



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.

The Deconstruction Movement

Christians are called by God to take courage and stand on the foundation of God’s Word. In opposition to this is a growing number of people who have de-converted from Christianity. In their words, they are “progressive Christians” who embrace same-sex marriage and relationships, reject core historic doctrines of the faith, or are actively trying to crush “white Christian patriarchy.” This “deconstruction movement” attracts Christian celebrities, musicians, and young, impressionable evangelicals. But, said Dr. Owen Strachan, Senior Fellow with the Family Research Council’s Center for Biblical Worldviews, “Deconstruction is not sound. Deconstruction will ultimately lead to destruction itself.

Those who defend “deconstruction” believe that the process simply means establishing an “authentic faith” by “challenging what you have been taught.” This, however, is a slippery slope. Strachan warns that “deconstruction gives you the license to doubt the Christian faith, to doubt the Word of God, and to turn your back on your parents’ generation . . . and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ more broadly.” He explains that it “often ends up being . . . an onramp to Leftism” and “takes its cues from the LGBTQ Revolution.”

A great many Christians have honest questions and even doubts and fears. But what we do with them is what matters. Deconstruction encourages an individual to become the “master of your faith,” explains Strachan. The authority of God’s Word defaults to self and “the godlike task of curating your own personal religion, just as you do your smartphone. Genuine Christian faith, by contrast, brings challenges and struggles before ‘the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). It cries with the father, ‘I believe;

help my unbelief! (Mark 9:24).”

A church worth its salt, says Strachan, will teach that we should not conform to ourselves or the world, but “to the Scripture and specifically to the image of Jesus Christ.” Deconstruction may sound similar, but it’s not at all. “Most deconstructors embrace the culture, approving sexual anarchy, then denying hell, then embracing universalism, and eventually becoming functional atheists.” (Excerpted from *I Am the Master of My Faith: How Dumping Christianity is Trending* by Joshua Arnold, FRC Center for Biblical Worldview, 4-5-22.)

What can we do? “Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth” and take “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” And, “Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself [and your sons and daughters] for godliness.” (Ephesians 6:13-17; 1 Timothy 4:7)

Please pray to resist deconstruction... in Jesus' name.

Woke Dysphoria on the Campus of CUW

In February of 2022, Rev. Dr. Gregory Schulz was suspended from Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) where he serves as professor of philosophy. He was locked out of his classroom because he publicly warned about “woke dysphoria at Concordia.” *Dysphoria*, Schulz explains, is another word for “restlessness. It doesn’t mean being fidgety or ill at ease; it means being depressed, disquieted, overcome by *Angst*.” It means “being under the influence;” in this case, “the influence of Woke-ism (that is, a potent cocktail of Progressivism, Neo-Pragmatism, and Marxism).”

CUW is presently searching for a new president. “Committees from the Board of Regents have been publicly announcing their determination to have a president who exhibits a ‘demonstrated belief in and commitment to equity and inclusion’ and who promotes racialized ‘diversity in all its myriad forms.’”

Schulz recognizes that these are “aggressive-progressive Woke mantras. He explains: “*Diversity* refers to a racialized diversity with unsubstantiated

assumptions of white privilege and systemic (national and institutional) racism that form the mythological basis of Harvard's Critical Race Theory [CRT] and the 1619 Project. Inclusion is an aggressive, almost violent version of what used to be known as affirmative action, now construed as racial reparations . . . *Equity* is the enforcement of Diversity and Inclusion by any means necessary—excepting by means of thoughtful, reasonable, and honest writing and discussion.”

The “lynchpin issue,” writes Schulz, “is this: The *Woke agenda* (DIE, for *Diversity, Inclusion, Equity*) is utterly opposed to texts and to textual authority. . . .For example, Woke-ness has no place for authoritative texts such as the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence. It also has no place for the authority of the biblical text.” Every element of the Woke agenda, be it DIE, LGBTQ, transgenderism, CRT, liberation theology, etc., leaves no room for “privileged authorities or sacrosanct texts.” In the “published wish-list for our next university president . . . there is no room for privileged authorities—not a hint that all teaching authority at the university has been given to Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). . . . Not a scintilla of a hint that they would seek a president capable of leading us in the work of ‘destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ’ (2 Corinthians 10:5).”

Schulz is concerned that the *Angst* of woke dysphoria burdens the “consciences of my students and my religious colleagues on faculty.” He quotes Augustine of Hippo. “You have made us for Yourself, Lord, and we are restless until we find our rest in You” (Confessions 1.1). (Excerpted from *Woke Dysphoria at Concordia* by Rev. Gregory P. Schulz, DMin, PhD, published 2-15-22 by *Christian News*.)

What can we do? Understand that Woke-ism is a full assault on Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church; it is liberation theology vs. Savior theology. Read Dr. Schulz's article in *Christian News*. Listen to Jon Harris interview Dr. Schulz via *Conversations That Matter* (www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fUJ4iKQWck&t=2s) Listen to Rev. Christian Preus interview Dr. Schulz on behalf of Luther Classical College (www.youtube.com/watch?v=koG1fMMcnSY) Learn about the legal defense of Dr. Schulz by visiting Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (“WILL Represents Concordia Professor Suspended for Criticizing Woke Direction of University”). Ask: What fellowship does light have with darkness?

Please pray for Dr. Schulz, his family, the students and faculty at CUW ... in Jesus' name.

Biden Promotes Transgenderism, France Slams on Brakes

President Joe Biden has announced a full government campaign to promote transgenderism. The WH released two agency documents designed to enable and encourage boys and girls to be castrated chemically and surgically while calling it a form of “supportive healthcare.” Five “gender-affirming care” regulations are forthcoming this month and next. The WH and HHS cite research from the Trevor Project to support the use of puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and surgery for adolescents. Two of the Trevor Project's donors, AbbVie and Allergan, manufacture the chemicals and other products used in the medical gender transition process. The WH ignored the 20-fold increase in suicide attempts by those who complete the transitional process compared to those who don't. Dr. Paul McHugh, former psychiatrist-in-chief at Johns Hopkins confirmed that 70-80% of those who claim gender dysphoria, if left alone, outgrow those feelings after a few years.

Dr. James Dobson says this “defies God's natural laws and grossly breaches all ethical boundaries as it pertains to protecting the welfare of our children.” Dobson noted, “President Biden is correct when he quotes Genesis 1:27 and says those who experience gender dysphoria—along with all human beings—are made in the image of God. . . . [I]t is ironic . . . that Biden is encouraging these same young people to rebel against God's image imprinted upon their very beings . . . [and] conveniently omits the second half of the verse he quotes which says, ‘male and female He created them.’” (Source: “Report: Trans study cited by Biden funded by trans drug makers,” WND, 4-4-22.)

In France the National Academy of Medicine has warned doctors that the growing number of cases of transgender identity in young people are often socially mediated and that great caution is needed when treating them. The Academy stresses that hormonal and surgical treatments carry serious health risks, surgery is irreversible, it is not possible to distinguish a durable trans identity from a passing phase of an adolescent's development. “The risk of over-diagnosis is real, as evidenced by the growing number of young adults wishing to detransition.” (Source: “France slams on transgender brakes” by Michael Cook in *BioEdge*, 4-5-22.)

What can we do? Learn what's being encouraged and counseled in your school. Discover why the Academy advises extension of psychological care for as long as possible. Read *Irreversible Damage* by Abigail Shrier.

Please pray for our young people ... in Jesus' name.

