



# Christian Citizenship

**“You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world” (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God’s kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God’s Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the “public square” with our message of Christ’s mercy for all. Please pray for God’s will to be done... in Jesus’ name.**

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## Christians in a “Woke” World

What comes to mind when you hear words like "woke," "privilege," and "systemic racism?" Can you define them? Are you concerned that the world seems more divided along the lines of race, gender, religion, and income? Would you agree that trust in societal institutions such as religion, education, marriage, media, and family is diminishing? Does it seem that young people are too often swayed away from the Christian faith while at the university? Have you noticed a growing effort to label people as "victims" or "part of a victim group?"

In 2020, Rev. Paul Dare noticed our society had changed. Being a victim seemed to be in vogue. People were being "cancelled." Words like woke, social justice, systemic racism, privilege, and critical race theory became part of mainstream society. While many pundits and politicians have now begun to voice their concerns about this new ideology of "wokeness" and its impact on society, Rev. Dare, as a pastor, is also deeply concerned about the impact this ideology has on a person's relationship with Christ.

After considerable time spent in study, Scripture, and prayer, Rev. Dare wrote "Christians in a Woke World," a Bible Study that analyzes the "wokeness" of the "new Marxism" from a Biblical perspective. No political parties are named in the study. Above all, this study reveals God's answer to the challenge of "wokeness." God calls His people to demonstrate courage in the face of challenges, confess the faith and above all, share the love of His Son, Jesus, with all people.

**What can we do?** Make use of the Bible study "Christians in a Woke World" (available from Amazon) with a home group, Sunday morning adult class, or members of your own family. Better understand the "new Marxism," which is often called Cultural Marxism.

Be prepared to dialogue Cultural Marxism not as a political issue, but as a theological and Christian faith issue. Be a people who "put on . . . compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience" (Colossians 3:12).

**Please pray** for words and conduct that glorifies God... in Jesus' name.

## Lies Can Become Laws

“The magnitude of a lie,” said Adolph Hitler, “always contains a certain factor of credibility since the great masses of people . . . more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a little one.” He shaped the culture and religion of Germany with lies that were soon reflected in laws.

In his book, *Hitler’s Cross*, Erwin Lutzer explains that after being sworn in as chancellor, Hitler “paid tribute to Christianity as ‘an essential element for safeguarding the soul of the German people’ and promised to respect the rights of the churches. . . .He was willing to give the churches freedom, he said, ‘as long as they did not do anything subversive to the state.’ Of course, behind that promise lay his own definition of what might be subversive.”

Use of the words “freedom” and “peace” were found in most of Hitler’s speeches. However, just as the Reichstag fire was his “excuse for suspending personal liberties,” he also “created other opportunities that gave him the privilege of bypassing conventional means of justice.” He removed churchmen who opposed him “by falsely accusing [them] of treason, theft, or sexual malpractices. Goebbels, the propaganda minister, insisted that those trials be published in detail in newspapers, thus parading lurid details about known ministers, priests, and nuns. Priests who warned parents against letting their children become a part of the Hitler Youth were subject to blackmail. . . .priests, nuns, and church leaders were arrested on trumped-up charges, and religious publications were suppressed.”

Lutzer continues, “Hitler always said that the best way to conquer your enemies is to divide them. He encouraged a movement simply called ‘God Believers,’ designed to persuade individuals to withdraw from

churches. . . . The state could have a ceremony to dedicate infants; the state could have its own holidays without the need to celebrate the Christian ones.

“Marriages, for those who wished, could also be performed by the state. The blessing of Mother Earth and Father Sky were frequently invoked upon the couple . . . . When the state christened an infant, the father carried the child on a shield wrapped with a blanket of undyed wool, embroidered with swastikas. The child was, in effect, dedicated to the German state and its name written in the register.”

Hitler reinterpreted Christmas into a “totally pagan festival; in fact, at least for the SS troops, its date was changed to December 21, the date for winter solstice. . . . Carols and Nativity plays were banned from the schools in 1938 . . . . Crucifixes were eliminated from classrooms, and Easter was turned into a holiday that heralded the arrival of spring.”

What Hitler achieved through his edicts is being achieved today through U.S. courts of law. “Social libertarians [are] bent on scrubbing the state of even the remnants of Christianity.” Hitler told parents, “Your child belongs to us already . . . what are you? You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time they will know nothing else but this new community.” By 1938, “all education was unified under the Nazi ideology. Textbooks were rewritten . . . [and] those who did not fall in line with the Nazi agenda (read ‘politically correct’) were reprimanded, expelled, or executed. If teachers wanted to keep their jobs, they had to take an oath of loyalty to Hitler.”

Lutzer writes, “Laws always reflect a nation’s priorities, agenda, and values.” He quotes Rausas Rushdoony: “Behind every system of law there is a god. To find the god in any system, locate the source of law in that system.” Rushdoony adds, “When you choose your authority, you choose your god, and where you look for your law, there is your god.” Hitler emerged as lord, writes Lutzer, after his lies were reflected in his laws. (From *Hitler’s Cross* by Erwin Lutzer, 113-117.)

**What can we do?** We must not “remain silent under the guise of preaching the gospel.” When we believe that “it is only the cross of Christ that can transform the human heart,” then “we must live out the implications of the Cross in every area of our lives.” We must see that “our very right to preach the gospel will be in jeopardy if we are not prepared to submit to the lordship of Christ in all spheres.” We must ask: At what point will we be willing to defend what we believe? Will we let our children be indoctrinated and

raised by government schools or claim the vocation of parenthood entrusted by God to moms and dads even if it means threatened loss of custody? Will we content ourselves with private study of the Bible while submitting to the overreach of government into home and church?

**Please pray** as Christians to stand unashamedly on the Word of God for the sake of generations and... in Jesus’ name.

### **The Power of a Nation’s Laws**

“After Hitler was defeated,” writes Erwin Lutzer, “war crimes trials were held in Nuremberg to judge the guilt of Hitler’s henchmen. But a dispute arose as to what laws should be used to try the accused. After all, Hitler’s cronies argued, quite plausibly, that they had not broken any laws; their actions were carried out with the protection of their own legal system. They could not be accused of murder because personhood had been redefined to exclude Jews and other undesirables. These men were simply following the laws handed down by the courts of their day. As Eichmann protested before his execution, ‘I was simply following the laws of war and my flag.’”

It is not so different in America explains Lutzer. Those who protest outside abortion clinics have sometimes been “charged with slander for calling abortionists murderers.” But, the abortionists have argued that they cannot not be murderers because they have not broken any laws. “The experience of Nuremberg and the silent holocaust in our abortion clinics bear eloquent witness to the fact that when a state is accountable to no one except itself, it assumes that whatever is legal is moral. The law is simply whatever the courts say it is.”

How was the dispute at Nuremberg resolved? Chief Counsel for the U.S., Robert H. Jackson, “was forced to appeal to permanent values, to standards that transcended that of any particular society. He argued that there was a ‘law above the law’ that stood in judgment on the arbitrary opinions of men.” (From *Hitler’s Cross* by Erwin Lutzer, 119-120.)

**What can we do?** We can help our families be alert to the power of “political correctness” and the media. We read in Daniel 7:25 that the one who opposes God will desire to “change the times and the law,” but we will find our delight “in the law of the Lord, and on his law [meditate] day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

**Please pray** to resist the way of the wicked and hold fast to the way of righteousness ... in Jesus’ name.

