



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.

Loneliness and AI

Obesity, opioids, and alcoholism are lifestyle diseases of national concern. The U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, has added loneliness and isolation to the list of urgent public health concerns. “Loneliness is more than just a bad feeling,” says Dr. Murthy. “When people are socially disconnected, their risk of anxiety and depression increases. So does their risk of heart disease (29 percent), dementia (50 percent), and stroke (32 percent).” Dr. Murthy believes we must “prioritize connection and healthy relationships.” (Source: *Bioedge*, 5-30-23)

Oddly, writes attorney Jeff Childers, “a smartphone app called Replika has been in dozens of seemingly unrelated stories in the past few weeks.” Replika is an AI “friend” or “companion.” The history of this “chatbot” goes back to 2015 when Roman Mazurenko, the best friend of software developer Eugenia Kuyda, was killed in a car accident. Childers explains that “the grieving developer [Eugenia] gave her team hundreds of Roman’s text messages and asked them to use the messages to train a private chatbot called Roman, named after her dead boyfriend. That experience led to the development of a commercial chatbot—which now includes augmented reality features—to solve a problem that Eugenia would later dub a ‘pandemic of loneliness’. . . . According to Reuters, the company is solving about \$25 million a year’s worth of loneliness, expressed in revenue from lonely users who are paying for bonus features like voice chats, so they can have fake heart-to-heart phone calls with the AI.”

Not everyone is a fan of Replika. “In February,” explains Childers, “Italy banned Replika from using personal data of users, which essentially banned the app itself, which can’t work without collecting tons of personal data. Italy’s Data Protection Agency cited

‘risks to minors and emotionally fragile people,’ according to a Reuters story.” Defend Digital Me, a children’s privacy advocacy group, told Reuters that “tools designed to influence a child’s mood or mental well-being ought to be classified as medical products, and be subject to stringent safety standards.” As a lawyer, Childers says, “I would strongly urge caution with using an application like Replika. The app is designed to tempt users into disclosing highly personal, if not outright confidential information. All that information . . . everything a user tells the chatbot, is being saved somewhere, and is therefore available for legal discovery. . . . perfectly innocent e-mails and text messages are often taken out of context by bad actors and used against the drafters” (Source: *Coffee & Covid*, Substack of Jeff Childers, 5-23-23)

What can we do? Be “the church” (Hebrews 10:23-25). Bring lonely people into the church family. Look for opportunities to spend time with a younger or older person who appears to be lonely. Serve as a reminder to lonely people that God loves us in this way: That He would send His only Son to die for us. Be confident that we have much to offer lonely people when we draw upon the promises of God: Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 25:16; Psalm 68:5-6; and Hebrews 13:5; 1 John 3:1a. Connect with lonely people through cards, letters, and texts. We need not be intimidated by the world into silence.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit help us be of encouragement to others... in Jesus’ name.

A Biomedical Security State Diminishes Humanity

A biomedical security state is rising on the back of the pandemic. In this biomedical security state, writes theologian Douglas Farrow, “man—the creature made by God, in the image of God, for happiness with God—is being diminished.” Man, whose human life is dignified by Jesus Christ who took on human flesh so that He could take on our sin, is being diminished. Man, for whom Jesus was persecuted and crucified, is being diminished. Man, who is invited by Jesus to mysteriously partake of His Body and Blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, is being diminished.

"The creature," writes Dr. Farrow, "is being diminished by a refusal to . . . let it order its life according to the dignity that has been bestowed upon it." Why is human life being diminished? Because of hatred for the Church, says Dr. Farrow. The Body of Christ is hated because it is "the covenant community in and through which God Himself is at work remaking man in His own image and preparing him for glory." (Excerpted from "We Are Not Innocent," Douglas Farrow Substack, 3-24-23)

We can we do? As a member of the Body of Christ—the Church, give thanks to God! See that most everything abnormal and inverted today is, in truth, an assault on humanity (abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide, transgender hormones and irreversible surgeries, fear porn and lockdowns, mandated vaccines, AI, etc.) Because the "natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God" (1 Cor. 2:14), the Church should be wary of accepting the secular State's advice on divine and spiritual matters.

Please pray for the Body of Christ... in Jesus' name.

Future Humans

For the sake of children, Christian parents must be able to recognize the deception used by Satan, the enemy of human life. The "cool" and eye-catching book for children titled *Future Humans* by Tom Jackson and Cristina Guitian is one example. Questions asked in this book are not so very different from the question Satan asked Eve. Questions from the book include: What's the issue with the human body? Can we improve the human body? Could we live forever? Is it even right to try these things? What do you think? Chapters in the book include: "The Evolution of You," "Medical Powers, "Cosmetic Procedures," "Smart and Stupid Drugs," "Genetic Modification," "Clones," "Aging and Death," "Nanotechnology," "Bioprinting," "Cyborg Enhancements," "Uploading," "Robotics," "AI," and "Post-human Species."

What can we do? Never forget Genesis 3:1-5. Take note that Satan (who knows God's order of creation) ignored Adam and, instead, flattered Eve with his attention. Note that he didn't instruct Eve, but simply asked a question. Then, consider how Satan casts doubt on the relationship between God and Eve by suggesting that the Creator might be withholding knowledge and power from the created.

Please pray that the devil be frustrated... in Jesus' name.

Resources for the Christian Citizen

BOOKS: Hot off the press is Christopher S. Esget's book, *(Dis)Ordered: Lies about Human Nature and the Truth That Sets Us Free*. Rev. Esget shines a light on Jesus Christ—the Truth that sets us free—while exploring what the Bible says about mankind's purpose and how our disconnection from the created order causes such great harm in society. **No Reason to Hide: Standing for Christ in a Collapsing Culture** by Erwin W. Lutzer is a rallying reminder that helps Christians courageously stand firm as they proclaim Scripture's truth to a culture in desperate need of what only God can offer. This book follows Lutzer's previous book, *We Will Not Be Silenced* which helps the Christian move beyond fear. In *The New Abnormal: The Rise of the Biomedical Security State*, Aaron Kheriaty, M.D., reminds the reader of Nuremberg, warns of a government that has no intention of giving up the power used to control citizens during the past three or more years, and challenges Americans to reclaim freedom and human flourishing in a more rooted future.

INTERVIEWS THAT PARENTS MUST HEAR: Listen to Helena Kerschner who was enticed by the transgender lie, but later de-transitioned (Find "Her Name Is Helena" on YouTube or at The American Conservative). Watch Dr. Jordan Peterson's interview of Chloe Cole (Find Episode 319, "Detransition: The Wounds That Won't Heal.") (Also: "De-Transitioner: Here's What Her Doctors Didn't Tell Her.") Listen to Abigail Shrier, author of *Irreversible Damage*, present "Science, the Transgender Phenomenon, and the Young" to the Hillsdale College National Leadership Seminar on May 12, 2021. Listen to Allie Beth Stuckey and feminist Genevieve Gluck dialogue "Revealing the Disturbing Roots of Transgender Ideology." (Find Episode 636 on Relatable [for adults only].)

What can we do? Equip yourself, your family and congregation for the assault on human life. Become so familiar with God's Word that you're able to better discern whatever is counterfeit. Push back against the evil that drives transgender ideology, Marxism, and tyranny. Expose the lies with Truth.

Please pray for all like Helena and Chloe, that their identity to God be their confidence... in Jesus' name.

