

Why the “Given Up” are Giving Up

By Chris Johnson



“You know, you can be in the middle of a hurricane,” Justice Clarence Thomas once said, “North is still North... It doesn’t change fundamental things. And, in this business, Right is still Right.”

“You can’t change fundamental things,” he said, and yet, as no one knows better than Clarence Thomas, that doesn’t stop people from trying.

The central conflict in our culture is between one side which believes that they can change fundamental reality and the other, which wants to avoid the consequences of trying.

We can see those consequences all around us already. We’ve sought to redefine marriage, make men and women interchangeable, convince parents that their preborn children are clumps of cells and that the kids we allow to live belong to the government. Ultimately, we’ve sought to convince individuals that our *fundamental* reason for being is to experience as much pleasure as possible.

Psalm 14:1 says, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” Proverbs 9:10 states the inverse, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.” But Romans 1:21-28 really spells it all out:

“For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him,

but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Therefore, God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

For this reason, God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.”

There is so much in that passage that runs counter to our culture. “*Contrary to nature?*” Why should nature determine our actions? “*Due penalty?*” Who are you to say our actions deserve punishment? “*Ought not to be done?*” Who gets to decide what ought and ought not to be done?

In our foolishness, our society has answered that question, “we do.” We decide right from wrong; we decide what ought to be done. We each determine our own “natures.”

We can see what happens when we reject nature (and nature’s God) in the destruction of discontent protestors, the suicide rate of the sexually confused, the glazed over expression of drug addicts, the slack-jawed stare of the screen-addicted child whose parents don’t want to deal with him. Rock band “Theory of a Deadman” sums it up like this in their song “Rx:”

“Crushin’ candy, crushin’ pills; Got no job, mom pays my bills; Textin’ exes, get my fill; Sweatin’ bullets, Netflix chills; World’s out there singin’ the blues; Twenty more dead on the evening news; Think to myself, ‘Really, what’s the use?’; I’m just like you, I was born to lose.

“Why, oh, why can’t you just fix me? When all I want’s to feel numb; But the medication’s all gone; Why, oh, why does God hate me? When all I want’s to get high; And forget this so-called life.

“I am so frickin’ bored; Nothin’ to do today; I guess I’ll sit around and medicate”

The bridge finishes with: “*Everyone’s high... right now; And no one’s ever coming down!*”

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Personal Note from the President



This month in this space, I'd like to share with you some thoughts, meditations, and updates in my life and the life of the ministry.

On a recent, early Sunday morning - in the middle of her early morning devotions - my wife, Jan, heard what seemed to be a kitten crying outside the window. She put our 3-year-old German Shepherd in the room with me to settle him down as he was on full alert to the kitten sounds.

Sure enough! It was a newborn kitten, left near our door step. There's a mama cat around who had done this before. She sadly has earned a bad reputation - she wanders off and doesn't come back to her babies.

So, Jan, after comforting the newborn (its eyes were still closed), asked if I could take care of the kitty while she got ready for church. I was right in the middle of praying and now added a cuddling kitten to my "needs" list.

As I peered down at the new little guy or gal, I felt pity for this newborn. I wanted it not to suffer, not to starve, not to miss out on a mother's warm touch. Then my thoughts turned to unknown, foreign lands where right at that very moment there were and are little human babies and infants that are skin-and-bone with no mommy, no daddy, no breast-feeding, no comfort, no hope - struggling to survive in war zones, squalor, and persecution.

Also, I, of course, thought of those who abort their babies - some without a thought. Is it worse to do it without a thought or with thought? And, even many of these can be tender toward a kitty or a puppy, but not for a baby, even their own. Here I was, sad for a newborn kitty.

I think it is an honorable thing to care about

life; even the life of a stranded kitten. Of course, I treasure the life of a human baby more than a baby kitten.

We took the kitten to my son, Chris, as his in-laws have a mother cat nursing several young kittens, about the same age.

As a beautiful reminder that God himself cares for something so unimportant as even a little kitty, he provided a mother for the little orphan. That mama cat immediately started cleaning up her new baby, as it began to nurse.

A few observations on Tucker's interview with the Republican presidential candidates.

Recently, there was a broadcast on Blaze TV called the Summit, with Tucker Carlson interviewing several presidential candidates: Asa Hutchinson, Rick Scott, Mike Pence, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, and Vivek Ramaswamy. It concluded with a one on one between Blaze TV's founder, Glenn Beck, and Tucker Carlson.

I have wondered in the past why certain individuals put themselves in such a position. A person has to have a very big ego (and a sense of self-awareness - how they are perceived) to put themselves before a watching world to answer such difficult questions, including very personal questions. Mike Pence was, perhaps, the one that surprised me the most of the small number of interviewees, I might add. He didn't do himself any favors. How could he not have had political awareness that so many of those who he would depend on to vote for him feel betrayed by his treatment of Donald Trump, and them, on January 6. On stage with Carlson, Pence presented with labored breathing and an uncharacteristic defensive demeanor throughout the interview. Blaze commentators remarked that Pence "set a flame" to any chance his run for president would go anywhere.

At the conclusion of the interviews, Glenn Beck joined Carlson on stage to ask him some questions.

Despite being fired from Fox News in recent months, Tucker Carlson was very upbeat. He told Beck that Fox had treated him

very well over the years and given him great freedom. They didn't tell him, 'you aren't to say this or that.'

Yet, he realized that getting fired was actually a very good thing for him. It helped keep him from feeling that he was some kind of superman, in spite of all of the viewership records he'd set as a cable TV host. Now, he works out of his barn at his home in Maine, addressing his audience on Twitter.

You and I already know this, but their conversation also highlighted the danger of cell phones to our children and to all of us, because of the data they gather and the people on the receiving end of it. They also discussed artificial intelligence. Glenn and Tucker agreed that it is a significant threat to our freedoms. And, they would agree, "We ain't seen nothing yet."

I'd encourage everyone to watch as much of this "Summit" as they find opportunity. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuAGkW4KOEw>

Update on Lisa:

Lisa has now been doing in-home dialysis for about a month after stringent testing and training. Initially, she was having to do ten hours of dialysis throughout the night. Because it has been proceeding so well, her required time hooked up to the machines has been reduced to seven hours, nightly.

We continue to pray that God will raise up whomever He will as a donor. Lisa's humility and patient demeanor and spirit strengthens us and gives us hope. If you would like to talk further about this, please call me at 231-250-9035.

Update on finances:

Last month we shared a brief word about our ongoing to decline in numbers of gifts and therefore giving totals as well. Many of you responded, including some whom we hadn't heard from for a while! Your faithful giving, prayers, prayer requests, and notes are a regular encouragement to our staff. Thank you, precious friends!

ESG

By Steve Huston



In the early 1930s, C.D. “Bigboy” Blalock of Louisiana State University, a six-foot-six-inch giant of a boxer with an incredible reach, was in the ring with a stocky fellow from Mississippi State. In the second round, “Bigboy” let loose a powerful roundhouse. The Mississippi man stepped in and his head caught Blalock’s arm inside the elbow. With the opponent’s head acting as a lever, “Bigboy’s” arm whipped around in almost full circle, connecting with haymaker force on his own chin. “Bigboy” Blalock staggered, grabbed the rope, walked almost all the way around the ring, and then fell flat for the count. He had knocked himself out with a right to his own jaw.

If one wonders what the tale of “Bigboy” Blalock has to do with ESG, the Marxist agenda known as **Environment Social Governance**, one may also wonder what ESG is and why it matters personally. Those are both really good questions best answered by Frank Gaffney’s webinar from June 23, 2023. Each of us needs its information in our intellectual arsenal. <https://present-dangerchina.org/webinar-the-ccp-marxist-takedown-of-american-business/>

ESG is just one of the many-faceted Chinese tentacles belonging to the beast known as *Unrestricted Warfare* (using unconventional weaponry), particularly in their concerted efforts of economic warfare “aimed at weakening the engine of American prosperity — the American capitalist system.”

More specifically, ESG is a “woke” attack on American businesses that will destroy us economically if Americans do not wake up to what is happening. As described by CPDC, **“American businesses have been forced via what amounts to a corporate scoring process akin to the CCP’s ‘social credit system’ to embrace the radical left’s demands regarding ‘climate**

change’ and ‘diversity, equity and inclusion.’ So-called ‘stakeholder capitalism’ has replaced the priority central to a viable free-market economy — namely, shareholder capitalism.”

Arguably, the most nefarious American character in this Marxist ESG scheme aimed at the detriment of American economy is BlackRock CEO Larry Fink. The Epoch Times (ET) describes him as *“one of the most powerful figures on Wall Street and an outspoken champion of progressive causes.”* Fink recently said that he’ll stop using the term “ESG” because of its misuse, but many believe that a rose by any other name would still have the stench of sell-out! In other words, instead of a real change it’s more likely a rebranding of the same old pro-Chinese agenda.

CPDC reports, “Larry Fink has also been one of the most vociferous of the CCP’s ‘Old Friends’ on Wall Street when it comes to investing *other people’s* money — including U.S. pension funds, 401k plans, mutual funds, index funds, exchange-traded funds, etc. — in China. Notably, at a moment last year when economic downturns there and Xi Jinping’s increasingly costly peevishness towards foreign investment and even his own country’s capitalists were flashing red lights, Fink encouraged a *three-fold increase* in American money flows there.”

In this information-packed webinar you’ll learn about the design of ESG as well as about those who are inflicting this upon us. Here are a few of its points:

* Learn how ESG puts American companies at a competitive disadvantage to Chinese companies. One example discussed is Exxon vs. Petro China. One may be surprised how BlackRock played(s) a role in their functioning.

* The Chinese Communists, the World Economic Forum, and the Marxist ‘Resetting’ of American Business: How American companies who do not abide by ESG standards will be starved of foreign investments. (Former Marxist and professor Michael Rectenwald attributes this statement to

Larry Fink.) He warns that both the globalists and the CCP desire to overthrow the West’s way of life through the ESG mechanism, each believing that they will finally be the world ruler.

* Kevin Freeman shares five ways in which ESG benefits the CCP (an enemy of America, her Constitution, and her people). One describes how American companies are being held to impossible standards (standards which don’t mean anything but lead to control) while ignoring those standards in China.

* Will Hild, President of Consumer’s Research, speaks on the following topic: *“Larry Fink: Poster-boy of, and Prime-mover behind, the Nexus between the ESG Agenda and Strengthening the Chinese Communist Party.”*

* Don’t miss Christopher Holton speak on *Countering the ESG Agenda Across America: Fighting Back at the State Level*. He gives advice on combatting the attack that is being perpetuated against this country and its economic well-being. One might be surprised that ESG is even attacking our Second Amendment rights.

Certainly, it’s clear by now how “Bigboy” Blalock relates to our ESG troubles. Whether swinging for economic or political gain, when we allow progressive principles to step in, we are sure to “land a haymaker” on our own jaw and knock ourselves out. It’s time we stand for truth and take whatever actions we can to stop the progressive destruction of America. It sure feels as though we are staggering, grabbing the rope, walking almost all the way around the ring, and about to fall flat for the count.

ESG is a form of financial totalitarianism forced upon many investors in America, unbeknownst to many of them. Knowledge is the first step in taking action; watch, learn, and pass this information on to others. We must act now in whatever capacity we are able to, all the while trusting in the Lord during those actions and beyond. Humble prayer is a powerful weapon and the Lord our only true ally.

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The song’s got a point. Between drugs, porn, gambling, video games, shopping, drama, alcohol, food, work, money, etc., it seems like everyone is looking to something to take the edge off, because the purpose our culture sets for us – our perpetual pleasure – is unattainable. So, we are never fulfilled.

The abuse of these goods are the result of our attempts to define reality for ourselves, to “exchange the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man...” For all of our technological advancements in our attempts to reshape nature according to our own ideals, all we’ve come up with is a million ways to numb ourselves to it.

Mankind’s purpose, according to Genesis 1:26-28, is to “have dominion... over all the earth.” Rather, we are conquered by our own basest instincts through our idolatry of our selves.

In the pages that follow, you will see more examples of where that’s gotten us. As a people, we’ve said in our hearts that there is no God - and our foolishness is evident. We’ve been created in the image of God and given the duty of stewarding his beautiful world. Instead, we reject this glorious design and act like the animals we’re placed over.

But if we’re going to act like animals, may we be Christ’s sheep. John 10:9-11 says, “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

How much better is Christ’s “abundant life” than the “highs” that this world offers?

Prison for Pronouns: Michigan Poised to Criminal Free Speech

By Lisa Van Houten



A recently passed “Hate Speech” bill in Michigan is an egregious assault on free speech and specifically on conservative and religious speech. The bill, defining “gender identity or expression” as “having or being perceived as having a gender-related self-identity or expression whether or not associated with an individual’s assigned sex at birth,” makes it a crime to refuse to affirm someone’s self-proclaimed gender identity, either intentionally or unintentionally, and could bring a charge of intimidation, punishable by imprisonment.

For example, the bill would make it a felony to “intimidate” others by refusing to go along with their delusion and “misgendering” them – using “wrong” pronouns. According to the bill: “Intimidate” means a willful course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another individual that would cause a reasonable individual to feel terrorized, frightened, or threatened.” One could be charged with a hate crime for causing “severe mental anguish” to another individual for perceived verbal intimidation or harassment. Who defines “severe mental anguish” and how is it determined? It’s completely arbitrary. And that’s one of the plethora of problems with this bill – there is no clear, specific definition of what is legal or illegal – it’s based entirely on the so-called victim’s feelings.

As constitutional attorney Dave Kallman of the Great Lakes Justice Center (GLJC) stated: “Words are malleable. They can be redefined by whoever is in power. Under the proposed statute, ‘intimidate and harass’ can mean whatever the victim, or the authorities, want them to mean. The focus is on how the victim feels rather than on a clearly defined criminal act. This is a ridiculously vague and subjective standard. The absence of intent makes no difference under this law. You are still guilty of the crime because the victim felt uncomfort-

able. The bill will lead to the prosecution of conservatives, pastors, and parents attending a school board meeting for simply expressing their opposition to the liberal agenda.”

Violations of this bill would be punishable by a fine of \$10,000 or up to five years in prison. But the good news for those found guilty of hurting someone’s feelings is their sentence could be reduced by 20% if the defendant agrees to submit to Orwellian re-education - “intended to enhance the offender’s understanding of the impact of the offense upon the victim and wider community.”

And that’s the purpose of the legislation – to chill free speech and make clear that only state-sanctioned speech is allowable. The Left is seeking not only to ban unapproved speech, but also compel speech – forcing Michiganders to “affirm” the gender identities of those living a transgender lie. This bill is a weapon to punish those who dare express contrary views. William Wagner, also with GLJC, told Epoch Times: “**Make no mistake about it: those with an anti-Christian agenda will wield a weapon capable of extinguishing Christian expression in the state of Michigan.**”

When authorities tried to silence the apostle Peter, he stated: “**We must obey God rather than men.**” When the State tries to force you to affirm a lie, what will be your response?

The bill now moves to the Democrat-controlled Michigan Senate then, if passed, to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for her signature. For Michigan residents, go to <https://senate.michigan.gov/> to find contact information for your Michigan state senator.

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Exposing the Works of Darkness

By Lisa Van Houten



The figures are staggering. Human trafficking rakes in 150 billion dollars globally – more than the profits of the NFL, Nike, Google, and Starbucks combined. As you read this, an estimated 28 million individuals are being trafficked at any one time. While a bag of cocaine can be sold and used only once, a victim of sex slavery, many of them children, can be sold over and over again – night after night, year after year. The U.S. is reportedly the top consumer of child sex trafficking in the world. It's horrifying to contemplate – we don't want to hear about it - yet ignorance is not bliss. **Evil thrives in darkness and the only way to combat it is to shine light upon it.**

That's what the powerful movie, "Sound of Freedom," is seeking to do. The film tells the story of Tim Ballard, a former federal agent who made it his mission to rescue children from the evil of sex trafficking. As Ballard, played by Jim Caviezel, states in the film: *"Every day, ordinary people don't want to hear it. It's too ugly for polite conversation."* Yet, in spite of the heavy topic, "Sound of Freedom" has exploded at the box office drawing millions of viewers, opening hearts and minds to the horror of child sex trafficking.

However, leftist media outlets have trashed the film, making false claims that it has ties to right-wing conspiracy groups. Since when is being anti-pedophile controversial? Yet radical Leftist ideology increasingly downplays pedophilia. One of the news sites trying to undercut the message of "Sound of Freedom" is Bloomberg which published a piece by Noah Berlatsky who labeled the movie a "QAnon dog whistle" for conservatives. Berlatsky, a former NBC contributor, served as a spokesperson for the pro-pedophile organization ProStasia which strives to legitimize pedophilia and advocates for changing the terminology from "pedophile" to "minor-attracted per-

sons." So Bloomberg, and the Washington Post which re-printed the article, chose someone who is seeking to de-stigmatize pedophilia to critique a movie about combatting child sex trafficking.

Time and again we've seen the radical Left promote the exploitation and sexualization of children. When parents and conservatives try to protect kids from pornographic books in schools or perverse drag queen shows, it's the Left that fights tooth-and-nail to continue grooming and corrupting children. It shouldn't be a surprise that those who fight vehemently for the "right" to kill children in the womb don't value and protect them once they're born.

From abortion to illegal immigration, children are often the victims of radical leftist ideology. The absence of border security has led to skyrocketing human trafficking. Our open border has given cartels free rein. Women and children are highly vulnerable to being smuggled and trafficked. A study from the Coalition Against Trafficking In Women estimated that 60% of unaccompanied alien children are caught by cartels and exploited through child pornography and drug trafficking. It is estimated that upwards of 72% of all human trafficking victims in the U.S. are immigrants, most of them here illegally. Several months ago, news broke that the Biden administration has lost track of 85,000 unaccompanied minor children who are feared to have fallen victim to traffickers of sex, drugs, or cheap labor. To curtail cartels from the trafficking of children, the Trump administration allowed Immigration and Customs Enforcement to run DNA tests on immigrants claiming to be traveling in "familial units." Yet even though the program found thousands of children who were unrelated to their smugglers and would have been used for who knows what nefarious purpose, the Biden administration ended the program.

Why is the U.S. such a magnet for child sex trafficking? There is a direct connection between trafficking and pornography. [America is the number one consumer of child pornography in the world.](#) Statistics show that 76% of individuals who were arrested for internet child pornography had molested a child. We are a porn-infested culture and,

as we have warned for years, users of pornography typically escalate to more heinous and degrading forms. "As long as America's men are being trained to think that violent, disturbing pornography is sexually acceptable, an enormous clientele for sex traffickers is being created every day in homes, college dorms, and apartments across the nation," writes journalist John-Henry Westen.

In our culture, sex has become unmoored from morality. The sexual revolution legitimized the rejection of God's design for sexuality and the downward spiral has continued to the point where we may see pedophilia added to the growing list of protected perversions which the LGBTQIA+ ideology has ushered in. Our modern-day sex education was built upon the fraudulent "research" of Alfred Kinsey, who claimed children were "sexual from birth," basing his "data" on the records kept by a homosexual pedophile who raped children. To this day, Indiana University hosts the Kinsey Institute and built a monument to honor the pervert.

Combatting pornography is one step that can be taken to curtail sex trafficking. In an effort to keep minors from being exposed to pornography, several states - including Louisiana, Utah, Virginia, and Mississippi - have passed laws requiring residents to submit proof of their age before accessing a porn site. If pornography websites don't comply, they could be fined up to \$5,000 a day. This has led the giant purveyor of pornography, PornHub, to block access to their website in these states. Encourage your state representatives to enact such protections in your state.

We can and should fight pornography, oppose the sexualization of children through LGBT ideology, encourage our representatives to enact laws to combat trafficking, and support organizations which aid the victims. Yet, we cannot change wicked hearts. As it says in John 3:19, *"people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."* **However, the most important thing we can and must do is to point people to Jesus who sheds light into darkness, breaks the bonds of Satan, and sets the captive free.**

The Real Solution to Racism

By Steve Huston



For more years than I care to count, I have grown weary of “the race card.” Anytime someone disagrees with a plan of action, desires to push a feeling of victimhood instead of being responsible for one’s actions, wants to undermine truth or reality, they throw down the “race card” as though it’s the trump ace – “I absolutely win, nothing you can do or say competes. Game over!”

There’s no denial that there have been wrongs committed (both ways) between people bearing different shades of color as well as within one’s own color group. BUT there is only one “race” - the human race made up of multiple ethnicities. In an effort to promote Marxism with its division and destruction, the Left is bent on including LGBT+ persons under the “race” umbrella in order to give them special privileges and to demand that they are not only accepted, but promoted and celebrated as well. Doing so has cheapened the price that those of various ethnicities have paid in the struggle for equality under our Constitution and, on another front, the strides women have made for “equality” between the sexes.

We could discuss the varied “race” cards like **1.** Marxism’s Critical Race Theory (CRT) and social justice, promoting the idea that only people of certain skin color, economic status, level of education, or privilege have sinned and have been the perpetrators of oppression or **2.** Morality’s DEI - diversity, equity, and inclusion - which insists that all of society trades the Bible’s standard of morality – which our laws and cultural standards were built on – for that which God calls immorality. Instead of worshiping the Creator God, they worship the creature; they’ve traded the truth for a lie and insist that everyone else does as well or suffer the consequences.

Instead of that discussion, as a Christian, I

need to understand these “race” cards for what they are and cling to the only viable solution. In other words, let us take to heart the words of the Getty’s song *Speak, O Lord*: “*Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds. Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us. **Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity. And by grace, we’ll stand on Your promises. And by faith, we’ll walk as You walk with us.***”

In short, these “race” cards are little more than Satan’s attempt to attack the image of God and erase a nation that was dedicated to God from off the face of this earth. Or, in reading Romans chapter one, perhaps they are signs that he is winning this battle. Regardless, take heart, believer, God WILL win the war. **In the end, all the earth shall see that Christ reigns!**

Now to look at the only real solution to social justice, DEI, and all the other “race” cards being thrown down as “trump” cards. I remind you again, Christ wins no matter how it seems.

First, we must live out the truth that there is only one race physically speaking; we are one blood, so love your neighbor as yourself. Spiritually speaking, however, there are two races and we must also live out this truth; love the Lord your God with all that you are. Each person either belongs to the race of the “First Adam,” still ruled by sin and lustful passions, or belongs to the race of the “Last Adam”- Jesus Christ. In the line of the “Last Adam” we are transformed by His atoning blood, made to be new creatures, and are following after the Spirit instead of living after the flesh. **These are two different races, living in contrast one to another, and have two different eternal destinations.**

Second, while we should understand these “race” cards as an attack against God, our country, and decency, it’s vital that we see them for what they are spiritually: an attempt at **self-atonement**. We will either take God’s remedy and God’s justice, which is the atoning work of Jesus on the cross at Calvary, or we fall into insanity, which is what we see running rampant all around us.

The Body of Christ – the Church – should know better, but the progressive church – the organized church – has bought into all of this. It replaces the justice of God and the atonement of Christ with the works of man.

I recently heard a preacher speaking on social justice proclaim:

“The way we rectify past discrimination is to encourage present discrimination. In other words, if you were the underdog in the last cycle, then you get to be on top in this cycle and you get to discriminate against those who were in the high place last time. Will that fix things? No, we’re still as out of balance as we were before. Of course, we’re out of balance in different ways, but present discrimination will be rectified by future discrimination. It’s an endless cycle of one group oppressing and exacting retribution from another. All of this is an attempt to bring justice but the whole attempt is unjust.

“We are ALL guilty; we are all one race. This is a failed attempt at atonement, at reconciliation. Jesus dying on the cross is not just religious talk; it is the only answer for this problem that we are facing in the world today. The only thing that will get us anywhere is to go back to the cross and start over. We are all level at the cross and when we kneel at the cross, we’re born again. It doesn’t matter what I did the first time, I’m going to start over and you can start over.

“The Bible says that if I’ve wronged a person on a personal level, I need to do everything I can to make it right, but it is totally impossible for me to try to account for all the wrongs of my ancestors against your ancestors. We need to go to the cross and start over afresh and anew.

“We preach a gospel that deals with us personally and has social ramifications; they deal with a social gospel that is unworkable but does not change the person at a personal level.”

The fact is that justice, equity, marriage, and all other definitions are defined by God and that is how we must live and love – God first and then our neighbor. **God’s Word is the “Ace of trump!”**

Bias, not Balance at WOOD-TV

By Lisa Van Houten



It's no surprise that polls show that the majority of Americans do not trust the media. Only 34% of Americans trust the media to report the news "fully, accurately, and fairly." Long gone are the days when the news would objectively report current events and show both sides of an issue, without overtly injecting their own bias.

We now have a mainstream media that licks the boots of the liberal Left, using their platform to advance an agenda with no pretense of objectivity. It's obvious in national news coverage – just compare the coverage and coverage Joe Biden and Democrats receive compared to their Republican counterparts.

Liberal bias permeates local media as well, as a recent dustup at WOOD-TV, a local station in West Michigan, proves. WOOD-TV Assistant News Director Amy Fox, a rare journalist who still actually believes in showing both sides of a story, found herself in hot water from her own colleagues for daring to suggest that not every Pride event needs to be covered by the local NBC news station. She wrote in an internal memo to her fellow "journalists" at WOOD-TV:

"We have already done a number of valuable stories about several Pride related events. But, we have also started to hear pushback from viewers who are not happy to see those Pride related stories.

"We know that West Michigan is a conservative area in many ways. We need to recognize that some stories related to LGBTQ issues are going to be controversial and polarizing in our community. While you personally may not agree with a certain position, people are entitled to their opinions and they are our viewers.

"If we are covering pride events we need to consider how to make the story balanced and get both sides of the issue."

That all sounds quite reasonable. Balance in reporting, showing both sides of an issue used to be standard operating procedure for journalists.

But that last line of her memo is what caused her colleagues to stage a mutiny. WOOD-TV executive producer Luke Stier wrote on Twitter: *"This memo was met with immediate pushback from our newsroom. The guidance is not being followed. The only two people involved in its creation have been removed from any discussions surrounding @WOODTV Pride coverage as our corporation conducts a thorough investigation."* While WOOD-TV producer Kyle M. also tweeted: *"It has been an awfully difficult week for our newsroom. The silver lining in this mess is that our staff is united in pushing back on this ridiculous and hurtful memo that was sent out."*

As the Detroit Free Press reported, Gary Weitman - the executive vice president of Nexstar Media Group in Texas which owns WOOD-TV - released a statement apologizing *"for offending members of the LGBTQ community and WOOD-TV's viewers,"* and pledging to *"take appropriate action as necessary to address this situation."*

When has a media group apologized for offending members of the Christian community? Yet, regularly our faith is maligned and misrepresented by the media.

Weitman went on to state that Nexstar is *"looking into the situation"* and *"the communication regarding the station's coverage of PRIDE month activities in the area is not consistent with Nexstar's values, the way we cover the news, or the respect we have for our viewers."*

"Respect" - unless, of course, those viewers happen to be conservative or Christian.

Weitman also added that *"diversity, equity, and inclusion are among Nexstar's core values. Our local TV stations are expected to cover and report the news of the day in an expansive and inclusive fashion, consistent with these values."*

Obviously "diversity, equity, and inclusion" don't include actual diversity of thought and equal treatment of opposing

viewpoints.

It's Amy Fox who best represented the "values" which Nexstar claims to espouse. She showed respect for LGBT viewers as well as Christian and conservative viewers. She desired that the station includes equal treatment of issues – not the Marxist DEI which seeks to force groupthink and compliance with Leftist ideology. And for her courage and adherence to true journalist standards, Amy Fox was fired. Also fired was news director Stanton Lang who distributed the memo.

The media wields great power to influence and sway public opinion. But for all their efforts to force-feed LGBT ideology down viewers' throats and paint those who refuse to go along with it as bigots, there are still millions of people who see through the lies and deception.

There are numerous signs that the tide has begun to turn. Parents are rising up against LGBT ideology in schools. Budweiser and Target have faced plummeting sales and backlash after pushing the trans agenda. Christian singer/rapper Jimmy Levy bumped Taylor Swift off the top spot on iTunes with his "Boycott Target" rap song and the Christian hip-hop song "Reclaim the Rainbow" reached the top spot on Billboard's rap digital song sales chart. "Reclaim the Rainbow" implores Christians to reclaim the Biblical meaning of the rainbow in Genesis, God's covenantal promise, which includes the lyrics, "It is a promise, it isn't pride."

Yet the Left's stranglehold on nearly every major institution continues. The media, the military, much of the medical profession, education, big business, etc. are all infiltrated with those pushing a leftist agenda. The only institution that hasn't completely capitulated is the Church.

And that's why Christians cannot be silent. **If we don't speak out, who will?** It's why we should dispute WOOD-TV's implication that there is only one "approved" viewpoint regarding LGBT issues and that those who don't kowtow to LGBT ideology are "bigots." Mail the enclosed postcard to WOOD-TV, demonstrating that there is a growing resistance to their indoctrination.

Snow "White" and the Seven People of Whom Most Are Not Members of the Dwarfism Community

By Chris Johnson



When Disney released their live action version of "The Little Mermaid" earlier this year, the controversial decision was made to cast the lead character – a pasty white redhead in the original cartoon – as a young black girl, instead. Among the reasons given was that Disney's black, female fans needed heroes too – people to look up to who look like them.

An altruistic consumer can hardly argue with such reasoning. However, there are plenty of viewers who have grown skeptical after hearing non-stop in the last few years about the dangers and ubiquity of "white supremacy." Disney's decision in this "post-George Floyd" context feels a bit like a subtle condemnation of the heroine's "whiteness."

Any subtlety is behind us now, as Disney recently released the first looks at their live action rendition of "Snow White," starring Hispanic actress Rachel Zeigler.

One could make the argument with the Little Mermaid that mermaids are imaginary creatures who've been portrayed in many different ways on a sliding scale between fishiness and humanness. Why shouldn't a mermaid be black? The story's author never said she wasn't. If some little girls are feeling underrepresented and a black Ariel helps them out, that's great.

Snow White, however, is very specifically white. In Grimm's fairy tale, her mother pokes herself with a sewing needle and a drop of blood falls onto her lace. The good queen finds the color combination so fetching, that she hopes her daughter's lips and complexion will someday match it. And when the child is born, we find she does. Hence, the name: Snow White.

Not only is she as white as her name implies in the story, but her remarkable whiteness in the story represents her remarkable inno-

cence. Her humility is contrasted with the evil queen, who my copy of Grimm's fairy tales describes as "*very beautiful, but so proud and haughty that she could not bear anyone to be better looking than herself.*" Her sweetness, hard work, and humility are why the dwarves are so very devoted to her.

But here is where the worldview of the Brothers Grimm and even Walt Disney clashes with the worldview of the entertainment industry today. Back then, whiteness symbolized purity. In our day, influenced by race writers like Ibram X. Kendi and Robin DiAngelo, and the myriad who've followed in since they popularized it, whiteness represents oppression.

In her book, "White Fragility," Robin DiAngelo summarized how she uses the term "white supremacy:" "*I hope to have made clear that white supremacy is something much more pervasive and subtle than the actions of explicit white nationalists. White supremacy describes the culture we live in, a culture that positions white people and all that is associated with them (whiteness) as ideal. White supremacy is more than the idea that whites are superior to people of color; it is the deeper premise that supports this idea—the definition of whites as the norm or standard for human, and people of color as a deviation from that norm.*"

This version of white supremacy is the windmill Disney dons its basin helmet to joust. A singularly beautiful, innocent Snow White who is actually white, in their view, would help to uphold whiteness itself as the standard for beauty and morality.

What's troubling about Snow White's actress is not that she's Hispanic, when only a white actress would be an appropriate symbol of goodness and beauty. No one pouted when Mulan was portrayed by a Chinese actress, or Encanto's heroine was Colombian. What's troublesome is that a white actress is the only option that was immediately taken off the table as a symbol of goodness and beauty by their ideology, because "whiteness" cannot represent those things.

If you're a normal American who hasn't been immersed in this way of thinking, you

may have a hard time wrapping your head around how anyone could look at the world in such a way. What I've written above may seem far-fetched and unbelievable, almost conspiratorial. But a generation of college-educated professionals has been immersed in this ideology, and it's fundamental to the work they're producing. Another example of this worldview comes out from the production of Snow White.

After all, would anyone even watch the movie if it weren't for the seven dwarves? Well, we're going to find out, because this new movie won't have them. There are seven people in those roles, but only one of them is a dwarf. Here's what Disney had to say about it: "*To avoid reinforcing stereotypes from the original animated film, we are taking a different approach with these seven characters and have been consulting with members of the dwarfism community.*"

Disney, as you can see, is very particular about who they choose to offend.

Ironically, the moral of the Snow White fairy tale is that finding your value in your appearance can make you envious, murderous, and cruel, a lesson our culture would benefit greatly from.

When God creates man in Genesis, He doesn't categorize us by ethnicity or common physical characteristics. "*So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*" He gives us two categories that make up mankind, male and female.

The Bible teaches us that our value is not found in the shade of our skin or how we compare to others, but in God's Image in each of us, and we must honor That *wherever* we find It.

With this first look at Disney's Snow White, it appears that they are turning the story's moral on its head. Rather than showing their audience that your physical traits aren't what truly matters, they're showing that some physical traits, i.e. "Whiteness," just can't be redeemed.