

## **Final Choices – Episode 10; How Shall We Then Live**

**Schaeffer suggest there are two ways forward.**

1. An Elite which gives arbitrary absolutes to society.
2. The society reaffirms the base that gave it the form and freedom back in the beginning.

### **The Elite Option**

- John Kenneth Galbraith – The intellectuals, academics, scientists, and government need to be in charge
- Robert Theobald – It is naïve to deny we need a competent elite today
- Daniel Bell – believe that technology would emerge as the elite, however, he gave a warning:
- How will this elite generate an absolute?
- How will this elite generate meaning?
- How will this elite generate ethics?
- Conclusion: they will no absolute foundation to justify the arbitrary absolute imposed on society

### **New Elite vs. Hitler and Stalin**

- Not imposed through military or secret police – not a police state
- Through gradual manipulation
- Through subtle means
- Through controlling the narrative of news
- Through the programing of Television
- Staged event presented with two different camera angels and two different commentators
- Convincing people that what they see, hear, and read is the truth, not “fake news”

### **Episode Six – Humanistic ideas to impact society**

- Chemical stimulation – drugs
- Birth Control in drinking water – limit population
- All leaders need to take “anti-aggression” pills
- All public officials had to undergo psychological testing every year for evaluation

### **Genetic Engineering**

- Francis Crick/James Watson discover the DNA Code
- Advocate engineering the kind of person society needs
- Deciding who should have children based on DNA
- Removing those who should not have children based on DNA
- With the loss of “humanness” there is no restriction on this manipulation of the gene pool
- Man is no longer made in the image of God, nor unique and dignified; he is a mere machine

- Man can be tinkered with

### **The Tension between Civil Liberties and Government Control**

- Strong desire to have the government have an answer for everything.
- Government dependence for necessities
- Government provision for health care, education, income, etc.
- As the government increases in control civil liberties are slowly eroded
- People who prefer Personal Peace and Affluence will surrender their liberties for their needs being met.
- People who turn to apathy, will also surrender as well
- Neither will fight nor resist this subtle dominance of government over their lives
- White House – Tyranny
- Legislative Tyranny
- Judicial Tyranny

### **Pressures**

- Economic breakdown
- Terrorism
- Threat of War
- Nuclear War
- Food and Natural Resources Shortages

For safety and provision many will surrender their civil rights to have Personal Peace and Affluence (safety and protection).

**The Christian Consensus** gave us the freedoms and the forms to enjoy this life without chaos. They gave us the moral and ethical absolutes to understand the form of the universe, the purpose of the universe, the revelation of God who has revealed Himself in time and history. It also gave us the understanding of the purpose of man and the dignity of man and the uniqueness of man.

The Christian Consensus also had very clear boundaries that began with God's word, God's will and His ways that were revealed in His bible and in His Son Jesus Christ.

- God was to be the center, not man.
- God defines right and wrong, not man
- God gives life meaning, not the natural order
- God gives us our inalienable rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, not the government
- God gives us freedom to live under His rule in His creation

When the Christian Consensus is gone the freedoms and values and forms are no longer in place and the result is always CHAOS. – (Nicky Gumbel Soccer illustration)

## **Option 2 – Society affirms the base that gave us the forms and freedoms in the beginning**

We must return to the Judeo-Christian value system that our founding fathers built this country upon. It is a return to Christ and the only answer to understanding this life. This is the only source that can give the absolutes on which a society can be built.

Warning, Christianity is not to be used to an end. Christianity is truth that we surrender to and conform to as a function of daily living as a society.

Episcopal Church Congregational Development vs ACTS 29 Congregational Development

### **Matthew 16:13-19**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock<sup>[b]</sup> I will build my church, and the gates of hell<sup>[c]</sup> shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed<sup>[d]</sup> in heaven.”

### **Paul in dialogue with the Greek Philosophers on Mar’s Hill in Athens**

- Your worldview does not explain the existence of the universe
- Your worldview does not explain the form and function of the universe
- Your worldview does not explain the uniqueness of man
- Any yet you reject and suppress the vey message that does explain it all

### **Romans 1:16 – 22**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith,<sup>[e]</sup> as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”<sup>[f]</sup><sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,<sup>[g]</sup> in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> 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.