



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.

Leviathan Must Be Stopped

"The past three years," writes Jeffrey Tucker, "have been a demonstration project in tyranny. A mighty hegemon of government, media, tech corporations, and medical elite took charge of most nations, overriding the law, traditions, and civic rituals of billions of people. In the wake of this great experiment, all we see is catastrophe."

However, "that isn't what they see. What they see is opportunity and a path to the future. That's why there have been no apologies, no reforms, and no coming to terms. There have been some mild utterances to the effect that not everything has gone as planned. Even those have been few and far between."

Tucker observes that "in the sweep of history, the past three years have been the most successful exercise of power on a global scale ever seen. . . . What began in disease panic has been more successful than any heresy hunt in the Middle Ages, sedition purge in the early modern era, or war in our times. It was brilliant and spectacularly effective. Therefore, of course, they will try it again . . . there will be more and they will be institutionalized."

Right now, Jordan Peterson is experimenting with the "creation of a new institution that's forging a new path based on humane values and the old idea of freedom. It seems promising and we should all hope it moves fast. In this, he joins Brownstone Institute, the Epoch Times, many doctors' organizations, and dissident scientists and journalists all over the world today. We're a tiny majority and practically unfunded relative to the machine we're confronting. But that doesn't make the cause hopeless. We have the advantage of lacking the naivete of the past and also the values animating the new dissidents have been forged by resistance during the hard times."

Tucker explains that the "institutions on which we used to depend to defend our liberties and rights--nonprofits, courts, intellectuals, academia, tech, and media--have failed spectacularly. We had no idea just how many of them had long ago been already captured. We didn't know the feds were deeply embedded at Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We didn't know they had already captured the news pages of The New York Times and so on. We thought that these institutions were merely ideologically biased. We didn't know that they had become tools of the regime."

Silence on the part of intellectuals and nonprofits in the face of lockdowns and mask mandates were "evidence of a much deeper corruption. They were either being paid for silence or blackmailed into it."

To press back against Leviathan, we must remember that "freedom itself [is] the mother of what we call civilization." This dates back deep into our history. "In the West, a decisive moment came in the 13th century with the Magna Carta. The message was clear: there are rights that are human rights that the government can't abrogate no matter the excuse. That claim was fundamentally challenged over three years."

Perhaps "most incredibly, the churches and other houses of worship were closed by government edict. Almost immediately, the media began a big campaign against singing. That should've told us everything we needed to know. Singing has profound metaphorical significance. The idea of the creation story is that God gave the first human life by breathing into him: the breath of life. Singing to God is the way humans give thanks back to God, using breath in praise. A government and media machinery that wages war on singing praise is warring against life itself." (Excerpted from "Leviathan Must Be Stopped" by Jeffrey Tucker, a Commentary in *The Epoch Times*, 2-7-23. Jeffrey Tucker is Founder and President of the Brownstone Institute.)

What can we do? Learn our lessons. Understand that those who advocate for a "great reset" have a particular worldview and religion that opposes God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Talk with family members and friends. If they do not belong to a community of

faith, to a Christian church, encourage them to do so immediately. Help them understand that only Jesus Christ—the living Word—can protect against "the lies of the secular elites who are selling their own false version of religion." Discuss the realities of corruption so deep that it removes hope. Discuss the reality of not reforming, but "completely defunding and defanging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Education, the National Institutes of Health, and the FBI." In small groups, hold forth the hope that was evidenced by America's founding fathers who, while not all Christian, did respect the sanctity of human life and the freedom God gifts to each life of every ethnicity and all stages of development. See the challenge before us! Trust the Lord of all life to inspire you to help rebuild fortification around the family, church, and state. Push back against the forces of evil that oppose God the Creator and Designer of family, church, and state. (Note: If you do not subscribe to *The Epoch Times*, you may read the viewpoint by Jeffrey Tucker as a guest.)

Please pray that eyes be open, minds thinking, hearts in tune with our Creator, and hands willing to build... in Jesus' name.

Battle for Minds of Children

Abraham Lincoln said that "the philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation becomes the philosophy of government in the next." To state this "more comprehensively," Pete Hegseth writes, "The strength of the church in one generation becomes the culture of its people in the next . . . followed by the philosophy of the schoolroom and the government. The schoolroom is a vital front in the battle for Christendom and Western civilization, but alone—it is not enough."

In his book, *Battle for the American Mind: Uprooting a Century of Miseducation*, Pete Hegseth explains that "America's original schools didn't just make kids memorize facts or learn skills; they taught them to think freely and arrive at wisdom. They assigned the classics, inspired love of God and country, and raised future citizens who changed the world forever." But today, "after sixteen thousand hours of K-12 indoctrination, our kids come out of government schools hating America. They roll their eyes at religion and disdain our history." Far too often, students cannot read and write, "let alone reason with discernment." The "shear scale of 'school' in America is head-turning. The largest transportation system in the world is not in New York or London—it actually takes

children to American public schools in half a million yellow buses. . . . America spends . . . more on school than on defense—more than \$700 billion annually on education alone. . . . Public schools in the United States are the largest state-owned monopoly in the world, outside of China." Is this system designed to "divide and destroy America?"

Consider the testimony of a student in central Minnesota. "In July, 2021, at a school board meeting of the Sartell-St. Stephen Independent School District, fourth grader Haylee Yasgar took to the microphone and shared the following, "During distance learning I was asked to complete [an] 'equity survey.' My teacher said that I could not skip any questions even when I didn't understand them. One question asked us what gender we identify with. I was very confused along with a lot of other classmates. A boy in my class asked if his mom could explain the question to him . . . [but] my teacher said *he was not allowed to ask his mom and that we could not repeat any questions to parents. I want the school board to know . . . [that] being asked to hide this from my mom made me feel very uncomfortable, like I was doing something wrong.*" (Excerpted from *Battle for the American Mind* by Pete Hegseth with David Goodwin.)

What can we do? Don't be naïve. Even homeschooling and Christian schooling can be infused with progressive assumptions. To do battle for the children, we must know the enemy and an opposing worldview. Read about the Frankfurt School, a German Marxist academic movement whose leaders settled into American universities prior to WWII. Learn about Herbert Marcuse. Recognize the deep roots of cultural Marxism, feminist studies, sex education, and "diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)." Read *The Marxification of Education: Paul Freire's Critical Marxism and the Theft of Education* by Dr. James Lindsay to discover the roots of critical race theory, social emotional learning (SEL), queer theory, and cancel culture. Visit his New Discourses website. Purchase copies of *Battle for the American Mind* for parent groups. Be inspired by Hegseth, an army combat veteran and father of seven children, and Goodwin, co-founder of the Ambrose School and editor of *The Classical Difference* magazine, whose book offers a battlefield assessment and encourages classical Christian education. Visit the websites of Luther Classical College, Hillsdale College, and the Association of Classical Christian Schools.

Please pray to defend the children... in Jesus' name.

