How Should We Then Live – Episode 9:
The Age of Personal Peace and Affluence

Last session we looked at the Age of Fragmentation

- Art – Impressionist, Post-Impressionists, - Abstract Art – Randomness in Art
- Music – Shear Noise, non-resolution, music by chance and randomness
- Literature – poems, novels, theater and movies – nonperson/machine, not meaning
- Theology – lack of certainty about God and the Christian faith

1960's – no foundation for the bases of life, meaning and significance

Personal Peace – I just want to be left along, not troubled by others or concern for others now or those who come after me.

Affluence – the continuous accumulation of "things" that represent success and provide satisfaction – materialistic abundance.

Most elements in society reinforced two basic conclusions – life has no meaning and there are no fixed values or absolutes to live by.

1964 – Berkley Riots – this generation actually acted on what they had been taught

Drugs held an ideological answer to fix societies problems Aldous Huxley

Freedom of Speech Movement – moved radically left

This idealism peaked in 1969 – **Woodstock** – Altamont and Isle of Wight were ugly affairs

The ideology of drugs being the answer failed but drug use increased and moved to younger children

Increased violence – bombing at University of Wisconsin 1970

No foundation, the personal peace and affluence were ineffective to build a society upon which lead to an increase of APATHY and Marxism/Leninism.

Romantic view of Communism – stole from Christianity the "dignity" of man and how all are equal, and all are provided for and all share equally was what attracted the young. Unfortunately, the reality and fruit of communism is always OPPRESSION and the rule of an ELITE.

Solzhenitsyn – Gulag Archipelago 1974 exposed the reality of communism

Communism gives no basis for the dignity or rights of man (God gives them)

Can there really be communism with a human face?

"Historical experience suggests that there can't be" Andre Malraux, 1975

Two Streams of Marxism/Leninism

1. Idealistic stream
2. Hard core old line communist party members

Law and the Courts

- Arbitrary Law based on sociological norms.
- Law based on what the majority wishes
- Law based on experience
- One group imposing its will on others
- Law that is relative, not absolute

Without the Christian base and laws that originate with God that are inalienable for all human beings we end up with the ability to nullify and reinterpret the Constitution.

Now courts are making laws, not the legislature – Abortion

January 22, 1973 – unborn is not a person and therefore has not protection under the 14th amendment of the Constitution.

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Other Examples

- Hate Speech
- Critical Race Theory
- Woke Culture
- Political Correctness
- White Privilege

Raw Judicial Power that is an abuse of this branch of government

Set aside all state laws regarding abortion

What about the aged – nonperson; the terminal ill, the mentally ill, the retarded, etc.

So what is left to build upon?

Hedonism – everybody does what they want – Chaos

51% Vote – majority rule totally dominates – Electoral College

"If there is no absolute by which to judge society, society is absolute"

Heart of humanistic worldview it to make the individual the center of all things – autonomous

This leads to death – wages of sin is death.

Biblical base is the make God the center of all things – first 4 commandments

1. No other Gods before me
2. No idols, graven images
3. Don't take the name of the Lord your God in vain
4. Keep the sabbath holy

This leads to life.