



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.

Transhumanist Targets Children

Yuval Noah Harari is an Israeli of Jewish ancestry. He serves as a top adviser to Klaus Schwab and the World Economic Forum. Harari has been described as one of the world's "most dangerous men." Why? Harari is not shy about stating his beliefs. In Harari's gospel there is no God, no soul, and no freewill. Humans, believes Harari, are "hackable animals." Harari, a professor of history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, is a transhumanist who has stated, "It's increasingly hard to tell where I end and where the computer begins."

In the future, Harari has stated, "it is likely that the smartphone will not be separated from you at all. It may be embedded in your body or brain, constantly scanning your biometric data and your emotions." In the past, says Harari, humans had to struggle against exploitation, but in the 21st century the really big struggle will be against "irrelevance." Those who fail in the struggle against irrelevance would constitute a new "useless class." Harari believes that in the coming decades, "artificial intelligence and biotechnology will give us godlike abilities to reengineer life, and even to create completely new life-forms. After four billion years of organic life shaped by natural selection, we are about to enter a new era of inorganic life shaped by intelligent design."

Harari is taking his message to children ages 10-14 through a series of four volumes titled *Unstoppable Us*. The first volume, *How Humans Took Over the World*, begins six million years ago with a picture of an upright creature that is a cross between a human and an ape. He moves on to the "bigger-brained" Neanderthals. Throughout the book, Harari informs children that cooperation is what makes sapiens (humans) so powerful. "If thousands of people believe in the same story, then they'll all follow the same rules, which means they can cooperate effectively." To

Harari, God is a fairy tale but, he tells his young readers, "if a thousand people believe it, they'll all start doing whatever the story tells them to do." He explains that there are two important things to remember: people need stories in order to cooperate, and they can change the way they cooperate by changing the stories they believe." Harari informs children about "one of the most interesting games grown-ups play . . . called 'corporation.'" Harari, who is "married" to a man, discusses the many possibilities for marriage and family. Harari also explains that humans are "the deadliest animals on earth." For this reason, he encourages children to become activists so that they can help guilty humans make reparations. (Excerpted from "Noted Transhumanist now targeting our children: What's inside Yuval Noah Harari's new book for kids?," LeoHohmann.com)

Harari does not believe in God. He does not believe in Jesus Christ who came to earth as a Baby, ministered for three years of his adult life, was crucified and died on a cross, was resurrected, ascended to the right hand of the Father from where He advocates for us, and is coming again on the Judgment Day. Harari is influential. He is a coveted speaker worldwide and on university campuses. But he does not have the last word. God does. In Isaiah 42 we read: "Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: 'I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness . . . I am the LORD; that is My name; My glory I give to no other, nor My praise to carved idols'" (5-6a, 8).

What can we do? Be informed. Know what your child is reading and what books are in your public and school library. Be alert to how much of Harari's worldview is being taught by way of entertainment, government schools, and the MetaVerse. Parents cannot afford to be naive about the gospel of Harari. Some in his audiences have already been convinced that God is just a made-up story to make people obedient or cooperative. Research this man who presently advises world leaders and educational institutions. What are the implications if humans have no soul or freewill as Harari preaches? You can read a

review of Harari's book by children's author Deborah DeGross here: <https://leohohmann.com/.../noted-transhumanist-now.../...>

Please pray for the children... in Jesus' name.

Misnamed Law Threatens Religious Liberty

The Respect for Marriage Act was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives without debate. It faced a greater potential challenge in the Senate; however, as LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison explains, "in order to overcome the hurdles, an amendment was proposed and passed to protect the religious freedoms of those who dissent (like the LCMS and her agencies, schools and institutions)." Harrison views "the alleged protections as no more than window dressing" and believes "the bill will make our future more difficult, requiring more legal action for those claiming First Amendment rights (i.e., the free exercise of religion). Amendments that would have offered significant protections failed in the Senate."

In his article for the *Reporter*, Harrison points out that "for the church, the chief issue at stake is not the troubling rapid drift of America away from Christianity or morality. The chief issue involves government and society on all levels defining what is moral or not for the church, and particularly for churchly institutions that interface with government. The Respect for Marriage Act will invite challenges to the nonprofit status of our faithful agencies of mercy and provide impetus for continued challenges to our schools and universities. This may even affect our congregations, since all of them have nonprofit status. This trend is already a concern for our military chaplains, whose First Amendment guarantees are being squeezed to the conscience-breaking point."

Harrison says, "The Gospel is at stake. Christ preached, 'The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel' (Mark 1:15). The apostles preached the same thing. Preaching repentance is integral to preaching the Gospel. We will not yield to any man, government, legal authority or human threat. We must preach the Law and call out sin for the sake of repentance. We must proclaim the Law and repentance in order to preach the blessed Gospel of free forgiveness in Christ. The Law of God condemns us all, including those tempted to homosexual sin. And the Gospel is for all." (Excerpted from "Respect for

Marriage Act: Misnamed law threatens religious liberty" by Matthew C. Harrison in the *Reporter*, January 2023.)

What can we do? Read the entire article by Harrison which includes Scripture and commentary. <https://reporter.lcms.org/.../respect-for-marriage-act.../> Acknowledge that we live in the end times. It is, as Harrison says, an era of mass delusion and deception. Bear in mind that transgenderism has increased a thousandfold in recent years and is largely a social media-driven phenomenon. Pray not to be naive. Hold to the sacred Scriptures no matter what. Understand that government "protection" in the Western world has too often meant "the demise of the Gospel." Be people who obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). "Be people of compassion, after the model of our Savior, Jesus." Proclaim Christ in Law and Gospel "come what may-- for the salvation of many." Do not doubt that government policies like the Respect for Marriage Act "cause unending harm to marriage and family life and encourage lives at odds with both reason and the New Testament. Individuals are confused and hurt terribly." Therefore, we are needed to be "witnesses of true love in the name of Jesus." Remember that we are sinners who should take care with our words and actions. We do not say: "Get holy and join us holy people!" We say: "Stop acting as though you were sinless. As Luther said, 'Christ dwells only in sinners.' Join us sinners. Repent and believe the Gospel." Visit Alliance Defending Freedom <https://adflegal.org/.../no-respect-religious-freedom...> to learn why those working to protect religious freedom agree with President Harrison.

Please pray for courage to speak and live the Gospel... in Jesus' name.

Forgive One Another

Actor Tim Robbins recently confessed remorse over actions toward unmasked and unvaccinated people. In an interview with Russell Brand, he said, "We turned into tribal, vengeful, angry people." He concluded: This is "incredibly dangerous."

What can we do? Search for "Tim Robbins interview with Russell Brand." Or, watch here: <https://youtu.be/uMdOesJo4h8> Listen to Robert Malone, MD, MS, explain a reason why Americans became fearful, angry, and divided... and how we can respond: <https://youtu.be/INHpQL9fgto>

Please pray to forgive one another... in Jesus' name.

