

“Christianity vs. Social Movements”

June 4, 2025

INTRO: By a show of hand...

- Black Lives Matter
- Love is Love
- Women’s Rights
- Tran’s Rights

*To our 21st-century, Western ears, love across racial and cultural difference, the equality of men and women, and the idea that the poor, oppressed, and marginalized can make moral claims on the strong, rich, and powerful sound like basic moral common sense. But they are not. These truths have come to us from Christianity. Rip that foundation out, and you won't uncover a better basis for human equality and rights. You'll uncover an abyss that cannot even tell you what a human being is. Like cartoon characters running off a cliff, we may continue a short way before we realize that the ground has gone from underneath our feet. But it has gone. Without Christian beliefs about humanity, the yard sign's claims aren't worth the cardboard on which they are written. **Rebecca McLaughlin** “Secular Creed” pg. 2*

If Christianity is the source of love for some many different communities and backgrounds, why does it always seem to be in opposition to these social, cultural movements?

Race, Gender, Orientation, & Love

- All are created equal...unless...
Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3

*In 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaimed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." But human equality is not self-evident at all. Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari explains: The Americans got the idea of equality from Christianity, which argues that every person has a divinely created soul, and that all souls are equal before God. However, if we do not believe in the Christian myths about God, creation and souls, what does it mean that all people are "equal"? **Rebecca McLaughlin** “Secular Creed” pg. 7*

Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God didn’t say “Let’s make white men in our image, after our likeness”...Jesus wasn’t even white...

*If the Bible is true, however, God didn't just make our souls. He made our bodies. He made black people and white people, Asian people and Latino people, people from every tribe and tongue and nation, all equally in his image. This is the soil in which the roots of human equality grow. But the Bible doesn't stop there. It tells a story that begins with humans from all sorts of ethnicities becoming God's people, and that ends with people from every tribe and tongue and nation worshiping Jesus together. **Rebecca McLaughlin** “Secular Creed” pg. 8*

So what do I do with social injustice piece? What should “I” do?

- **Was Jesus a Feminist?**

The idea of “equality” sparks an interesting debate...

That every human being possessed an equal dignity was not remotely a self-evident truth. A Roman would have laughed at it. To campaign against discrimination on the grounds of gender or sexuality, however, was to depend on large numbers of people sharing in a common assumption: that everyone possessed an inherent worth. The origins of this principle... lay not in the French Revolution, nor in the Declaration of Independence, nor in the Enlightenment, but in the Bible. Tom Holland “Dominion” pg. 494

As creator and lord of the church – and of everything else, for that matter – Jesus is the authoritative model for how we live and treat one another, in his church and in his world. And in his interactions with women, he welcomed, respected and affirmed them as valued sisters made in the image of God.

So, what does it mean to be a feminist?

- **“I was made this way”**

6-8 passages in the Bible that address same-sex relationships or homosexuality in general

Over 120 passages that address heterosexuality immorality

People are quick to point out that “I was made this way” while forgetting how sinful our nature is...

What’s the point of relationships in the first place?

How should we then live?

- **“I was made the wrong way”**

Take God out of the picture for a second...

“Pediatrics” pg. 142 (2018)

Double the depression rates...

The “solution” is for more people to support the cause...

Put God back in the picture...

Easy for Christians to turn to verses like Jeremiah 29:11 looking for a quick solution.

The majority of the time, there’s an underlying reason people want to walk this path...and we as Christian’s don’t do a good job at taking the time to figure that out.

We don’t know God’s purpose for the things we walk through, but we do know God understands us, and walks through these struggles with us.

Psalm 52:1-2 *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. 2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.*