America's New institutional orthodoxy](#). This is the ideology of the Democratic Party that is no longer a party but a religion. While the church has been asleep, Progressives have infiltrated CRT everywhere in our culture - schools, government, corporations and now the church. It is even on our grocery store shelves – i.e., Coke and Hershey. This is **first** a spiritual battle.

Much of the *light* has flamed out and the *salt* is not flavoring culture (Math. 5:13-14). With few exceptions, churches are now **outwardly Woke**, (“self-righteousness masquerading as enlightenment.”) **stealthily Woke FC**, or **indifferently Woke**. Pastors are demonstrating no interest in teaching, shepherding and equipping to **protect against this enemy** of Christianity.

- ✚ **When your pastor did not speak truth about the election last fall**, it should have been a warning to you. He either **can't discern** evil, he can't speak of evil to protect his flock, or he is **Woke**.
- ✚ **Now**, CRT should be your **deal breaker**. If the church continues to be silent about it, you have a decision to make.

Our Mission and Focus:

This effort is focused on one question: As the *visible* church continues to collapse, what form will the *true and real* church of Christ take on? This is the hour for us to **start a discussion** about the future of the church – especially as persecution continues to increase. **How will we live and thrive in Babylon?**

Ekklesia is the Greek word for church describing *the-called-out-ones*. 2 Cor. 6:17 urges the church to “come out from among them and be separate.”

In I Chron. 12:32 we read “*The men of Issachar...understood the times [they were living in] and knew what Israel should do.*” My observation is that our spiritual leaders (Pastors and Dads) have **no clue what’s going on or what to do about it.**

In Montana, we are blessed. [Our Legislators](#) did much to push back on ethic-less Democrats and our [Office of Public Instruction](#) pushed back on CRT while the [church has stubbornly refused to speak](#). Isaiah 5:20 would brand these leaders as **evil** for their silence.

The Founders clearly believed that our **constitution was satisfactory only for a moral people** – a country where virtue is celebrated. Over the last century, forces have been at work to destroy virtue in all of our institutions. Even in our [corporations \[see ESG Scores\]](#), many decision by [major corporations](#) are directed by WOKE principles. This is an ideology dominated by Marxist-atheism. It is worth your time to consider what is called the [Long March Through the Institutions](#), a review of a Marxist invasion.

The elitists in the Academy led the charge to secularize our education system with this philosophy and **you have paid for it**. This indoctrination has **spilled out of the academy** and now controls virtually all institutions.

Losing the Influence of Salt and Light – how Did We Get Here?

In the last century, the *Pietist Movement* contended that the church should **avoid issues** - especially [ones that are also in the political arena](#). This mentality has led to most of the church avoiding teaching on or engaging in so-called **social issues**.

Paul clearly defines a key function of the church in Eph. 4:11-12. He says leadership is given “*for the equipping of the people for the work of the ministry.*” (NKJ) The Sunday morning meeting is not for amusement, for self-help

sermons – not even for evangelism per say. **It is to equip us** to do the ministry. **Most of the teaching in conservative churches today is self-help dressed up with bible verses!**

From this, I conclude that any **particular fellowship is either a center for equipping or, by default, becomes a center for deception** – allowing the culture to be the ambassadors. ***How can I say that?***

Dietrich Bonhoeffer helps us here when he rightly said *“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil, not to speak is to speak”* – Isaiah 5:20 backs this up. What we have observed in America is that as the church has refused to speak to culture, the Left has been glad to do that for them. **The Left has equipped our youth**, the church has **amused** them – little wonder we lose 70% of them.

The current trajectory would suggest that much of the visible church will continue to capitulate to the Left’s dictates. **Orthodoxy may only survive** in something akin to the **underground** church, **house** churches, and other venues committed to developing **followers** – not catering to **admirers**.

For decades, the **Shepherds have been silent**. My purpose is not to win them over; it is to help those who would consider a different path **deal with reality**.

The Shape of the Past - Influence of the Church in American Culture:

In most of the cultural issues, **individual Christians and Para church organizations** have been very influential. Most of the church leadership has **refused to teach** and lead on these issues. Rarely would you encounter a **thoughtful teaching** (i.e., history, logic, scripture, reasoning, conclusions) on these subjects from the pulpit on **Sunday morning**.

What is the track record of involvement of the church as a congregation or denomination on these issues?

1. **Slavery** – most were silent, many were complicit.
2. **Creation vs Evolution** – Scope’s trial of 1925 – silence.
3. **Civil Rights** movement – the same.
4. The **sexual revolution** of the 60s is still escalating – silence.
5. **Roe v Wade** in 1973, 47 years, 63M dead babies – silence.
6. **No-Fault Divorce** 1970s– destruction of marriage and the family – silence.

7. **Homosexuality** and the assault on America – no teaching.
8. The **Cohabitation** dilemma now rampant in the church – silence.
9. **Intermarriage** with unbelievers – silence.
10. The **Pornography** dilution now affecting over 60% of the pastorate
11. **Obergefell and Same-sex** marriage 2015 – silence.
12. **Tansgenderism** – the tip of the Left’s Spear - silence.
13. **COVID** and its assault on freedom – capitulation.
14. **Religious Liberty** - silence
15. The **Election of 2020** - silent shepherds said nothing about a **Marxist-Atheist party** seeking complete control of America.
16. **Critical Race Theory**, BLM, Globalism etc. – silence.
17. **The COVID** vaccinee threatening jobs and causing division – silence.
<http://www.bigskyworldview.org/>
18. **Not to mention** Rebellion, sin, repentance, Universalism, Demonic influences...

With this track record, in any other institution, these leaders would be fired.

- ✚ When one in four Christian women will have (or has had, or will [have another](#)) abortion, ignoring the issue is not shepherding them well.
- ✚ When the majority of Gen Z’s and Millennials embrace same-sex marriage because *the culture has instructed them* and the church has been silent, [the family](#) will be impacted.
- ✚ When [nearly half of our youth look to Marxism as a better answer](#) than free markets and Christianity, it matters because...
- ✚ You [cannot be a Marxist and a Christian](#).

How could this happen? Three years ago, we took a BSWF speaker to dinner and for an hour, he elaborated on **“the feminization of America and the feminization of the American Pastorate.”**

- ✚ This threw me into a **Cocoon** – for the next year, I read books on 2nd Wave Feminism.
- ✚ He was right, the Pastorate had adopted what Voddie Baucham negatively calls **“the ELENTH Commandment”** of the American Pastorate – *“Thou Shalt Be Nice.”* Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil.

If we are going to be effective in the future, we must take up the mantle of being the cultural influencers.

As we look to the future, we must be crystal clear about the past. The pattern of shepherding has been to **look at EVIL** and either fail to **discern** it or **alibi** for it. We must ask ourselves, **where will we invest** our resources – which include our kids – going forward?

Bottom line? Christians have not been equipped for the culture we live in or for the future.

What Will Moving Forward Look Like?

“Moral fortitude” will be an even larger challenge for the church of influence in the future. The aforementioned issues are reflective of a serious lack of moral courage in leadership.

The book [*Live Not by Lies – a Manual for Christian Dissidents*](#) by Rod Dreher is a book we suggest. This is not a step-by-step tutor, but contains many relevant ideas for those considering preparing for a new way of living.

- ✚ **A robust discussion about forming coalitions should be our goal.** Forming alliances, fellowship groups, teaching connections etc. will be necessary. A uniting **across denominational lines** that will help **us survive, thrive, and be an influence** in the difficult times - that most surely lie in our immediate future - will be necessary. **Resolve to be the church will be tested at a much more aggressive level.**

An understanding of resistance and the function of Lesser Magistrates:

Briefly, if we are going to do anything to benefit the culture, we will become involved **in resistance to tyranny.**

How did the leaders of the Reformation see their responsibility when government violated the rule of God? What was the Christian **justification** for the war of **independence?** This doctrine is outlined [here](#) in short form, [here](#) in a longer form and in book form here - [*The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates.*](#)

The Reformed doctrine of resistance stated, in a nutshell, is this. It was widely accepted from the 1500's on and became the justification for our war of independence:

The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates: *The King was in covenant with God and the people to do God's will. When the King significantly broke that covenant, the people were obliged, even commanded to resist the King.*

John Knox made it clear that ***"it is the duty of lesser-magistrates to resist the tyranny of chief magistrates when the chief magistrate exceeds his God-given authority or actually makes declarations which are in rebellion to the law of God."***

There is an order to how this is to be done that we need to understand. When the Higher Magistrates goes rogue, the Lesser Magistrates – those in lower positions – were to work with the upper governors to fix this. If this was **not fruitful**, resistance became the next move, even including force if necessary.

This flies in the face of most teaching on Romans 13 that we hear today - we just lie down and comply with evil governors. This is actually the [Devine Right of Kings](#) thinking. This is the position of almost all of the teaching you hear on **authority today**.

The divine right of Kings leaves THE PEOPLE out of the equation. It was an ancient idea that began with Europe's medieval kings. They claimed that **they had been chosen by God** and were his representatives on Earth. These kings had **absolute power** and could do as they liked. They expected **total obedience** from the people they ruled.

Luther, Calvin, Knox, Lock and many others rejected this idea, but we **have lost** that instruction.

The Doctrine of [Interposition](#) refers to a **doctrine** whereby a state in the exercise of its sovereign power **may reject an order or authority** of the federal government that appears to be unconstitutional or exceeding the powers delegated to the federal government

We want you to have the confidence that godly resistance is biblical and part of our responsibility as disciples. **We need to do our homework well.** [The Doctrine of Interposition in Theology](#) by John Eidsmoe will be helpful to you.

Black's Law Dictionary. Fourth Edition (1951- 1967) offers an expanded definition:

Interposition. The doctrine **that a state**, in the exercise of its sovereignty, may reject a mandate of the federal government deemed to be unconstitutional or to exceed the powers delegated to the federal government. The concept is based on the 10th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States reserving to the states powers not delegated to the United States... **Implementation of the doctrine may be peaceable, as by resolution, remonstrance or legislation, or may proceed ultimately to nullification with forcible resistance.**

Pastor John MacArthur's teaching [When Government Rewards Evil and Punishes Good](#) is quite good on this. I wish we had time to discuss it. Notes on it are in the Appendix that you can find in this document on our web page at bigskyworldview.org under Resources/Library.

Back to Our Mission:

Again, we want to begin a discussion now – before there is further deterioration of the culture. **We will work to form coalitions of like-minded Christians who are interested in promoting Kingdom of God thinking** and engaging three basic issues:

- 1) **Discovering sound scriptural approaches to providing fellowship** groups for those looking for places for prayer, teaching, and relationships as alternatives and/or supplements to current church possibilities.
- 2) **Committing to being students** and readers who equip themselves for the coming challenges.
- 3) **Leading and/or facilitating the equipping** of Christians to focus on and promote life in the Kingdom of God.

We do not claim to have the plan or outline for how all of this should be done. We are committed to working together **to discover a plan** as the Holy Spirit would lead us.

Issachar – Knowing What to Do?

So, as the church drifts ever more Progressive, what do we do? Jesus will have his church; how do we prepare to *know what to do*?

We will look at three documents:

I will present a brief outline of the major concepts of these three documents below. **More detailed notes are in the appendix.**

1st. [Thriving in Babylon](#) (38 min. video) by Jeff Ventrella Esq., Senior VP at Alliance Defending Freedom. **How should** Christians thrive, not just exist, when they don't own culture. (Jeremiah 29 is their letter of instruction.)

- ✚ **Israel was taken captive to Babylon – a foreign, evil place.**
- ✚ **The Mosaic law would not be their law.** Evil was around them and they are living in fear
- ✚ **How do we live in a Postmodern world** dominated by Marxist ideology in such a way that we thrive and increase?
- ✚ God gives them a letter with **three messages** - one in theology, ethics and eschatology.
- ✚ **1st. Theology – Look Upward Not Inward:** He is still in charge. God has them (and us) **exactly** where HE wants them.
- ✚ **2nd. Ethics, how now shall we live? Look outward:**
 - **Build houses** and live in them! **Plant gardens** and eat their produce.
 - **Discard the squatter** mentality, instead lay foundations.
 - **Become part of the economy**, learn their skills, living **intentionally**.
 - Jesus does not only **save us FROM** something, He saves us **FOR** something. Promote cultures the building block – marriage. **Take wives** have sons and daughters.
 - **Multiply and do not decrease.**
 - **We are not to be a bomb shelter;** we are to be an **ammo** depo.
 - **Build for Babylon's** good without bowing to Babylon's god
- ✚ **3rd. Eschatology - Look Forward:** *The security of our future is assured by sovereignty of our savior.* **Those who want to win the world for Christ must have the courage to come into conflict with it.** Jer. 29 “I Know the plans I have for you...”

2nd. [Critical Race Theory: What It Is and How to Fight It?](#) March Imprimis from Hillsdale by Christopher Rufo. The Ideolog of Anti-Racism.

- ✚ **How did** something like CRT become the “new institutional orthodoxy”?
- ✚ We need to know what it is so we can know how to fight it.
- ✚ When the Marxist theory of revolution failed in the West, they pivoted from the [Dialectic](#) of capitalists vs. workers ([Bourgeoisie vs. Proletariat](#)) and **substituted Race for Class**. That is why EVERYTHING is now about race or gender.
- ✚ They replaced “**equality**” in the American mind with “**equity**” – equal outcomes. This is nothing but **reformulated Marxism**. The majority of Christians have been marginalized by fear and intimidation.
- ✚ **77%** of conservatives are afraid to share their political beliefs.
- ✚ How do “**mouse traps**” get set up to keep us silent? (Disagreement is proof of guilt.)
- ✚ We **must tell stories** to refute their claims, not just spout theory.
- ✚ P.4 **Three parts of a successful strategies** to defeat CRT. Force them to confront facts – i.e., do you support making racism worse? Governmental Action, Grass roots mobilization, **Appeal to principle**.
- ✚ **Above all, we must exhibit courage.**

3rd [Enemies Within the Church](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOnaakLuJ90) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOnaakLuJ90>
A Look at the Social Justice movement within Southern Baptist Seminaries. In Dr. Voddie Baucham Jr.’s *Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism’s Looming Catastrophe*, he points to the fact that **Marxist CRT is dividing the Southern Baptist Convention but also much of the rest of church. Don’t think SBC, think your church.** Listen to what the Woke Pastors are saying in this piece. These are so-called conservative Christians.

- ✚ We must be willing to surrender Power, the woke group says.
- ✚ The Social Justice movement is very lucrative and powerful.
- ✚ He who controls the narrative controls the power
- ✚ It is buying into the [1619 Project](#) – America was born in racism.
- ✚ There is great mixture now in the SBC - CRT and LGBTQ Activism.

Considering Future Involvement:

Current Problem and Better Patterns: We have been conditioned to be **spectators** - to *sedentariness* (tending to spend much time seated; somewhat inactive) expecting to **contribute nothing**.

Abraham Kuyper, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands said.

*“Our age is one of ecclesiastical passivism. When a church **ceases to be militant it ceases to be a church of Jesus Christ**. A truly militant church stands opposed to the world both without and within. Time and again, the church has need to oppose usurpations by the state.”*

New Testament Pattern – Every member participation: In Corinthians 12-14 (and again in Eph. 4) Paul talks about the distribution of gifts and ministries to **every believer to function in the meetings**.

Jewish Synagogue – Socratic method: A form of cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals, based on asking and answering questions to stimulate critical thinking and to draw out ideas and underlying presuppositions. Named after the Classical Greek philosopher Socrates and was introduced by Plato.

- **This assumes two things:** #1 Prior preparation and #2. every member participation. **This will require a sea change** in thinking = metamorphosis.

Mentoring Men with Chests: Mentors from the Past:

- ✚ **Scripture speaks of [David’s Mighty Men](#)**, tough men of battle and grit.
- ✚ **Repeatedly, Joshua** is exhorted by God to be strong and courageous.
- ✚ **Dietrick Bonhoeffer** was one of only a few pastors in Germany that refused to cave to Hitler. A man with a chest, beheaded for resistance.
- ✚ In his 1944 classic, ***The Abolition of Man***, **C.S. Lewis** talks about men **without** chests, lacking courage and honor.
- ✚ **William Wilberforce and Clapham Group:** They worked together, they demonstrated **the impact a group of people committed to a vision**, to working with each other can make if they are in **it for the long hall**.
- ✚ **We must be able to identify, understand and face the feminization** of ourselves, our culture, and churches. In the evangelical church today, the

emphasis is **on emotion, experience** and compassion. **Grace has chased out truth.**

Where is your name written? Most believers are like *indentured servants* to their church. No matter what they do, they will never leave.

Who are we looking for?

At this point in time, we are not seeking a crowd. **We see the next step as finding a few good people who are readers and critical thinkers – willing to roll up their sleeves and work together across denominational lines.** We are hoping to bring together Kingdom followers who are willing to work and pray and discover godly alternatives without being divisive.

Appendix:

Suggested reading and resources: ** Available on Audible

1. ****[Live Not by Lies – A Manual for Christian Dissidents](#) – by Rod Dreher**
(Some of Rod's This book will expose what is going on in America in detail like none other. **MUST READ**)
2. ****[Fault Lines - the Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe](#) - by Dr. Voddie Baucham. Excellent no-nonsense explanation of how CRT is dividing the churches in America – not just the Baptists.**
3. ****[Cultural Marxism](#) by Mark Levin explains how the core elements of Marxist ideology are now pervasive in American society and culture— from our schools, the press, and corporations and beyond.**
4. ****[Confronting Injustice Without Compromising Truth - 12 Questions Christians Should Ask About Social Justice](#) by Dr. Thaddeus William at Biola University (Suggested by the Colson Center for Christian Worldview)**
This is the best review of social justice issues. Fair but conservative. Practical and extremely helpful.
5. **** [We Will Not Be Silenced: Responding Courageously to Our Culture's Assault on Christianity](#). Pastor Erwin Lutzer unraveled the complex threats faced by Christians in a society that has weaponized race, gender,**

sexuality, and more to divide individuals and undermine freedom.
Excellent over-view.

6. ****[*The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self - Cultural Amnesia, Expressing Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution*](#)- by Carl Truman, Professor of Theology at Southeastern Baptist Seminary. (Suggested by the Colson Center) This exposes the MIND of the left (and many of us) and how we got here. It is exceptionally well done and helpful.**
 7. ****[*1620 – A Critical Response to the 1619 Project*](#) – by Dr. Peter Wood. The New York Times 1619 Project is a primary weapon of the LEFT right now. This is being taught in our schools. Good response.**
 8. **[*The Dallas Statement On Social Justice and The Gospel*](#). (LINKED to the article on BSWF web page. This is a document.) Pastor John MacArthur and other conservative Pastors express issues on CRT and SJ. This is, in a sense, a rebuke of the Southern Baptist Convention’s response.**
 9. ****[*Cynical Theories: How Activist Scholarship Made Everything about Race, Gender, and Identity—and Why This Harms Everybody*](#) - by Helen Pluckrose and James Linsey (One of the authors appears to be secular but this is an excellent work exposing the tenacles of THEORY that others have not.).**
 10. **[*The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates – A Proper Resistance to Tyranny and a Repudiation of Unlimited Obedience to Civil Government*](#) by Matthew Trehwella. (Also available on Audible)**
 11. **[*The Doctrine of Interposition in Theology*](#). How do we deal with resistance in practical terms? John Eidsmoe Esquire.**
 12. **[*A Christian Manifesto*](#) by Francis Schaeffer**
 13. Big Sky Worldview Forum’s web page has many relevant articles. Go to bigskyworldview.org – Resources – Library.
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 - **We are not the solution, God is!**
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 - Multiply and do not decrease. Samson, the strongest man in history was taken out by his deviation for God’s design for marriage. Salomon the wisest man... David the man after Gods own heart was likewise hindered.
 - Pray for the Babylonians and seek their welfare. We are not to be a bomb shelter; we are to be an ammo depo. Build Babylon’s good without bowing to Babylon’s god
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- ✚ We must be willing to surrender Power the woke group say.
- ✚ The Social Justice movement is very lucrative and powerful.
- ✚ He who controls the narrative controls the power – they are following the shift in the culture. This is “cultural pragmatism.”
- ✚ It is buying into the 1619 Project – America was born in racism.
- ✚ What is the Gospel – how is it being presented differently? Conservatives are being told within the SBC they are preaching a “half-gospel.”
- ✚ There are Marxist influences in their seminaries – students giving credits for attending Marxist-based seminaries.

- ✚ There is great mixture now in the SBC and LGBTQ Activism.
- ✚ What causes leaders to change orthodoxies?
- ✚ Who is involved in the WOKE Church?
- ✚ The Holistic Gospel is woke, it focuses on “equity” – pure CRT Marxism
- ✚ What is this Great Requirement?
- ✚ Who will be allowed power?
- ✚ Scripture is not **sufficient** we must also embrace intersectionality.
- ✚ Reading between the lines – how do we discern Open-Wokeness from Steal-Wokeness.
- ✚ Be aware that this is one side of the argument as you consider.
- ✚ How do we put pressure back on the LEFT?

The musical Carman, the lyrics to *Stout Hearted Men* say volumes. Notice the unity, the mentoring, the multiplication.

*“Hearts can inspire
 Other hearts with their fire
 For the strong obey
 When a strong man shows them the way
 Give me some men who are stout-hearted men
 Who will fight for the rights they adore
 Start me with ten who are stout-hearted men
 And I'll soon give you ten thousand more-more
 Shoulder to shoulder, and bolder and bolder
 They grow as they go to the fore
 Then there's nothing in the world
 Can halt or mar a plan
 When stout-hearted men
 Can stick together - man - to man...”*

Elaboration of Inadequacies of the Influence of the Church in American Culture

- ✚ **Slavery:** Most of the church was silent on the issue. Many even supported it. Christian abolition organizations did lead the effort to abolish this evil. This lack of engagement prolonged slavery in America and opened the door for valid criticism. With that said, the idea that America was one of the

worst players in this issue is historical ignorance. Slavery was an issue in most countries.

- ✚ **The Civil Rights Movement:** Most of the church was un-involved. This opened the door for Marxist ideology to invade much of the Black community. Marxist advocates are skilled at finding opportunities like this to promote their [Liberation Theology doctrines](#).
- ✚ **The [Sexual Revolution](#) of the 60's:** This movement has a foundation of **rebellion**. While there are valid LGBT concerns that the church needs to address, the LGBTQ+ Activists are immersed in rebellion. These movements always capitalize on shortcomings within institutions - be it the church or corporations. When the church failed to teach ethics well, it opened a door. In the early days of the industrial revolution when workers were being exploited by industrial barrens, Marxists infiltrated the union movements and are still there today. The sexual revolution evil continues to this day, but the church did very little teaching to resist it and still doesn't.
- ✚ **Roe v. Wade and Abortion:** Many para-church organizations have been influential in the Pro-Life movement. But, in 47 years since Roe, and 62 million dead babies, you have to look long and hard to find a church where the **pastor did a full teaching** on abortion even once.
- ✚ **No-Fault Divorce - 1970s:** Few legislative moves have done more harm to the family than this. Ronald Reagan publicly apologized for his influence in this. Again, the pulpits were quiet. How wonderful it is that you can [now do this on line](#) without a lawyer. Sic!
- ✚ **The Homosexual Movement:** While homosexuality is not new, its efforts to transform societies have grown since the 60's. In their 1987 Manifesto, [The Overhauling of Straight – A Blueprint for Transforming Social Values](#), these activists told us exactly how they would transform America and - without any resistance from the church – they have completed their mission. This tiny fraction LGBTQ group now OWNS America – corporations, media, athletic organization and ALL branches of the Christian church. Again, lots of organizations are promoting truth on this issue except teaching from the church.
- ✚ **Cohabitation** has become common, even acceptable in many Evangelical churches. Those doing pre-marital council testify that many of their

counselees are living together and Pastors will marry them anyway. This establishes a very unstable beginning for these family units.

- ✚ **Pornography.** Again, a subject NEVER addressed from the pulpit in teaching. Josh McDowell maintains that this factor alone is and will continue to destroy the church. Nearly 70% of pastors regularly view porn. For men the figure is higher, and the figures for women are climbing. The guilt from this *dulls the senses and the shame is like a cloak* of capitulation.
- ✚ **Same-Sex Marriage:** Why are young adults OK with this? In the last decade, the culture has informed our youth that this is good while the church has been silent - failing to preserve marriage, the foundation of Christian culture. Five years since the Supreme Court decision and not a peep from the pulpit.
- ✚ **The TRANS Movement:** In the last year, this idea has exploded, become “the tip of the spear” of not just the LGBTQ activists but for all of the Left. Less than ½ of 1% experience actual Gender Dysphoria. Nevertheless, even conservatives are bowing to the cultural demands of this tiny group with no voice from the church.
- ✚ **The COVID Agenda.** When COVID hit and churches were shut down, what did leadership do? Whatever government says, we will obey. Even today (04/01/2021), months after Montana was opened up, evangelical and reformed churches are submitting to California-like standards. Leadership has – again - failed to discern that there are evil forces at work on this that intend to destroy us.
- ✚ **And then came the 2020 Election: Who would be president of the United States if pastors had exposed the Democratic Party for what it is?** For many this was the last straw. Even the most politically un-astute spiritual leader had to know that the **Democrats had become solidly a Marxist-Atheist Religion intent on destroying America** as we know it AND especially Orthodox Christianity. The vast majority of the Evangelical and Catholic churches said nothing in terms of direction... just love each other.
- ✚ **Critical Theory, [Critical Race Theory](#), [Black Lives Matter](#)** etc. catapulted on the scene threatening everything orthodox Christianity holds dear. And what did the Pastors do – if they even knew what it was? Many embraced it. Most didn’t take the trouble to find out what it was. Prominent youth

leaders were observed on Facebook defending BLM – one of the vilest groups on the planet.

- ✚ The [COVID Passport Power Grab](#) that now threatens millions of believers whose research is leading them to question the vaccine. Will they be able to travel? Will they lose their jobs? Jack Hibbs, a pastor, and supporter of former President Donald Trump, said in a sermon that he believes the [COVID-19 vaccine is a social control tactic that is conditioning](#) people to accept the mark of the beast. Will these feminized shepherds remain silent on this issue also, that will impact the church? Even the Pre-Tribulation Rapture group – usually a-hunt for anything suggesting Jesus is coming back tomorrow – has been silent.
- ✚ **The Great Reset - a compilation of Factors:** For many, the last straw that made us realize that we needed to begin to form coalitions to preserve the faith was the election of 2020 – yes, politics. [For a century, the Democratic Party](#) has been moving Left. During 2020, enhanced by the COVID agenda, this party fully embraced atheistic Marxism categorizing itself not as a political party anymore, but as a religion. The evil now being openly promoted by this religion is not hidden and it is not isolated. Nevertheless, in the face of open attacks on Christianity, **the vast majority of Christian leadership lacked either the *discernment* or the *courage* to identify this evil and speak of it.** They failed to equip the saints (Eph. 4:12) to vote constructively – or at all. Instead of warning the *sheep* of the danger of this election, the majority of the *Shepherds* caved and spoke of unity and being kind. One wise [pastor creatively compared the platforms](#) of the two parties. In spite of this YouTube going viral in the Christian community, it did not move the leadership.

The words of Isaiah are ringing in our ears *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.”* (Isa. 5:20)

[When Government Rewards Evil and Punishes Good – Pastor John MacArthur](#)

What did God design government to do? Sadly, most of the church interprets Romans 13 as, we just submit to government no matter what. They have bought into the [Devine Right of Kings](#). [The Reformers](#) did not see it that way. Here, John

details how most of the persecution Christians are experiencing is from a rogue government. And, this is Satan's plan being fulfilled.

- ✚ Resolve to be the church will be tested at a much more aggressive level.
- ✚ The greatest threat to our nation and the church is this government.
- ✚ The role of government is to restrain evil and when it does, it is fulfilling its God ordained purpose.
- ✚ Human history is progressing toward a Global Kingdom ruled by Satan
- ✚ I Peter 2:13...*Governors sent by God for the punishment of evil*. Does this fit what you are seeing?
- ✚ It is becoming the enemy of God's design.
- ✚ Who will this false church be? Your church moving more Progressive?
- ✚ Abraham Kuyper, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands said.

"Our age is one of ecclesiastical passivism. When a church ceases to be militant it ceases to be a church of Jesus Christ. A truly militant church stands opposed to the world both without and within. Time and again, the church has need to oppose usurpations by the state."

"If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Wherever the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that one point." (Fritz's Story. Ebernberg, April 2nd, 1526)