



The Road Back

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Culture

Bible

If the Word doesn't
define you by discipline,
the World will define you
by default. --Ken Boa





Metaphysics: Recovering a Supernatural Worldview

Prayer

- The Problem
 - Time Spent in Prayer
 - Church Board Meetings
 - Prayer Meetings
- Must become Central
 - Example of Africa
- Learning to Pray



Reality of Spiritual Warfare

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Eph. 6:12

- Two Extremes
- Visible and Invisible Affect Each Other
- Roles or Spiritual Forces of Evil
 - Temptation
 - Accusation
 - Behind Nations
- The Armor of God and Prayer

Epistemology: Confidence in the Truthfulness of Scripture

- Loss of Supernatural Worldview Leads to Focus on Knowledge Drawn from Culture
 - What We Accept as Real Determines What We Can Know
 - What We Can Know Determines How We Can Know

The Faith
Given Once
for All
(Jude 3)

*Tradition is the living faith of the dead;
traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.
Jaroslav Pelikan*

- *Sola Scriptura* and the *Regula Fide*
 - Heiko Oberman: Tradition 1 vs. Tradition 2
- *Solo Scriptura*
 - Reject Tradition 1 and 2
 - Who?
 - Religious Radicals (Reformation)
 - Liberals (19th Century)
 - Modern Evangelicals

The Problem: Cultural Pressure to Redefine Biblical Teaching

- Twisting Christian Ethics
 - Unloving (or Intolerant, Bigoted, etc.)
 - Cult of Niceness
- Friendly Fire
 - Hurting our Witness
 - “Did God really say ...?”
- Goal
 - Conforming to the World
 - Being Liked

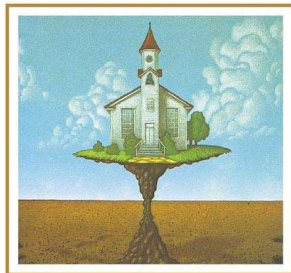
Where orthodoxy is optional, orthodoxy will sooner or later be proscribed. Richard John Neuhaus

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.”
John 15:18

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4

FRANCIS A. SCHAEFFER

THE
GREAT
EVANGELICAL
DISASTER



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THE Scandal
OF THE
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Steps in the Right Direction

1

Focus on Historic Christianity

- Faith
- Practice

2

Understand the Why of Christian Teaching

- Not Arbitrary
- Need for Scholarship

3

Challenges Are Not New

- Early Christians Faced the Same and Worse
- Courage

Ethics: Doing the Right Thing

- Loss of Supernatural Worldview and Acceptance of Cultural Ways of Knowing Lead to Changing Ethical Standards
 - Epistemological Relativism Leads Directly to Moral Relativism
 - Rom. 1: Suppressing the Truth in Unrighteousness Leads to Collapse of Ethics of All Kinds

The Character of God

Not Intellectual
Exercise

Think through
Ethical Questions
with Respect to
God's Character

The Image of God

- Definition
- Implications for Human Value
 - Gen. 9:6
 - The Sermon on the Mount
- Implications for Ethics
 - Courtesy, Honor, and Respect for All

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. C.S. Lewis

Speaking the Truth in Love

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. C. S. Lewis

- Therefore, We Dare Not Lie to Our Neighbor about Identity or Behavior
- Love Demands Truth

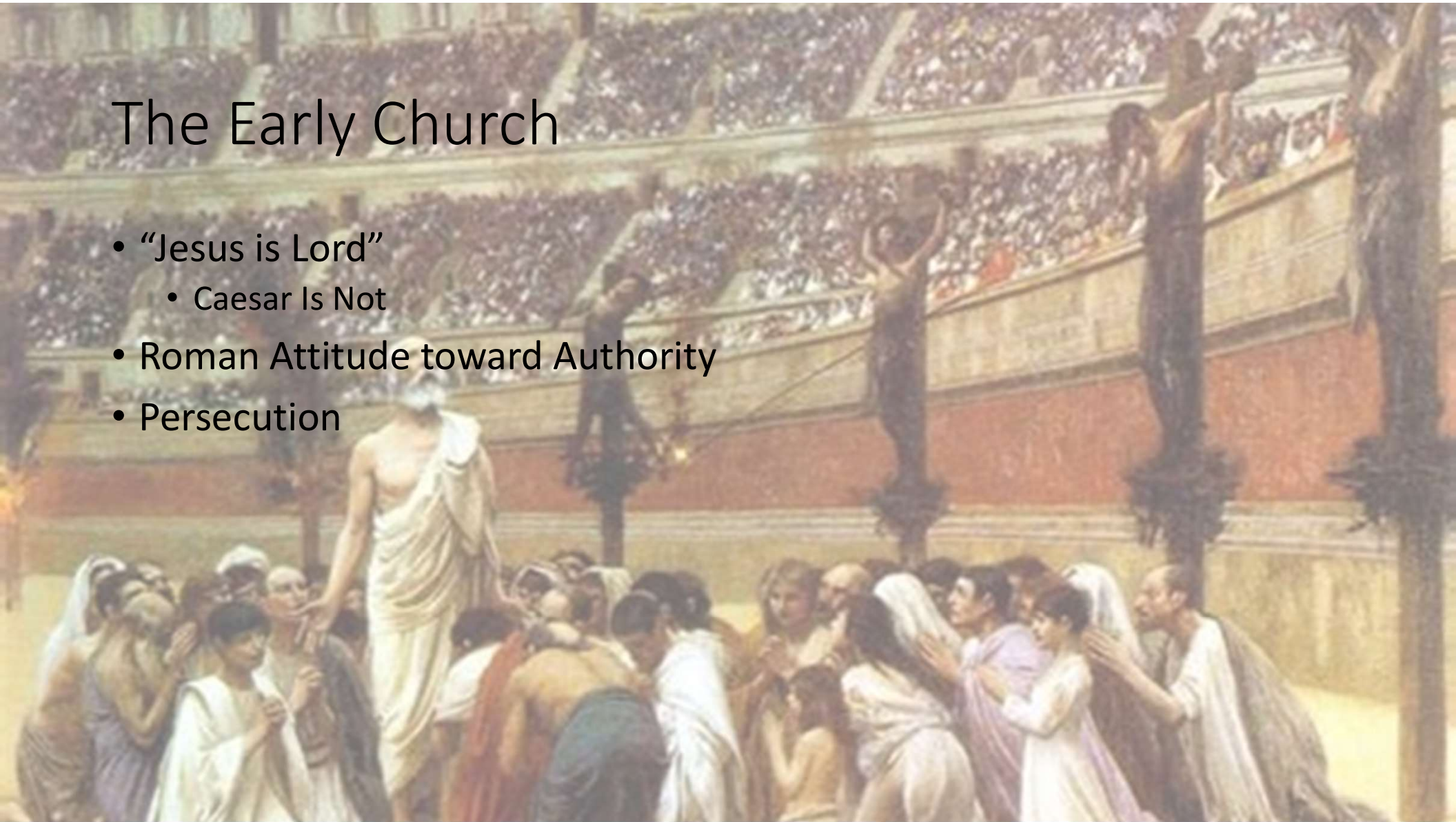
Facing External Challenges: The Gospel of the Kingdom

- Definition of Kingdom
- Jesus' Favorite Description of the Gospel
- The Kingdom after the Resurrection: Acts 28:31

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matt. 28:18-20

The Early Church

- “Jesus is Lord”
 - Caesar Is Not
- Roman Attitude toward Authority
- Persecution



Biblical Limits on Governmental Power

- Minimalist Approach
 - Must Obey Unless Direct Violation of God's Law
- Romans 13
- Matt. 22:15-22: "Render unto Caesar"
 - Key Points
 - Some Things Are Caesar's
 - Some Things Are Not
 - God Determines Which is Which
 - Key Question: Does [X] Belong to Caesar?
 - When Caesar Claims Authority over Something that Isn't His, Result is Tyranny

Prepolitical Rights

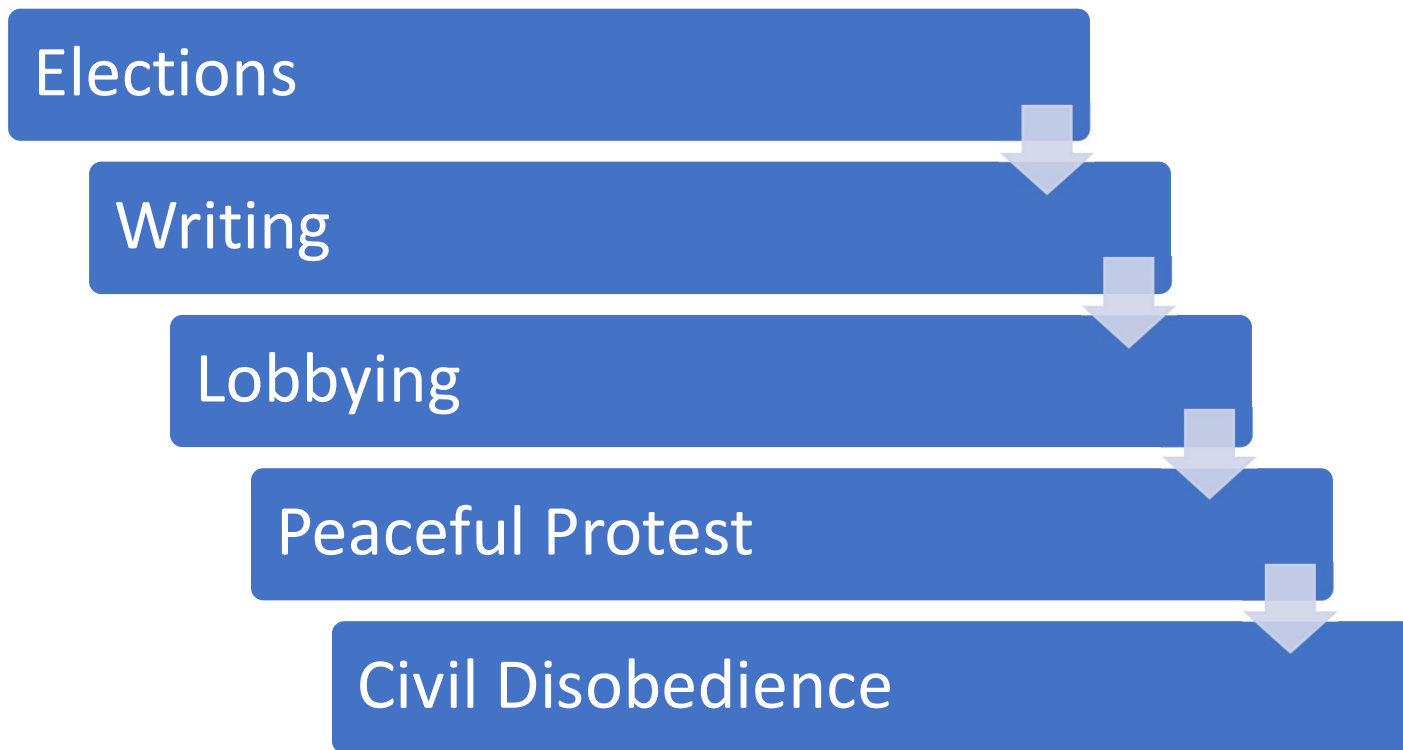
Genesis 1-2

- Life
- Liberty
- Property

Predate Government

- Therefore Government has No Right to Arbitrarily Deprive Anyone of Them

Responding to Overreach



Silicon Valley

Not Covered by First Amendment

- Technically can Censor
- But Clear Collusion

Public Utilities

How to Respond

- Lobbying
- Alternative Media
- Analog World