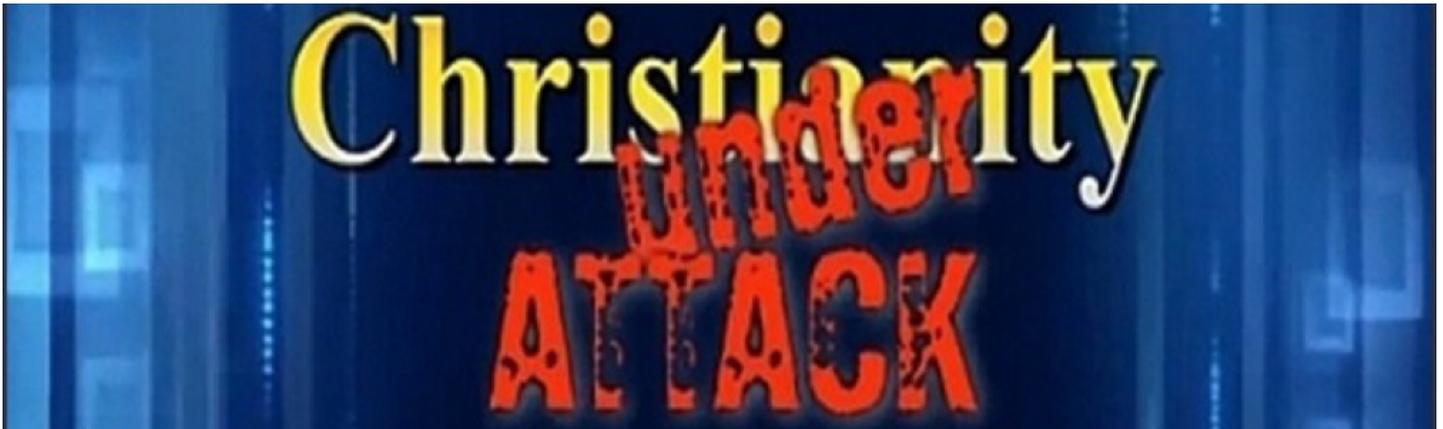


## Let Us Earnestly Contend for the Whole Faith

By Bill Johnson



The hits of life come in different ways. Are you and I and our loved ones up to the task? Moments ago we received a message from a caller wanting a message to be passed on to ADA's Lisa regarding an article that she wrote on LGBTQ indoctrination in Whitehall schools. "\*\*\*\* - you bigot" came the unexpected profanity. Though we are saddened by such a grievous comment, at the same time we take it as a badge of honor for identifying with God's righteousness and the peace we find in our Lord and Savior. The caller needs the Lord. Let us pray for him and many others like him.

Another incident was from the other day. I took two of my grandkids to Fremont Lake for a swim. We found our way to a picnic table in the shade when within seconds a middle school teen followed by several others sat on the other side, as my grandkids headed toward the lake for a swim. That left me seated at the picnic table with four middle-schoolers.

I was listening through my earbuds to a podcast and continued for about 15 minutes, but was partially attentive to the talking back and forth of the teens. I thought to myself, "They'd probably like me to leave them to themselves." But, at the same time, I thought I'd first just like to talk to them in my way. I gently opened with, "Are you guys from around here?" They all lived in the area, but one said that he liked Newaygo

(a neighboring city) better than Fremont as he said there are more drugs in Fremont than Newaygo. This was echoed by another. I asked, "Are you serious?" They said "yes." Whether this is true or not, it was the perception. As we got to know each other, I asked another question, "Do they teach CRT (critical race theory) in your school?" "No," they said, "but they do talk about the badness of racial discrimination." They must have known I was a grandfather, because little by little they began to talk about broken lives in their families: divisions brought about by drugs, divorce, separation, hardship in their families, fostering half-sisters or brothers out; sadness shone in each of their faces. Within ten minutes or so three of them got up to leave temporarily – leaving me with the young, nice, but sad-looking young lady who had lived in state-after-state before coming to Michigan. Her face reflected a lot of quiet sorrow. I said, "You are hurting, aren't you?" She said her stays have been short in the places where she has lived and she didn't want to leave Fremont, but that seemed to be coming soon. To my question as to whether she had ever received any counseling, she answered "yes, but it is so expensive." She said her "family" was Jehovah Witness. I asked her if anyone had ever talked with her about Christ. She answered a quiet "no" and just then the gang returned and they left together just moments later.

And in another disheartening account, earlier today I received the following text message from a childhood playmate and longtime friend of my son as he expressed the following passionate concerns: *Hey I don't know if you have any interest in mentioning this in a newsletter but I wonder how many people in our area are aware that critical race theory is being taught in Muskegon Community College. If it's being taught there then I would guess that it's being taught in local high schools. This is simply based on my classmates' willingness to admit their "privilege" with little questioning of the textbook. I know there is a wave right now fighting this in school boards. West Michigan needs to start stepping up too.*

In recent days, Steve and I went to a parent's meeting regarding the LGBTQ fiasco in Whitehall. It was to be an information meeting only – fair enough. But, when the speakers stated over and over "we aren't against LGBT" what does that tell you about the battle parents are facing in the said public school? Parents: you do need to get your kids out of such schools. The salvation of your children is at stake. By God's grace and mercies, we need to contend for the whole faith!

## Personal Note from the President



The notes and sometimes letters that we have received over these years bolster our spirits here at ADA. This coupled with the financial backing that God has faithfully provided gives us a sense of His love and your love for us through these trying days.

I heard a comment recently (in person) from someone where I was speaking who said, “Man, I said to my wife: ‘why do we support these guys?’ These letters are so depressing.” Then, he said, “But then I thought, but we do need to receive this news as it contains warnings, information and sometimes recommended action.”

We are mindful of this. We just wanted you to know that we are prone to heaviness in our messages but we seek at the same time to bring news back into the context that Christ is above all and through all; that He is in control.

Our desire is not to sugarcoat things. Yet, here we are again. Here is a little taste of that dark messaging. I am deeply troubled by the high level of wickedness that now dominates our country at the highest levels. Our pages are replete with that discussion. I’ll let this newsletter cover the latest. As you well know, evil is ramped up and moving at a breakneck speed.

I’m burdened for you. I’m burdened for our families, friends, and our churches. But, I’m burdened, I think, in a good way – in a way that God would want me to be burdened. I’m burdened over the fast pace of life, the proliferation of cell phones and social media that rob so many of their minds, their thoughts, their affections, etc. I’m burdened over the mind control of the media, corporate America, socialist infiltrators, and tech kingpins and how even our professional sports and college sports have bowed

their knee to critical theory, BLM, Antifa, socialism and the Chinese Communist Party. I’m also deeply saddened over how readily and completely people, and even loved ones of yours and mine, in many cases have been fooled – stupefied - into trusting in man’s manipulations, i.e. masking, shutdowns and, so much more.

Here is where my heart lies. It is so human to get carried along by time-wasting, mind-wasting trends via cell phones, idle talk, foolish arguments, fruitless activities in a variety of forms and as parents or grandparents we must not be overseeing households that exemplify such worthlessness – failing to discern the difference between the holy and the unholy.

May God use what I am about to write in your life. I speak of leading your family into times of family worship together. It begins with ourselves.

As I have often spoken to individuals and groups, I believe one of the greatest failings of the church has been its failure to teach, to plead with the people of God regarding the importance of daily personal devotions and of family devotions. I urge you to give heed to this word and arise. I select these sentences carefully knowing that moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas are losing their children to lesser things.

[Charles] *“Spurgeon clearly remembered his mother tearfully praying over him like this: ‘Lord, Thou knowest if these prayers are not answered in Charles conversion, these very prayers will bear witness against him in the Judgment Day.’ Spurgeon wrote: ‘The thought that my mother’s prayers would serve as witness against me in the day of judgment sent terror into my heart.’”*

*“Fathers, use every means to have your children snatched as brands from the burning. Pray with them, teach them, sing with them, weep over them, admonish them, plead with them and upon their baptism. Remember that at every family worship you are ushering your children into the very presence of the Most High.”*

*J.C. Ryle said, ‘I charge you, fathers, take every pain to train your children in the way they should go. I charge you not merely for*

*the sake of your children’s souls; I charge you for the sake of your own future comfort and peace. Truly your own happiness in great measure depends on it. Children have caused the saddest tears that man has ever had to shed.’*

*Such sorrows are heavy enough when fathers have faithfully discharged their duty yet still live with a prodigal son or daughter. But who can bear the reproach of a stinging conscience that condemn us because we never brought them up in the fear of the Lord? What shame to have failed to take seriously the vow we uttered at our children’s baptism or confirmation to raise our children in our confessional doctrines.*

*How much better if we can say: “Son We taught you God’s Word, we wrestled for your soul; we lived a God-fearing example before you. You didn’t see in us a sinless piety but an unfeigned faith. You know we sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Your conscience will bear witness that Christ is the center of this home. We sang together, prayed together, and talked together. If you turn away from this light and these privileges, and insist on going your own way, we can only pray that all your Bible study, praying, and singing will not rise up against you in the Judgment Day and that you will come to your senses before it is too late.”*

God is able, but even if He doesn’t take us out of our hellish descent, God has a plan for His chosen people in America. It is not a short-term plan but an eternal plan of life, not death. “My sheep hear my voice and they follow me.” My burden, then, is that we get some old-fashioned guts and fight on our spiritual knees. That we speak with boldness against our collective and individual godlessness and rip off not just those literal, detested masks, but recognize that we are in a much greater fight than covid/masking. That we fight with faith, heart, and Holy Spirit-empowered vigor against the spiritual masks that we have allowed to stupefy us and dupe us into covering our eyes from God’s Truth through prayerlessness, churchlessness, unfaithfulness to God’s Word, and then, as fools, have wondered how our country could be ruled by the devil and his minions.

# Taken Captive by CRT

By Lisa Van Houten



*“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” ~ Colossians 2:8*

Seemingly overnight, much of our nation has been taken captive by the philosophy of Critical Race Theory (CRT). CRT, rooted in Marxism, divides people into two groups: the oppressors and the oppressed. CRT asserts that all white people are inherently racist and thus oppressors, while non-whites are, by nature of their skin color, victims of white oppression. According to CRT, every institution founded by white men is systematically racist and must be dismantled, thus we see attacks upon historical figures, the Constitution, capitalism, etc..

Ibram X. Kendi, a leading CRT demagogue, stated, *“The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.”* **In essence, CRT fights perceived racism by fostering racism and division.** This ideology is now being unleashed in American institutions - in public schools and universities, Democrat-controlled government agencies, and corporate America - as students and employees are forced to undergo “bias training” and make public apologies for their “white privilege.” CRT is one of the tools Leftists are using to dismantle constitutional America, undermine the ideals of liberty upon which we were founded, and institute a Marxist transformation of our nation. The neo-Marxist march through America’s secular institutions is nearly complete.

One of the last institutions to fall prey to this dangerous ideology is the U.S. military. In recent years, progressives have been making their way up the ranks and into the Pentagon while conservative, old school

officers have been weeded out. While I have no doubt that patriotism and love of country still typifies the rank and file of our nation’s fighting force, the leftist takeover of the brass is well underway. For proof look no further than the recent ouster of Lt. Col. Matthew Lohmeier, commander of the 11th Space Warning Squadron, who recently was relieved of his command for speaking out against the anti-American ideologies of Marxism and Critical Race Theory that are now sweeping through the military.

And for further example of the direction of our military, Nellis Air Force base recently held a Drag Queen show, while at Fort Hood, Army chaplain Andrew Calvert was suspended from duty for expressing on his personal Facebook page his support for a ban on transgenders in the military. Holding conservative views will now endanger a service member’s career.

In February, Biden’s Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin issued a 60 day “stand down,” ordering military leaders to weed out domestic extremism in the ranks. (i.e. “conservatives.”) Austin also mandated that troops complete a “diversity and inclusion program” – Critical Race Theory.

Sen. Tom Cotton is raising the alarm that our service members are being indoctrinated with CRT, teaching that the country they took an oath to defend is “a fundamentally racist and evil nation.” Sen. Cotton and Rep. Dan Crenshaw launched a website for service members to report CRT in military trainings and have already received hundreds of whistleblower complaints. Cotton stated: “One marine told us that ... a military history training session was replaced with mandatory training on police brutality, white privilege, and systemic racism. He reported that several officers are now leaving his unit, citing that training.”

As Sen. Cotton asserts: *“By promoting critical race theory, the military is peddling ideological poison that will degrade the cohesion and combat effectiveness of its troops. ... We need to teach our young troops ... to befriend, fight alongside, and, if necessary, die for their comrades on the*

*battlefield — not to obsess about skin color. Likewise, we need to teach them to revere the Constitution that they swore to protect and defend — not to believe it’s part of a multigenerational racist conspiracy.”*

**Our military has always been apolitical, however we now see it being weaponized to push a specific political ideology - a very dangerous precedent.** As Rep. Mike Rogers stated: *“The United States Armed Forces should be focused on preparing to face and win any battles against the threats posed by China and other foreign adversaries and not imposing political beliefs on those who chose to serve in uniform.”*

While China rapidly expands its military strength and becomes increasingly provocative, Defense Secretary Austin and President Biden have declared that our nation’s greatest threat to national security isn’t China - but climate change. *It’s no wonder that simulated war games conducted last fall by the U.S. Airforce showed that the U.S. would easily lose in a war with China over Taiwan.* Every scenario in the simulation ended with Chinese missiles raining down on American bases. As China outpaces us in military advancement, the U.S. military is focused on teaching that America is irredeemably racist.

There is no grace, no forgiveness for past sins with CRT – only capitulation. Yet Christianity offers true redemption not only for the sin of racism, but all sin. CRT brings division, pitting people against each other. Christianity teaches that ALL have sinned – the “oppressor” and the “oppressed” – but in Christ there is forgiveness and unity. *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* Gal. 3:28 Christianity teaches that our worth is found not in the color of our skin, but from being created in the image of God. **Therefore, true racism should be opposed and, as we’re commanded, we should act justly and love mercy. As Christians, we have the solution to the empty and deceitful philosophy of CRT that is spreading throughout our nation. We need to oppose the lies and share the Truth.**

## Where IS Sesame Street?

By Steve Huston



It's no wonder the theme song for the iconic children's TV program, Sesame Street, repeats over and over, "Can you tell me how to get, how to get to Sesame Street? How to get to Sesame Street?" They've been progressively moving around but always in the same direction, just a little further down the street. We will follow their trail shortly; but first, why is it a big deal?

Let me start this article quoting how my co-worker, Chris Johnson, so rightly and masterfully ended one of his recently. **"Christians have got to get past the illusion that education and entertainment and even advertisements are somehow neutral spaces. The left wins because they get that and somehow we still don't."**

We need to understand that there is a battle going on for our children's mind, heart, and soul. It's a spiritual battle that uses the same tactics that Satan used so long ago in the Garden. "Hath God really said?" Second to its spiritual aspects, it's an attack on our nation; for what nation can stand when they disregard and go against the commands of God and what He has ordained from creation?

Sesame Street has left a trail of LGBTQ+ crumbs for many years now. I remember waking up from a nap only to see my, at that time, young child watching Ellen DeGeneres on Sesame Street. Since that time it was considered a show we no longer trusted to teach/entertain our children. PBS was no longer a trusted source for our family. Since then several other "out" celebrities have been on the show: Billy Eichner, Billy Porter, and more recently Lil Nas X.

I started this article by telling you that Sesame Street moved and that it's not neutral; but rather, it's taking part in a battle for your children's mind, heart, and soul. The current attack on family and Biblical values, at-

tempting to confuse our children, is Sesame Street's first time ever introducing two "married" gay dads (Frank-Alex Weisman and Dave-Chris Costa) and their daughter (Mia-Olivia Perez) for a special "Family Day" episode. One of the dads tells the group, *"There's all kinds of different families, but what makes us a family is that we love each other."*

"Hath God really said?" After all, it's fun, it makes us laugh, they certainly seem to be nice people (and they likely are) ... it's pleasing to the eye, it's good for entertainment, it seems as though it would make us wise...

**What God calls sin, is sin. No matter how it is dressed up; regardless of how friendly it seems, there is no redefining of sin, family, or any other thing which God has already defined for us in His Word.**

Even if we accepted the definition of family as being "we love each other," that would cause great difficulty because it offers no stability in the fabric of community. Anyone who loves another is family? Those who are a "family" unit but have come to merely tolerate one another are no longer family? I could go on and on but you get the idea. The family is the building block of society and when the term family can mean anything, it means nothing. That brings great danger to our nation, our society, our community, and our children.

I could urge you to contact Sesame Street and PBS, letting them know that you are bothered by their blatant disregard for Biblical values and their attack on the family. That's not a bad idea since they should hear from people; and it's important to do the right thing simply because it's the right thing to do. At the same time, it's rather obvious that they don't really care what people like us think.

I will urge you to spread the word, stop watching PBS (and Netflix and other networks that desire to capture our children's heart, mind, and soul), and, most importantly, pray for Alex, Chris, and Olivia to see the light of God's truth, understand His love for them, and come to a saving and sanctifying relationship with Jesus Christ. **With God all things are possible.**

## Get Informed

COMING SOON!

**American Decency is bringing Michael Perkins to Michigan July 20-30.** LGBTQ activists push their agenda to the center of every institution, including the church. Our government, media, and schools promote its acceptance and exaltation, children are becoming confused and in some way, shape, or form, nearly every family is facing hurt or needing guidance in how to lovingly respond to the sexual issues of our day.

Michael Perkins, producer of American Family Studios' latest film, *In His Image*, is very knowledgeable regarding the LGBTQ concern, while addressing these sensitive issues with Biblical soundness and showing Christian compassion. He firmly believes that every person is worthy of dignity and respect as Image Bearers of God while upholding God's design for humanity and sexuality. The church should be leading the way in like manner. He brings great understanding to the issues at hand, sober-mindedly and humbly, letting truth stand in its own strength.

To keep informed of where Michael will be speaking, sign up for our email alerts. If you'd like to schedule Michael for a speaking event contact us:

**Call 231-924-4050 or email [kimberly@americandecency.org](mailto:kimberly@americandecency.org).**

Watch the documentary at <https://inhisimage.movie/>

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# Times Are Changing

By Steve Huston



Our regular readers won't be surprised to read this in our newsletter: **“Our hope is not in any government, political party, or person; our hope is in the Lord alone.”** Recent events make this clearer than ever. As things unfold the ethereal becomes harsh reality and we're forced to truly put our hope in God or watch our faith falter and fail. This Marxist regime plans to come after those who will not bow to the Party line. Ours is not the first country to experience such change and violence. Although presented as political, we are looking at a spiritual crisis. Are you being strengthened through personal prayer, Bible reading and study? Is your spirit being shored up by the Holy Spirit? Are your loins girt about with truth; have you done all to stand?

If the above startles you it's because what's written below IS scary; **but in Christ, we need not be fearful**. We have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Read on!

June 15, 2021, the White House released a statement that began by warning of domestic terrorism in America that is driven by “hate, bigotry, and other forms of extremism.” It continued, “To meet this serious and growing threat, on my first day in office I directed my national security team to confront the rise in domestic terrorism with the necessary resources and resolve. Today, I am releasing the first-ever National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism. It lays out a comprehensive approach to protecting our nation from domestic terrorism while safeguarding our bedrock civil rights and civil liberties – values that make us who we are as Americans.”

Sounds great...until one realizes that they are coming after many of us. The *National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism* (NSFCDT) document's “manifest in-

tent,” according to former Clandestine Operations Officer (CIA) Sam Faddis, “is to label the political opponents of this regime as **enemies of the state** so that the power of the state can be used to crush them. **There is no ambiguity about that purpose. It drips from every page.**”

This 32 page piece of partisan propaganda “reveals” that it really hasn't been the Marxist revolutionary organizations that are responsible for the division and destruction that America has seen over the last year; it's armed white dissenters who believe in the enumerated rights of the Constitution. They are the radicalized domestic terrorists; they, according to this regime, are the real danger to this country.

“Individuals subscribing to violent ideologies such as violent white supremacy, which are grounded in racial, ethnic, and religious hatred and the dehumanizing of portions of the American community, as well as violent anti-government ideologies, are responsible for a substantial portion of today's domestic terrorism.” ... “Another key component of the threat comes from anti-government or anti-authority violent extremists. This significant component of today's threat includes self-proclaimed ‘militias’ and militia violent extremists who take steps to violently resist government authority or facilitate the overthrow of the U.S. Government based on perceived overreach...” (NSFCDT)

**How will they identify these radicalized white gun-toting, liberty-loving, Constitution-believing “domestic violent extremists?”** One senior regime official stated, “This involves creating contexts in which those who are family members or friends or co-workers know that there are pathways and avenues to raise concerns and seek help for those who they have perceived to be radicalizing and potentially radicalizing towards violence.” In other words, they are going to encourage one's closest relatives and friends to snitch on them.

Sam Faddis also reports: “Just as the new domestic terrorism advisory was issued and being trumpeted around Washington *the*

**FBI provided this assessment to Congress.** “We assess that some DVE (domestic violent extremist) adherents of QAnon likely will begin to believe they can no longer “trust the plan” referenced in QAnon posts and that they have an obligation to change from serving as “digital soldiers” towards engaging in real-world violence—including harming perceived members of the “cabal” such as Democrats and other political opposition—instead of continually awaiting Q's promised actions which have not occurred.” One might even wonder if QAnon was part of the plan to keep the hopeful passive until it was too late.

Steve Ensley warned us years ago, during an American Decency event, that big tech companies would work with a political faction to identify dissidents. Breitbart reports, “The Biden administration said it would also work with large technology companies on ‘increased information sharing’ to help combat radicalization.

“Any particular tech company often knows its own platform very well,” the official noted. “But the government sees things — actually, threats of violence — across platforms. They see the relationship between online recruitment, radicalization, and violence in the physical world.”

The Mcalvany Intelligence Advisor suggests some ways to protect oneself from government surveillance. A few are: 1) Consider reducing /discarding your social media presence. 2) Whenever possible, use a secure, non-Gmail email provider (ProtonMail or Tutanota). 3) Use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) such as Proton VP. This helps to keep your telecom providers and the government from scooping up your browsing history and communications.

**Our hope is not in any government, political party, or person; our hope is in the Lord alone.** The fact that this world is not our home needs to become very real to us. Our weapons are not carnal, but spiritual; let us take every thought captive, pray for God to save us from fear of the enemy, and rest in Him while we fight the good fight of faith. **With every change we have a chance to draw nearer to our Savior.**

# Why The Long March?

By Chris Johnson



In the attention you've paid to the happenings in our culture, and the political right's reaction to the advancement of the radical left, you've likely heard the phrase, "The long march through the institutions."

That phrase refers to a strategy attributed to Antonio Gramsci, which he lays out thus: "*Socialism is precisely the religion that must overwhelm Christianity. ... In the new order, Socialism will triumph by first capturing the culture via infiltration of schools, universities, churches, and the media by transforming the consciousness of society.*"

As leftist intellectuals fled the Nazi regime in the thirties, they landed on America's shores and took root in the knowledge centers of our culture and there we see the beginnings of the "Long March."

The first part of that quote is surprising. We tend to imagine "Christianity" always having been more-or-less like it is now; and yet I recently heard of a pastor bringing on stage a professional horse trainer – complete with horse – as a "sermon illustration."

Such an institution requires a very short march.

But "the church" was not always such an easy target. Consider that the institutions which Gramsci and his ilk sought to infiltrate were themselves largely Christian undertakings. The now notoriously liberal Ivy League schools almost all began either as seminaries or missionary projects.

Christianity has not always scabbled for the attention of culture like so many do now, because we were too busy building it.

What we might have an even harder time wrapping our head around is that this influence is actually the norm throughout the history of Western Culture, rather than the

exception.

I recently read through Glenn Sunshine's latest book, *Slaying Leviathon*. Glenn is a Professor of History and a Senior Fellow at the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. He's authored numerous books, and co-hosts one of my favorite podcasts called "Theology Pugcast" which delves into the history of culture, philosophy, and religion to trace the consequences we are living today back to the ideas which birthed them.

In *Slaying Leviathon*, Sunshine begins by going back into early church history, noting that "*The confession 'Jesus is Lord' (implying that Caesar is not) ... had unmistakable political overtones that could not help but sound treasonous to Roman ears.*" The persecution undergone by Christians in the Roman empire was *political* persecution.

But, a mere three hundred years later, the emperor of Rome – Constantine - was himself converted to Christianity, and from there the church's power grew exponentially until it held more political power than the earthly kingdoms under its influence.

Neither his book nor this article is a call for a return to the "glory days" of the Roman Catholic Church. *Slaying Leviathon*, in fact, records the struggle between the church and the state powers as they worked through what the role of the church in government – and vice versa – ought to be. He follows the line of thought from Augustine to the Franciscan monks, to William of Ockham, to the Reformers, to John Locke, and finally the American founders (with many in between), as they face the questions we simply take for granted. Who has rights? What rights do we have? Where do they come from? How can we defend them? What power ought the state to have? What power ought the church to have? How do these powers work together?

The answers to these questions *in light of God's Word* literally built civilizations. Glenn's book shows how these foundational concepts are rooted, not only in God's Word, but in Christian tradition.

Yet, very few Christians know these traditions.

I was asked recently by a friend, in a tone of voice which implied their answer would be 'no,' "Does theology come from God?" This person is very involved in one of the biggest churches in our very conservative community. We've heard it said elsewhere, many times: "doctrine divides." Country artist Brad Paisley sings a song which echoes this same sentiment: "Me and Jesus have our own thing going."

How can we claim to love Christ if we don't love His bride? How can we love the church if we don't listen to her? How can we listen to her if we are not aware of her teaching? The word "Theology" means the study of God. If we love God shouldn't we want to know what intelligent Christians from the past have to teach us about Him, *especially* when the legacy of their teaching about God is the very foundation of our civilization?

I encourage you to join me in digging into the history of our faith. Glenn Sunshine's book, *Slaying Leviathon*, is a great place to start. There's also the classic work of Francis Schaeffer: *How Shall We Then Live*, which has an accompanying documentary series on Amazon Prime. Ligonier Ministries has some great teaching series on both theology and church history in their free application as well.

As the culture around us degenerates, we are confronted with the same questions that Christianity has been working through for the past two thousand years, only *we* have the benefit of the church fathers' already having worked through them, again, *in light of God's Word*. Will we know our own history and the Bible well enough to defend and rebuild?

Going back to Gramsci's mission - "transforming the consciousness of society" – should sound familiar; it's a direct competitor to what Paul called us to in Romans 12:2: "*be transformed by the renewal of your mind...*"

History shows us the implications of being transformed by the renewing of our minds in Christ; current events show us the implications of transforming the consciousness of society ala Antonio Gramsci. What's "forming" you?

## Is The Battle Lost?

By: Lisa Van Houten



As we look at what is occurring around us, it seems as if we've lost the culture. Where once Christianity was the driving force in shaping our nation and institutions, Christians are now the target of the Left's animosity. We see that vividly played out in corporate America as companies push Leftist ideology.

It hasn't always been that way. In years past, businesses would be very careful not to offend their customer base. We at ADA saw that in our Howard Stern campaign in the late 1990s/early 2000s where we wrote to thousands of advertisers - from local businesses to national and even international corporations - in markets nationwide and saw over 90% of the companies we contacted pull their ads from the Stern Show. Here are just a few of the countless responses we received over the years.

*... regarding advertising on the Howard Stern TV Show in Dallas. Thanks for your time and attention on America's airwaves. Our Corporate name and image is very important to us. This letter is to advise you of our intent to pull all future advertising from this show. ...*

*National Director of Field Marketing*

*May 14, 2000 ... We are in receipt of your letter dated 14th April, 2000 requesting ... to withdraw advertising dollars from the Howard Stern radio program. We respect good culture and support for decency in society. We firmly agree that devaluation of human life cannot be supported by any means. As such we have decided to end our advertising campaign with Howard Stern radio in CT... I am glad to know that organizations like American Decency Association exists which helps maintain decency in human society. Keep up the good work. ...*

*March 27, 2001 ... Thank you for alerting*

*us about the continuing problem regarding ... commercials airing on the Howard Stern Show. We have contacted the ABC network and have instructed them to provide us with an actionable plan to prevent this from occurring again. We appreciate your efforts regarding appropriate radio programming. Please continue to inform us if ... commercials air on the Howard Stern Show. Please direct this information to my attention so I can take immediate action to resolve the situation. Thank you. ...*

*Advertising Director*

Fast forward 20 years. Can you imagine getting such letters from corporations today? Instead, we've seen corporate America kowtowing to the woke mob, showing disdain for the values of 75 million+ conservatives, who, in all likelihood, make up a large part of their customer base.

In June it seemed as if every corporation was genuflecting before the LGBT altar in support of "Pride Month." And it's not just left-leaning companies jumping on the rainbow bandwagon. Kohl's, which has built their business on the support of American families, ran ads featuring numerous same-sex couples and promoting clothing adorned with LGBT slogans. Yet Kohl's took it even a step further with an ad promoting polygamy, portraying what they want us to see as a "family" - a man with his arms intimately around two women, with a child in front of them. The ad's slogan stated: "At Kohl's we believe in not just accepting people for who they are, but celebrating them because of it. That's why we're excited to celebrate Pride Month not just this month, but every day throughout the year."

Meijer, a Midwest supermarket chain with the reputation of being "family-friendly," prominently displayed pro-LGBT apparel and was reported to have broadcast LGBT propaganda over their PA system.

Corporation after corporation falls in line to promote degeneracy, signaling their support for what God call's an abomination. Isaiah 3:9 says, "they proclaim their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves."

As our own Chris Johnson reported in a recent email regarding the endless parade of corporations proudly promoting the LGBT agenda: "What's particularly disturbing - and telling - this year is the number of examples for which children are the target audience." For example, Kellogg's (as we reported in our June newsletter), Skittles candy, and Nickelodeon cartoons to name just a few. As Chris reported, commentator Matt Walsh responded to the Nickelodeon ad with this point: "***Do you want to know why conservatives are losing the culture? Nickelodeon put out two videos in a week of a drag queen pushing gay pride on children and still most conservative parents will allow their children to watch shows on the network. That's it. That's why we lose.***"

As we see the culture disintegrating, the easiest thing to do is retreat; hole up and lick our wounds. Terry Schilling, writing for The Federalist, admonishes those who've concluded that the culture is so corrupt there's no use in trying to save it: "*This is wrongheaded. It's cowardly and selfish, abandoning our fellow citizens to woke chaos. ... Rather than assuming the evils of the world will retreat on their own, conservatives must proactively engage the fight. No corner can expect to escape wokeism's ever-increasing political and cultural power if left unchecked. Not content to simply let conservatives retreat, the left is sniffing them out in their schools, jobs, and suspended social media accounts.*"

Wouldn't it be nice to contact corporations such as Kohl's or Kellogg's and have them tell us "Thank you ... We appreciate your efforts ... We respect good culture and support for decency in society." **Those days may never return, but that doesn't negate our duty to be truth bearers. Even if we don't change corporate policy, we never know who we may influence. So, make that phone call to corporations and politicians; talk to the store manager; engage your local school board - contend for the faith.** The unofficial motto in our office is, "God doesn't call us to be successful, but to be faithful." We may not ever win another battle like the Stern campaign, but we know the war has already been won - **and so we fight on in victory.**

# An Especially Urgent Request for an Unusual Donation

By Bill Johnson



Our ADA staff has seen and experienced trials and tribulations over these years - one of them being the sudden death of staff member and friend of many, Judy Krause, two years ago. Largely, we have been immensely blessed with good health other than the regular health issues and a few surgeries that have kept a couple staff persons out of work for a short time.

However, this time, we have a much more concerning need - and it has to do with my long-time colleague and kindred spirit in the fight, Lisa Van Houten. (pictured above, far left) Lisa's family has been afflicted with a rare kidney disease that resulted in the death of her father when Lisa was seven, in a day when there weren't the advancements in treatments that there are today. Lisa has an older brother and sister who had kidney transplants in the past. Lisa has had periodic checks on her kidney function to monitor the health and/or the degeneration of her kidney over these years. In recent months, her kidney function has declined significantly and Lisa has been told that she may face dialysis before the end of the year if things continue declining as they are.

We've known that eventually this day would likely come, and it has! Lisa, ever the spiritual warrior, was blessed to have a sister suggest that we "ask for prayer and the possible help of someone who will sense God's touch upon them to offer to be a donor." While we are accustomed to the discomfort of asking for gifts for our ministry; due to the nature of this request, it should be harder yet, because we request the gift of someone's very *self*. Yet in another sense, it is not at all difficult, since the person I ask for is such a friend, a faithful warrior, and a kindred spirit. It is now our hope and prayer that as we call out to friends, including spiritual friends, as many of our supporters of

ADA have been, that a compatible kidney donor might be found for Lisa. Indeed, outside of Lisa's family (some of whom have already had transplants), this newsletter may be Lisa's best hope to find one.

**Some of you, I know, will already likely be praying about this and giving prayerful consideration to this act of love. To find out more information about donating a kidney, there is an information line at the St. Mary's/Mercy Health Donor Program to help answer any questions. That number is 616-685-6899. I can at least tell you that a donor's blood type would have to be either a 0- or a 0+ to be a match for Lisa.**

I know that this is the biggest request we have ever made of our supporters, but I want to share some of what Lisa has meant to the Kingdom of God and especially to me, which gives me the boldness to dare to make such a request.

I have been told that this "article" has to be relatively short. How to do that with someone who God has richly used in so many lives and especially mine? As a teenager, Lisa was in the youth group that Jan and I led back in the early '80s. She went to Calvin College where she attained a teaching degree. Even back then Lisa and I would write letters of encouragement to one another. After I left my teaching position and went into ministry fulltime in 1988, Lisa volunteered to be the bookkeeper for what was then the American Family Association of Michigan. Lisa would join our family as we traveled to AFA national headquarters in Tupelo, MS every summer for a number of years. I hoped and prayed that she would one day leave her stable teaching position to go fulltime in our ministry.

After 11 years of teaching, she stepped out in faith and joined our staff in 1997. Lisa showed her capabilities and giftedness right from the start: accounting, writing, and counseling with diligence, courage, faithfulness, and wisdom - not a rubber stamp when she knew I needed to hear another point of view.

Lisa strongly believed she was called by

God to this ministry right from the beginning. And, as they say, the proof is in the pudding. Lisa has stood beside me and even in front of me when she has needed to. Time and space doesn't permit me to discuss how almost single-handedly she knocked Howard Stern off the terrestrial airwaves as through her diligence, strength of character and commitment, she shepherded a major letter writing campaign that resulted in over 16,000 advertisers discontinuing advertising on the Howard Stern Radio Show. Twenty-three radio stations dropped. The half has not been told. Lisa has been the best example that a daughter could possibly be to her mother (now 91). She has served as a Sunday School teacher every year since I have known her including as a Sunday School Superintendent.

Lisa is an, example of faith with works! As you have read her articles in these pages, you have gotten a small taste of her thoughtful, spiritual acumen.

*Oh God, thank you for my kindred spirit, my dear friend and colleague. We trust your works in her and through her for you are a faithful God, and she always leaves her life and well-being in your hands. That You would be glorified. In Christ's name. Amen.*

***"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."***

**Isaiah 43:1b-3a**