

## An Advancing Discussion on the Future of the Church in America – Flourishing *with* Fortitude.

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*“It will never be known what acts of cowardice have been motivated by fear of not looking sufficiently progressive.”*

*- Charles Peguy, Notre Patrie, 1905*



Last summer, we began a discussion of what the American church might look like in the future. Without question, we are seeing shades of 1939 Germany. If you wish to review topics discussed in those meetings, you can find the notes [here](#).

As Rod Dreher (author of *Live Not By Lies*) [argues in a recent article](#), “our Pastors are ignoring reality, depending upon a winsome approach to the enemy in this cultural war. He says:

*Far too many conservative pastors and lay leaders are desperately clinging to the false hope that we are still living in either Positive World or Neutral World, [when Christianity was respected or at least tolerated]and that if they just keep calm and carry-on preaching and pastoring as if all was basically well, **everything’s going to calm down.***

He then nails it when he says...

*Winsome World Christians are failing to prepare themselves, their families, and (if pastors) their flocks for the world that exists today, and the world that is fast coming into being.*

Preparing, or equipping (Eph. 4:11-12) is being ignored and is a primary function of the Pastorate.

Our situation statement from last summer remains the same as you can scan here.

### **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.**

**But we want to move forward** and consider things not yet discussed. Some of this article will review key points. Other ideas will be in the appendix or LINKED to.

**Let us be clear**, that there is no question that real church will flourish in the future. My contention is that it may look much different than the visible church today. This is not a case for not being a part of a church. It is challenge to reexamine the church, return it to orthodoxy, and reconfigure it to become much more effective. This will require a radical commitment to equipping – teaching, discipling, and mentoring believers. We need to be *didactic* in the original sense - teaching precepts, principles, rules, doctrine **so that the learner grasps** the intended concept. This does not happen by spitting out sound bites or general references. It happens by precise, thorough examination of issues. It is my view that this is not happening in amusement based, seeker friendly environments. We must not settle for less.

## Our Mission and Focus:

**This effort is focused on one question:** As the *visible* church continues to move Progressive, what form will the *true and real* church of Christ take on? This is the hour for us to **continue a discussion** about the future of the church. [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.*” To lead effectively in this hour, we must measure ourselves by their standards.

## The State of the Union: Bulling and Intimidation:

**Our Leadership:** One can only honestly say that the status of America continues to decline. Since our last meeting in July, much advancement has been made by the Progressives on the national level. Locally, we continue to hear mostly silence from the church. Our Legislators did their job passing many conservative oriented bills. We also have much to do in the courts in Montana. For this reason, Nancy and I have shifted much of our giving to Christian [legislators who are actually working](#) to preserve the salt and light.

**Our military:** Any plan to take down a country will include a dismantling of its defenses. [Here](#) you will see the story of a young woman at West Point who was essentially forced out of the Army academy over vaccines. Cadets at the Air Force Academy are also being forced out for the same reason. Our military leadership has been declining for decades but we are now seeing a **purging that is like an ethnic cleaning**. Men of courage and moral courage are being purged. During WWII, we fought on three theaters – Europe, North Africa and Italy, and the Pacific. Congressional reports have shown that of the three branches, only the Marine Core is near an acceptable level. We would struggle to fight a one theater war today. **This deliberate, strategic dismantling** will mean that we are now vulnerable as a nation. This is another warning signal that the New Left has become brazen.

**Our education** system resembles an organization that has been “occupied by hostile forces.” The government has usurped the place of the parents. Educational norms have been replaced with progressive indoctrination. [The FBI](#)

[was revealed](#) to have intruded in parental- school board disputes. Parents are being threatened and intimidated. In spite of “much noise” about school boards, our local election embraced incumbents.

You will recall that one of the [key goals of the Marxists](#) was to gain complete control of the school systems. The Progressives are no longer pretending to represent government education as anything [but indoctrination](#).

**Our Federal Government** resembles a country that has been overtaken by a [Military Coup](#). The Biden administration has been emboldened into a complete lawlessness. At the southern border, in executive orders concerning transgenderism, teaching of Critical Race Theory in government agencies, vaccine mandates – it is impossible to keep up with this [Marxist-Globalist Long March Through the Institutions](#).

**International Corporations** have joined in this march, even being willing to fire competent people for disagreeing with LGBTQ-CRT-COVID propaganda. An engineer friend was dismissed for not taking the shot because of government contracts his firm was working with. Even in the sports arena, ESPN and **EVERY professional sport** has become advocates for the Left – even China.

**The Medical Community:** It has become more and more evident that a significant percentage of our doctors and medical people **are more committed to their Progressive ideology than they are to your health**. In spite of honest disagreements and many scientific reports questioning the safety and effectiveness of the shots, all we see from the medical community is more bullying. In Billings, our hospitals are spending big dollars advertising for more COVID propaganda. [The Dean of the MSU school of nursing](#) has threatened students who are not willing to take the shot. If you read the article, it is obvious she is a flaming liberal – she lists her *preferred pronouns* on her signature line. These so-called professionals - [They are ignoring the problem of mental health](#) that is much more destructive to culture than COVID because of their anti-Christian agendas. In this article on Mass Delusion, the author makes the point that: [The Emperor Has No Close On: The Conservative Evangelical and Catholic Churches have become bastions of compromise](#). [In previous articles](#) (page 3 and 10 and in the Appendix below), I name twenty issues that **have become political because** the church resolutely refuses to teach or speak constructively about them.

**Our so-called Pastors (shepherds) are living in an alternative world** of their own creation! But news flash Mildred, **you are not going to change them!**

This is a result of [cowardice](#) – the [feminization of the American](#) (see Del Tackett's article) pastorate. (See also [A Farewell to Feminism...Total Restructuring of Society](#)) A Consortium of CRT, [LGBTQ](#), Racist, COVID Activists have intimidated the leadership. We are even seeing division as many leaders are now embracing these issues – becoming apologist for progressives.

**My measuring stick at the moment?** If a church leader is not **teaching** (from the pulpit on Sunday morning) on Critical Race Theory and its step children, it is merely **an irrelevant, social- entertainment center**, focused on amusement. It has moved from being an equipping center to – by default and silence – a center for deception. If you find one who is teaching against CRT etc., please let me know.

### **A Little History Lesson from the Recent Past:**

A recent article by [Barna Research](#) is revealing on several front. One of the things it talked about is how **pastors show little interest in developing the ministries** and callings of those in their congregations. This is very much in step with the issues of the Mega Church movement.

There is a recent history that led us to this moment – it goes back to the Leadership Network that birthed the [Church Growth Movement](#) - the [advent of the CEO Pastorate](#), and the Mega-Church movement. **Robert Schuller** (Crystal Cathedral), **Rick Warren** (Saddleback), **Bill Hybels** (Willow Creek) - all three of these men got their churches growing by following the expertise and marketing techniques of **Peter Drucker**, a humanist who believed according to the Oct 1998 issue of Forbes Magazine that "The social universe has no "natural laws" as the physical sciences do. It is thus subject to continuous change" (page 154). The guy believed in no moral absolutes and yet these pastors are basing their church growth movement on **Drucker's marketing techniques!** This was the source of *The Purpose Driven Life* and the *Purpose Driven Church* by Warren. Just like big business, these three pastors surveyed the consumers they wanted (non-churched people in their communities) to figure out their "felt needs" so that the church could respond to them. Their Sunday morning services in turn are **geared toward non-believers**. Forget about God's purpose for the church, which is to equip the saints. (Eph. 4:11-12)

Warren stated that Drucker was his mentor for over 20 years. Hybels formed the Willow Creek Association of churches – several of which were in Montana. This group influence thousands of churches. Hybels was a huge Democrat and was sympathetic to Marxism as most Progressives are.

Rick Warren said this: Quoting Drucker Warren said

*“The most significant sociological phenomenon of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the **rise of the corporation**. The most significant sociological phenomenon of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has been the **development of the large pastoral church – the mega-church. It is the only organization that is actually working in our society.**”*

There you have it – **big corporations, and big churches. Neither focused on “their customers”** and we are seeing it in spades now.

On the contrary, the Mega-Church has destroyed the great commission – you know, those out of dates words at the end *“go and make disciples.”*

In the late 70’s a renowned teacher, Bob Mumford, said to his friend and Mega-Church pastor at Melody Land Christian Center, Ralph Wilkerson, **“you can’t disciple 15,000 people.”** And, he was dead right – dead as in the death of discipleship.

In the Barna piece, notice how **most of the pastors don’t know their people** by name – don’t know who they are. Have no or little interest in developing their people’s callings and ministries.

The reality is that in most churches, discipleship and mentoring is a deplorable myth. And, much of it goes back to the above-mentioned recent history. **We bought the serpents lie about equipping and now we have to change that.**

In [\*Call to Discipleship\*](#), Billy Graham said if he had it to do over again, he would find and disciple 10 good men.

Many of the above-mentioned ministries used to be handled adequately by competent people within the congregation voluntarily – it was their ministry.

### **An Alternative Vision of the Church:**

The Backgrounder for my comments will lean heavily upon MS. Bari Weiss's article in November *Commentary - Politics and Ideas* [\*We Got Here Because of Cowardice. We Get Out With Courage – Say No to The Woke Revolution.\*](#) This is must reading – trying to summarize it would not do justice to Bari or you. One of the things she does say is that among the chorus of Progressive ideas, there was a **loss of religion**. Recently, a friend spoke at a local church talking about the Great Reset and said that the church has [GONE DARK](#), we are no longer the light. He said our VOICE has been replaced by other voices.

One solution for the intimidation and resultant silence we see from the pulpit is a new way of doing church. We will look at several key issues and opportunities.

### **It All Starts With Leadership – Setting them Up Not to Compromise.**

#### **#1. Bi-Vocational Leadership: Breaking the Dependence on Popularity.**

**As long as leadership is dependent for their livelihood on pleasing people and avoiding pressure, we will continue to see leaders that are unwilling to speak the truth with courage.** We would be better off if most pastors were not primarily dependent on pay from the church. This will not be a cure-all but it would be a huge step towards eliminating those who are not willing to speak truth.

Speaking from experience I can say that it is likely that before you can have freedom to speak the full truth, **many new fellowships will have to be formed.** In

. almost every existing fellowship, there are enough who will resist anything but the status quo – will not put up with teaching on so-called cultural or political issues. While the argument will be to give them time and grace to re-adjust, there must be limits. Most of these people will not re-examine these issues.

**#2. Resources and Stewardship:** Just as we have seen the Government balloon in size, **so have church staffs.** A generation ago, a moderate sized church might have a pastor and a part-time or volunteer secretary. Perhaps a bi-vocational youth leader. Most of the youth leaders were members of the congregation.

Today, these same sized churches often have a lead pastor, at least one full time secretary-administrator, a college and career pastor, a high school pastor, a junior high pastor, a children's pastor, a minister of music, and a connection pastor.

**Eight positions** and in bigger churches, the roll call is even bigger. Of course, this

will vary with the church. **What is the yearly spending in these churches on salaries** compared to a generation ago? Recently, I had a pastor of a church of less than 200 tell me (as I was making the case for speaking about CRT) that his current focus was on hiring more staff. If all of these people were bi-vocational, we would see a difference.

**Think about this opportunity!** What could we do with what churches, just in Billings, are spending on salaries and other issues that were not being spent a generation ago?

**Better Use of Resources?** One must ask, what could the church accomplish collectively if these resources were re-directed?

In the early days of this country, the **majority of the universities** were started by churches or denominations. These were not just seminaries, they were places where Christian lawyers, doctors, scientists, teachers, and others were trained.

Most of the **early hospitals were started by Christians**. In Billings, our hospitals are largely administered by professionals with little interest in Christian values. The Billings Clinic is knee deep in LGBTQ issues, St. Vincent's is drifting Woke, and Riverstone Health is a haunt for Progressives.

**A Big Vision - Pooling Resources for Equipping:** Even a cursory look at our universities tells us that we need an alternative. It's not just the social sciences now, you can't get a degree in engineering, nursing, education etc. without being indoctrinated in Leftist ideology.

**If the churches just in Billings, spent the resources** they spend on bloated staffs, elaborate facilities, and other things – **we could finance a *best of the class* university to train teachers, nurses, engineers** – and eventually doctors and Christian lawyers. The founders of America did it with far fewer resources – **it's all about vision and priorities.**

But what about accreditation? In today's culture, if you had a doctor trained by credible doctors, people would run to them to get away from the ones who have **traded the Hippocratic Oath (*Do No Wrong*) for Progressive ideology**. While there would be changes, I believe that accreditation would very quickly become a non-issue in today's culture.

Take a lesson from the Home School movement. There is no accreditation – there is only outcome. They get into college based on their performance.

***The only thing lacking is men of vision who will become the William Wilberforce's for our future. Forty-six years they worked together to change their culture.***

**#3. Refurbishing the Local Church:** We have been conditioned to be spectators - to *sedentariness* (tending to spend much time seated; somewhat inactive) expecting to contribute nothing. This is sinfully unbiblical.

**Accountability to Biblical Qualified Elders:** There is no biblical model for the leadership in most of our churches. Plurality of eldership is the model, not a church board who occasionally makes suggestions to a ruling CEO pastor and staff.

#### **A Look at New Testament Patterns for the Local Church:**

In his 1997 classic [\*Love Your God with All Your Mind\*](#), (also available on Audible) Dr. J.P. Moreland (Distinguished Professor of philosophy at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University) dares to break the mold suggesting a whole different pattern for leadership and teaching in the church.

In chapter ten – **Recapturing the Intellectual Life of the Church** he makes some bold suggestions. **But first** he asks why our pastors and members are so **intellectually uninformed** in terms of church history or theology. His bottom line?

***“Evangelicals neither value nor have a strategy for developing every member of our congregations to one degree or another as Christian thinkers...Today the ministers we want are Christianized pop therapist who are entertaining to listen to... A church incompetent cannot effectively be a church militant.”***

**Here are some of his suggestions:**

#### **First Ministries:**

**1.) No senior pastors:** The New Testament church contained a Plurality of Elders (Acts 14:23, 20:28; Philippians 1:1; Hebrews 13:17). The New Testament knows nothing about a senior pastor. The emergence of the senior pastor is one of the

factors that has most significantly undermined the development of healthy churches. **Too often, men go into ministry get their own needs met.**

**2.)** The local church should be **led and taught** by a **plurality of voices called elders** and these voices should be **equal**. No one person has enough gifts, perspective and maturity to shape the local church without it becoming narrow.

**3.)** Their job description is to **equip others for ministry**, (Eph. 4:11-16) not to do the ministry themselves. The measure of the effectiveness of the **office of an Evangelist** is not how effective he is at winning people to Christ but how effective he is at **training others** to.

**4.) New Testament ministry was de-centralized.** The Senior Pastor model tends to centralize ministry around the **church building**. This is why you see “how high the walls of most churches are.” *It all happens inside the church* – nothing really outside. In most churches today, there is not interest in anything that does not happen inside the four walls.

**5.)** The **main job** of these elders is to **develop the ministry of congregants** and others - see that the members discover their spiritual gifts and develop them. This is in [sharp contrast](#) to what we say in the Barna report above that tells us that what is happening today is the exact opposite.

### **Second Teaching:**

**1.) The filling station model** – people come each week to get their tank full – is running out of gas. The measure is how **easy** it is to understand, how **pleasurable** it is and practically oriented. Moreland has started two churches and participated in others. He states that twenty years of this methodology develops **people who know nothing and are dependent upon someone to tell them what to believe**. Strong Christians are starving, wanting to be stretched and expanded.

**2.) Sermons, teachings and discipling should be geared to serious Disciples**, not to the amusement crowd. Christians need to go home from a teaching with a **handout** with detailed information and references for study. Before a series begins, books and articles for preparation should be made available with assignments. Occasionally pitching to the upper third intellectually speaking will stretch the whole congregation.

**3.) Multiple teachers:** This allows for individual with **specific expertise or interest** to teach series on relevant subjects. It also prevents disproportionate influence by one person and/or emphases.

**4.) Four to six-week series** should be encouraged by different speakers on church history, apologetic themes, cultural issues etc. There is a huge advantage to doing series teaching on subjects. This keeps people **on a subject long enough** to cause transformation. The leader would hand out at least t two-page, detailed handout. Often, assignments would be given for reading ahead of time.

**5.) Shared Ministers and exhorters:** Teachers from other congregations who have specific qualifications should be part of the curriculum.

### **Third Church Size and Teaching Style:**

**1.)** The Jewish synagogue would usually be about 100 people. This general size allows for real relationships to develop, for elders to know their sheep, and for every-member-participation to develop. **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.**

**2.)** Their method of teaching would have been generally [Socratic](#). This method is designed to **foster critical thinking** and often develops more questions than answers. The leader would introduce the subject and then facilitate a discussion. There would be assigned readings and, in some situations, participation would only be allowed for those who had done the assigned readings.

### **Christianity in the Public Square - Using Resources:**

Abraham Kuyper, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands said two important things:

**#1)** “There is **not a square inch** in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!”

**#2)** “*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.”*

With rare exception, the church neither sees its calling to **CLAIM and protect every square** inch of culture and it is now defined as being nice, not being militant. We are not called to be a **FORTESS**, a haven of rest, we are called to be a **Force**.

**In the light of these two thoughts and some of the presented ideas**, we need to look for men who have been **truly equipped in a Christian Worldview including the twenty cultural issues** (and more) discussed in the appendix.

These men may not (in fact probably will not) come from the current pool of what we call ministers. They will come from men we must help rise up. There are currently ministries such as [Summit Ministries](#) that do a broad spectrum of training on cultural issues. This may not be a “quick work” but we must trust God’s timing while working with him. Remember how you eat an elephant – one bite at a time. They will be equipped as resources to speak and be available at:

**The Montana Legislature** – We need about 6 men who will committee to two weeks at the legislature either alternately or as required by specific legislation. They would be a resource to help legislators with “messaging” and to persuade those who need to be engaged with relevant subjects.

**City Councils and Public Forums** – a pool of well spoken, qualified spokesmen - individuals trained on cultural issues would could be made available to conservative public servants.

**Training opportunities** - There are currently ministries such as [Summit Ministries](#) that do a broad spectrum of training on cultural issues. This group would probably welcome the opportunity to train. A committee from the legislature and city/county leaders could develop a list of topics for these spokesmen to read and be trained on. We already have a LIBRARY of articles available that could be re-sorted from [bigskyworldview.org/library](http://bigskyworldview.org/library).

### **Appendix:**

#### **Cultural Issues - Elaboration of Inadequacies of the Influence of the Church in American Culture**

1. **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.
2. **Creation vs. Evolution:** After the Scopes Trial, the teaching of the theory of evolution flourished. Soon, teaching of Creation was banned in schools. Meanwhile, most of the church was silent. This WAS, the time when Progressives captured the mind of our kids.
3. **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](#).
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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!

7. **Second and following waves of Feminism** designed to destroy the family, was the foundation for the homosexual movement and all things LGBTQ.
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **Intermarriage with unbelievers – silence.**
11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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.

14. **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.
15. **Religious Liberty** – silence.
16. **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.
17. **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.
18. 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.
19. **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.

20. **Globalism, the World Economic Forum and the New World Order.** Plan to erase borders and our national government.

**Suggested reading and resources: \*\* Available on Audible**

1. **\*\*[Live Not by Lies – A Manual for Christian Dissidents](#) – by Rod Dreher**  
This book will expose what is going on in America in detail like none other.  
Top of my list - 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. **\*\**American Marxism* 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](#) - 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 overview.

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. **\*\*[Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution](#) Carl Truman**
8. **\*\*[Worshipping The State: How Liberalism Became Our State Religion](#).** Benjamin Wiker. Sometimes, it's worth knowing where ideas come from. This Catholic philosopher-theologian does an amazing job of stepping us through where we got this leftist thinking.
9. **\*\*[Technocracy – The Hard Road to World Order](#) – Patrick Wood**
10. **\*\*[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.
11. **[The Dallas Statement On Social Justice and The Gospel](#). (LINKED to the article on BSWF web page.) 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.**
12. **\*\*[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.).
13. **\*\*[The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates](#) – *A Proper Resistance to Tyranny and a Repudiation of Unlimited Obedience to Civil Government* by Matthew Trewhella. This book outlines the error of the majority of the church's teaching on Rom. 13. The Reformers taught that the King was in covenant with God AND the people to follow God's rule. When he transgressed, he was to be resisted. This was the justification for the Revolutionary war. See also *LexRex – The Law is King*.**

14. [The Doctrine of Interposition in Theology](#). How do we deal with resistance in practical terms? John Eidsmoe Esquire.
15. [A Christian Manifesto](#) by Francis Schaeffer
16. Big Sky Worldview Forum's web page has many relevant articles. Go to [bigskyworldview.org](http://bigskyworldview.org) – Resources – Library.
17. [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.)
18. [Critical Race Theory: What It Is and How to Fight It?](#) March Imprimis from Hillsdale by Christopher Rufo. The Ideolog of Anti-Racism. [When Government Rewards Evil and Punishes Good](#) – Pastor John MacArthur
19. [When Government Rewards Evil and Punishes Good](#) – Pastor John MacArthur
20. [Enemies Within the Church](#)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOnaakLuJ90> (37 minutes) – A Look at the Social Justice 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 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. Again, the SBC is just an example of the mass division happening in the church.