



REDEEMER

Presbyterian Church | PCA

»» PRESENTS ««

COUNTER CULTURE

FOLLOWING CHRIST
IN AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN AGE

Introduction & The Greatest Offense: The Gospel And Culture

Class Schedule

- Aug 8 Introduction & The Greatest Offense: The Gospel and Culture
Matt Linebarger
- Aug 15 Where Rich and Poor Collide: The Gospel and Poverty
Tim Yates
- Aug 22 Modern Holocaust: The Gospel and Abortion
Matt Linebarger
- Aug 29 The Lonely in Families: The Gospel and Orphans and Widows
Tim Yates
- Sep 5 A War on Women: The Gospel and Sex Slavery
Matt Linebarger
- Sep 12 A Profound Mystery: The Gospel and Marriage
Gary Matlack
- Sep 19 Bought with a Price: The Gospel and Sexual Morality
Michael Lovelace



Class Schedule

- Sep 26 **Unity in Diversity: The Gospel and Ethnicity**
Tim Yates
- Oct 3 **Unprecedented Crisis: The Gospel and Refugees**
Matt Linebarger
- Oct 10 **Christ in the Public Square: The Gospel and Religious Liberty**
Tim Yates
- Oct 17 **A World of Pride: The gospel and the LGBTQ+ Community**
Mark Trigsted
- Oct 24 **Unholy Allegiance: The Christian and Politics**
Matt Linebarger
- Oct 31 **Let's Risk It All/Q&A**
Matt Linebarger & Tim Yates



Class Guidelines



Regarding Class Discussion

- #1 Everyone Participates (if they want to)
- #2 No One Dominates
- #3 Be Respectful
- #4 God and His Word Are Central



Guiding Verses

1 Peter 1:22 NLT

You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Proverbs 15:1 ESV

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.



Levels of Belief

“ A good way to grasp the kinds of distinctions we need to make is to look at the writing of the apostle Paul. Some people think of Paul as always dogmatic and unyielding.... [But] Paul did not hold all of his beliefs at the same level of importance. We find in

Paul's letters three distinct levels of belief:

convictions,

persuasions,

and

opinions.”

Alan Kent Scholes



Levels of Belief

CONVICTIONS

PERSUASIONS

OPINIONS



Questions on Class Guidelines?



Class Discussion Guidelines Refresher

- #1 Everyone Participates (if they want to)
- #2 No One Dominates
- #3 Be Respectful
- #4 God and His Word Are Central



Introduction



The Books



SCAN FOR
AMAZON LINK



SCAN FOR
AMAZON LINK



The Elephant in the Room


Megachurch pastor David Platt

washingtonpost.com/religion/2021/07/22/david-platt-takeover-attempt-...

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Religion

Megachurch pastor David Platt warns of a disinformation campaign and takeover attempt at his evangelical church



A photograph of David Platt, a megachurch pastor, speaking on a stage. He is wearing a black t-shirt with the text "DEATH TO LIFE" and "BAPTISM" on it. He is holding a tablet in his left hand and gesturing with his right hand.

Platt's McLean Bible Church

christianitytoday.com/news/2021/july/david-platt-mclean-bible-church-elder-race-politics-critics.html

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- Former Mars Hill Elders: Mark Driscoll Is Still 'Unrepentant,' Unfit to Pastor
- Football Player Sues RZIM Claiming Misuse of Funds
- Nine Years, 782,000 Words Later, South Carolina Woman Completes Handwritten Bible

Platt's McLean Bible Church Hit With Attempted Takeover, Lawsuit from Opposition

The suburban DC megachurch's recent scuffle over race and politics is symptomatic of a broader evangelical rift.

DAVID ROACH | JULY 22, 2021 09:00 AM

[ESPAÑOL](#)




Image: Jim Watson / AFP via Getty Images

A photograph of David Platt, a megachurch pastor, speaking on a stage. He is wearing a blue polo shirt and holding an open book in his right hand. He is gesturing with his left hand.



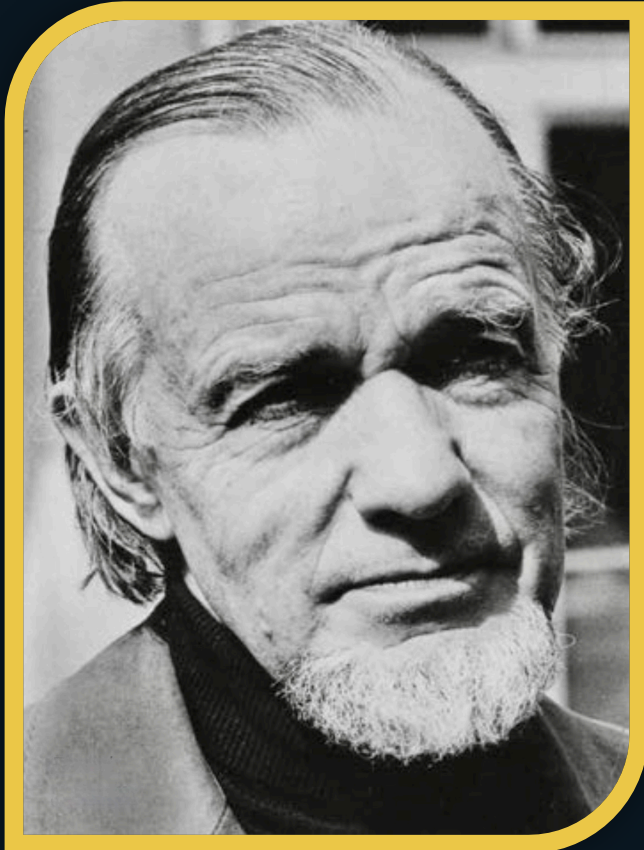
The Elephant in the Room

Matthew 7:1-5

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.



A Post-Christian World?



“ Ours is a post-Christian world in which Christianity, not only in the number of Christians but in cultural emphasis and cultural result, is no longer the consensus or ethos of our society. ”

Francis Schaeffer



A Post-Christian World?

Russell Moore - Do We Live in a Post Christian Society? (Clip)

Link to Video: <https://youtu.be/Pk8OclPm6b4>



The Greatest Offense:
The Gospel And Culture



The World Hates Us

John 15:18-19

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.



Offense #1

God the Creator

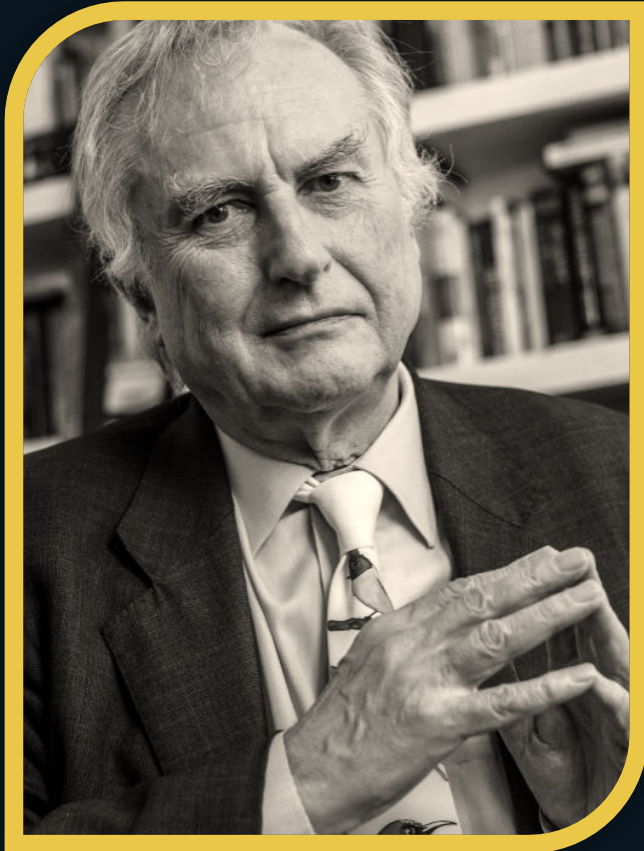


“Tell any modern person that there is a God who sustains, owns, defines, rules, and one day will judge him or her, and that person will balk in offense. Any person would - and every person has. This is our natural reaction to God.”

David Platt



What the World Thinks



“ In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference. DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music. ”

Richard Dawkins - *The Blind Watchmaker*



Offense #2

The Need of a Savior



Psalm 14:1-3

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is none who does good.

The Lord looks down from heaven on the
children of man, to see if there are any who
understand, who seek after God.

They have all turned aside; together they
have become corrupt; there is none who
does good, not even one.



How Now Shall We Live?

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



How Now Shall We Live?

Matthew 5: 43-45

You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.



Four Goals for Our Study

1

To bring the gospel to bear on many social issues in our culture, ranging from poverty, slavery, abortion, and sexual immorality to the degradation of marriage and the denial of civil rights.



Four Goals for Our Study

2

To demonstrate how a full-orbed understanding of the gospel doesn't allow us to sit on the sidelines of our culture. (The gospel doesn't allow us as Christians to be selective regarding different social issues.)



Four Goals for Our Study

3

For our church to be a place where we can talk about these taboo social subjects and ask the hard questions all while better understanding the views and convictions of our brothers and sisters. (Remember our guiding verses?)



Guiding Verses

1 Peter 1:22 ^{NLT}

You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ^{ESV}

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Proverbs 15:1 ^{ESV}

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.



Four Goals for Our Study



To use what we learn from what another to challenge ourselves and one another to live out the gospel in our constantly changing cultural context.



Engaging the Culture

1 We Conform

We start compromising what we believe and the way we act in order to appeal to and appease the surrounding culture. We may even genuinely believe that doing so is both loving and strategic, hoping somehow people will be attracted to Jesus through a less offensive form of Christianity and will ultimately be saved.

However, we need to realize that our goal isn't to make following Jesus easier.



Engaging the Culture

2 We Check Out

The opposite extreme is to secede from culture, distancing ourselves so completely that we never have any interaction with the world around us. Again, the intent may seem honorable and sincere because we want to remove even an appearance of evil and the temptation of sin. But Jesus specifically prayed that His Father wouldn't take His followers out of the world but protect them while they were sent into it (see John 17:15-16). The world around us desperately needs the life-changing power of the gospel. Countering culture doesn't mean withdrawing and isolating ourselves from culture.



Engaging the Culture

3 We Combat

This approach is antagonistic and defensive. While the intent begins moving in the right direction, refusing to give in to or give up on the world around us, it misses the heart of Jesus. This response sees culture as an enemy to be defeated instead of people to be saved. Our desire mustn't be to prove ourselves right or to force our way on the world around us. Instead, our goal is to show Christ to be true and worthy. Just as wrong as running away from our culture is driving people away from the church. Countering culture doesn't mean attacking it.



Engaging the Culture

4

We Counter

Countering culture means engaging culture with conviction and compassion. We stand firmly on the truth of God, empowered by the Spirit, to extend the love of Christ to a lost and dying world. Our desire isn't to conquer but to redeem. It matters what we do, how we do it, and why we do it.



Engaging the Culture

Thoughts, questions, or musings on these methods of engagement?

1 We Conform

2 We Check Out

3 We Combat

4 We Counter



Homework for the Week

Tim Keller - Changing the Culture Without Being Colonized by It

Link to Video: <https://youtu.be/eG4LTnVfKds>

