

Understanding and Engaging Woke Culture from a Biblical Perspective

Pastor Rossi Teaching

Immanuel United Reformed Church Adult SS

Class 5 April 16, 2023

Reading of Psalm 19

00:00:00 **Pastor Rossi**

As usual. I'd like to begin by reading a portion of Scripture. Now listen to Psalm 19. The law of the Lord is perfect. The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber and like a strong man runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect. Reviving the soul, the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The rules of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold, sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned. In keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his ears. Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins. Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight. O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

00:01:48 **Pastor Rossi**

Let's pray. Father in heaven, we are so thankful for this day, a day that you have made, and we are to rejoice and be glad in it. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised. And we, O Lord, rejoice in your salvation on this day and every day. We rejoice in your mercy that is new every morning, and that we, O Lord, can know the forgiveness and cleansing power of Christ and his sacrifice. And that through Him alone do we have life, and life everlasting. In Him alone we have truth. For he is the way, the truth and the life. And no one comes to the Father except through Him. And so we thank You,

Opening Prayer

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Next week is the last class

Next week includes videos to see how Christians interact with folks of progressive ideology.

Discussion: what is meant by “Will Over Reason”

Lord, for creating faith in our hearts, for granting to us salvation that is full and free, for revealing to us the truth of your word, that we may not only hear it, but also believe it and walk in a manner worthy of it. And this is all of your grace. And as we hear the psalmist speak of creation in such profound ways that even creation tells a story, a story of your creative power and might, a knowledge of the God, of all creation, of heaven and earth and that we have been given eyes to see creation and Your glory in it. Father, we pray that we would not boast in the knowledge we have, but our only boasting would be in Jesus Christ, the one who reveals to us the Father, and has opened our eyes to see and believe the truth of Your Word. And so indeed, may the words of our mouths and the meditation of all of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, our rock and our Redeemer. In Jesus name, amen.

00:03:53 **Pastor Rossi**

Alright, so I think today and then next week we will be done. So I think I may have some videos for next week to finish it, and I want to give you an idea of how some folks, from a conservative Christian point of view, engage the woke saviors, those who think that they're out to save the world by promoting this ideology. And so I think it's good to see how Christians interact with folks of this progressive ideology. This morning, we want to finish up on the four tenants. Remember, we spent a week talking about one tenant: “Will Over Reason”, that in woke ideology they is promoted Do you remember what we talked about when we talked about will over reason? What does that mean? What do they promote? What does that say? “Will Over Reason”?

00:05:05 **Participant 1**

They want to think what they want to think, and they know it's a lie, but they believe it. They believe the lie, and it's not reasonable, but that's what they want to do, even though they I don't know.

00:05:20 **Pastor Rossi**

Yeah, you're right. It's basically they think what they think. It's my truth, okay? It's my will above that which is reasonable and rational. So they call it will over reason. Okay? It's not reasonable that a man can be a woman, but yet if I will to choose that in my mind, then that's acceptable and permissible, and you shouldn't have anything to say about it. I should be able to live my life as a woman, and nobody can do anything about it. See, will over reason, it's not rational, but their will has first priority, right?

00:06:11 **Participant 1**

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Today: Tenants 2 and 3 “Power Over Authority” and “Mob Over Victim”

Rationality is built into the created order.

“Will Over Reason” is perhaps the most important of the 4 tenants

Participant question.

Spiritual discernment is given us by God.

And then they don't think we have a will, but they don't think we're reasonable because we know what's true, right? I mean, they don't let us be reasonable. They're hateful to us if we say the truth.

00:06:29 Pastor Rossi

Yeah, and that's one of the tenets of woke ideology. So today we're talking about “Power Over Authority”, and the next one, Mering talks about crowd over victim. Or what I want to say is mob over victim, because that's where this comes into play, what you're talking about. And we've seen this a lot the past couple of years, this mob over victim mentality, this “Power Over Authority”, “Will Over Reason”, those things which are rational, those things embedded in the laws of nature. And who's the God of nature? God who makes the laws of nature. God, who created the laws of logic, God. That's what's really profound about the reformed world and life view, is that you can't know anything apart from the triune of God. You really can't. Knowledge is not attainable if God does not exist.

00:07:36 Participant

Yes, we have the power to believe. Right.

00:07:41 Pastor Rossi

And so “Will Over Reason” is a very important tenet of this movement. And I think it's probably the most important one because if we don't understand that, it's nearly impossible to have a conversation with somebody who holds this belief because you'll lose your mind.

00:08:08 Pastor Rossi

You're not playing on the same playing field. It's completely different universes you live in.

00:08:17 Participant

I just wonder what they would think about the psalm you just read, because the psalm you just read, it had general revelation, but also special revelation. So what would they say about that? They wouldn't comprehend that.

00:08:33 Pastor Rossi

Yeah, it goes back to what Paul says in First Corinthians that unbelievers are unable to spiritually discern. Think about it. Why do you believe what you believe? And why do you believe it to be true? Was it something, some power within yourself that was able to attain it? No. And so on the one hand, we need to be very humble about it and understand that, okay, they're blind by sin just as we were

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“Power Over Authority”

“Power Over Authority” and Chicago Values

The difference between a democracy and a republic.

blind by sin. We need the scales removed from our eyes just as much as they need the scale removed from their eyes. And so there's a blinding of Satan, right? I mean, Paul talks about that, too. Satan blinds the eyes of unbelievers and uses them as minions to do his bidding. And so there's a lot of spiritual warfare going on in this movement.

00:09:26 Pastor Rossi

So I want to move on from “Will Over Reason” and I want to talk about “Power Over Authority”. You heard of the saying back in was it the 60s where powers of the people came about? I don't know. Some of you lived in that day. Power to the people raised the fist. That was before my time. That was a very real movement, right? Power to the people. Oppressed groups revolt against authority structures and join forces to revolt. A powerful revolt against the oppressor class. The authority, those institutes that are inherently evil. Inherently evil. If there's an institute that promotes Christian values or Judeo Christian morals, it's inherently evil.

00:10:27 Pastor Rossi

So recently there have been some elections, and I think that's recent one in Chicago, I hear this a lot from politicians where they're like, we want to stick with Chicago values, Chicago morals. You ever hear politicians say that we need to stand up for our values? What are those values? What are those values? What? We know what values they're talking about, but they're infiltrating a powerful structure within the institute that is contrary to what the Judeo Christian World and Life view has promoted for centuries. So they're trying to remove that authoritarian or not authoritarian, but that institutional structure and replace it with power of the people. That's why you hear the word democracy. We live in a democracy. A democracy. Well, we don't live in a democracy. We live in a republic.

00:11:34 Pastor Rossi

It was Benjamin Franklin was asked after they signed the declaration, and someone came up to him and asked, what kind of government are you putting in place? He said, we're putting in place a republic because you have representatives that represent the people. We don't live in a pure democracy where people rule. We live under a democracy where people are allowed to vote in elected officials who then represent the people. It's called a republic. There are checks and balances. There are divisions of power, okay? But they want to remove all that and just focus on the power of the people and infiltrating institutions. And woke folks believe that the minority group minority group not in ethnicity or anything like that, minority in terms of being less in population, but the

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Destroy authority and the power of the people takes over to rule.

Example: Squatter Laws

minority in ideology, that they're born oppressed and they need to rise and have power over the authority. Noelle Mering said that capitalist and private property are systemic drivers of injustice because they lead to inequality of outcome.

00:13:06 Pastor Rossi

Authority is the final target, she says. The authority is the final target. Destroy authority and the power of the people now take over and rule. So it's the oppressed now becoming the oppressor, essentially. Okay,

00:13:28 Pastor Rossi

what does this look like? All right, you've heard of squatter laws. What are squatter laws?

00:13:40 Participant

If you live in a place long enough, basically its yours.

00:13:49 Pastor Rossi

Sort of. So let's say you go on vacation, okay, you're in Florida, you come back home, and lo and behold, somebody's living in your house. Do you have the right to go in there, grab the person by the lapel, and say, Adios, amigo? No. Do the cops have the authority to go in and remove the people from the premises, from your house? No. In other words, you've lost your right to your own what, property?

00:14:27 Pastor Rossi

And there are professional squatters that do this. There was recently a guy in Michigan, his elderly mother had to go to a nursing home, and somebody began squatting in her house. That kind of sounded weird. Squatting. But what other word do we choose? I don't know.

00:14:53 Pastor Rossi

So this guy was a squatter in her house, and so he had the thought, okay, well, if he's able to have the right to go into my mom's house and come and go as he pleases, and the cops aren't able to do that anything, well, then why can't I go into my mom's own property? So he had her mom sign over all of the paperwork to his name, so the house now legally belonged to him. And so the squatters left, he went in, took all of the furniture that the squatters brought in and threw it all on the front lawn. And what was his reasoning? The cops can't throw me out because of the squatter law. And so he had to use the law to his own advantage to get into his own house. See, it's "Power Over Authority". The implications of that are very profound in

Comments

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Example: hiring practices at Silicon Valley Bank.

Woke: Equality of outcome rather than equality of opportunity.

your life, because if you come home and you have a squatter living there, you have no right to your own home anymore because what's the objective? Systematically trying to get rid of private property because it doesn't belong to you.

00:16:13 Pastor Rossi

Okay, what are some other ones? What are some other ones? Well, here's another one. Power over authority. How about the Silicon Valley Bank? Okay, you've heard of the collapse of the bank. All right, what did the bank do? Instead of bringing in professionals who knew the banking system, who knew how banks run, who knew economics, they hired based on what? Do you know who they hired? They hired advocates for this ideology. They hired people who would do inclusive and diversity training. They hired minorities not in terms of ethnicity, but those who embraced, like, an LGBTQI ideology, those who were the minority and who knew nothing about banking. They were too busy with diversity training that they lost focus on what their job really is. Have you heard of that? Anyone? Yeah. So let me think about this. You have your money in a bank, and the banking system is more concerned about diversity and inclusion training than about investing your money properly and doing what they're called to do morally, being obligated to do what is right.

00:17:48 Pastor Rossi

I mean, there are so many examples to this. And so these woke saviors seek to emancipate or free the slaves, the oppressive groups. And we call this

00:18:06 Pastor Rossi

(I mentioned it earlier) equality of what? Outcome. Every person should have the right to do whatever job or have whatever property or whatever you have, they have the right to have. Equality of outcome, whereas it traditionally has been what? Equality of what?

00:18:37 Pastor Rossi

Opportunity. What's the difference between the two?

00:18:49 Participant

I would say quality of opportunity is like, we all start at the same line. Quality of outcome is we all finish at the same time.

00:18:58 Pastor Rossi

Yeah. Beautiful. Yeah, that's exactly right. Yeah. So regardless of whether or not you know economics, you

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RERUM NOVARUM:
 ENCYCLICAL OF POPE LEO XIII
 ON CAPITAL AND LABOR
https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum.html

Another example of mob rule:
 U.S. Federal Circuit Court Judge
 Kyle Duncan was invited to speak at
 the university about COVID, Twitter
 and Guns – instead, he described the
 free-for-all that ensued as a "bizarre
 therapy session from hell."
 See
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orzucISpGCc> or
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXaJVphigXk>

know the banking system, you know how banks work, regardless of all those things which you would think are essential, they have equal rights to have that job before somebody who is qualified for that work.

00:19:33 Pastor Rossi

The old, I guess, word that was used was affirmative action.

00:19:42 Pastor Rossi

But equality of opportunity is saying that everybody, is at the same level. Not only that, but you have different gifts. Everybody's gifted differently. I'm called to be a pastor. You may be called to be a teacher, someone who is a mom at home who raises children, instructs them in the Lord, whether you're out in construction or whatever.

00:20:15 Pastor Rossi

God gives gifts, talents to be used, and each one has the opportunity to use those talents to work and put food on the table, raise a family, equality of opportunity. And I think I mentioned this before about the Pope in the late 18 hundreds who wrote a paper to the church, to the Catholic Church about really the evils of equality of outcome and the dangers of that because it's denying really God's gifts to men and women to do His work in this world.

00:21:07 Pastor Rossi

A laborer is worth his what, wages. If one will not work, he shall not what? Eat. Okay. I mean, these are all biblical principles that not only are biblical, but they're embedded in the laws of nature. And God is the creator of nature. So it's not only in general revelation, it's also in special revelation because the two can't contradict each other, because it's the same God, the same author, the same Creator. You following me on this "Power Over Authority" because this is a big one.

00:21:46 Pastor Rossi

This is why, you see now then, mob over victim. Because if they're not going to win by having a sensible, reasonable debate, then it is mob rule.

00:22:05 Pastor Rossi

They're all connected. There's no such thing as a reasonable debate to get their point across. It's mob rule. Okay? Recently a federal judge was at Stanford, maybe. Yeah, I think he was at Stanford and he was asked to give a lecture to talk to a conservative group on campus. And a mob of progressive woke folks stormed the room where he

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Another example:
Swimmer Riley Gaines. See
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9_2VMImU7Q

Iconoclasm

Erasing the memory of anything
related to Judeo-Christian worldview

was speaking, harassed him, called him names, told him to get out, and then a dean of students came and gave her own speech on why he's pretty much evil and wrong. See, there's no sensible debate. There's no room for speech because if the mob can silence you, they've won.

00:23:03 Pastor Rossi

I can go on with example over example upon example. I guess recently too, I forgot the swimmer's name from the University of Kentucky, Gaines, I think. Does anybody know who I'm talking about? So she was physically assaulted while giving a speech at San Francisco State University on really upholding women's rights. And the woke mob went there and harassed her and a man dressed with a woman's skirt punched her and harassed her. And there's video of it. And it's horrifying that she can't go and speak to a group of women to tell them that you have rights as a woman.

00:24:00 Pastor Rossi

And yet she had to leave the place with police surrounding her and getting her into her room, and she was with the police in her room for 3 hours and she said the police couldn't do anything. The police couldn't do anything. They protected her, but they couldn't do anything to the protesters. Why?

00:24:21 Pastor Rossi

Powers of the people, the pushback, the kickback that will happen. When we see this throughout the world, actually now most of the world is like this. I would say Europe and North America, but what we've seen in America is also a iconoclasm, which is a word like tearing down icons or tearing down idols. And you remember during the riots and the protests, what were they tearing down? Monuments of, let's say, Confederate soldiers and Union soldiers. They were trying to tear down, desecrate Abraham Lincoln Memorial. All these things we see happen, why? The mob is trying to erase the memory, any memory of an institute that seemingly is oppressive. So if they can erase the memory of anything that in any way, shape, or form that symbolizes capitalism or symbolizes a Judeo-Christian worldview or symbolizes freedom or the American project, the American experiment, then they try to erase that.

00:25:55 Participant

But it goes further, and they want to put theirs in place for that. And that's what they're doing right now. Exactly. I got to be quiet or (?).

00:26:04 Pastor Rossi

“Authority” is embedded in the laws of nature. The question is, who is going to be in authority?

Targets: destroy the father in the home, the traditional woman

See the “Communist Manifesto”

Yeah. So it goes back to what Jack is saying and said many weeks ago about who then is in control. You see, at the end of the day, somebody has to be in control, because there's always an authority structure. Even authority is embedded in the laws of nature. You can't avoid authority. It's always there. The question is, who's going to be in that position of authority?

00:26:37 Participant

They're trying to erase history, too. We learned from history, and they try to erase that by destroying all these monuments and everything else. Sure, slavery was wrong, but we learned from that. And they're trying to get rid of all that.

00:26:57 Pastor Rossi

Yeah. Either erase it or rewrite it.

00:27:03 Participant

Also, the dumbing down of Americans, especially, like, you watch the videos of somebody going on a college campus or in the street, and they ask basic American history questions, and people have no idea. You see, not only are they trying to tear down the visual things, but they've tore down all of the intellectual we use to learn. Right?

00:27:26 Pastor Rossi

Yeah. You ever watch Jaywalking? Jay. Leno used to have the jaywalking. He was the one that kind of initiated that whole experiment. He'd walk around New York City and ask basic American history questions and some of the responses. Yeah, it was quite interesting.

00:27:48 Pastor Rossi

Okay, so who is the mob trying to destroy? First he father in the home. That's the goal. Eliminate the father, destroy the traditional woman, the woman of value. Engel argued (One of the authors of the Communist Manifesto along with Karl Marx) said that women ought to become liberated from the oppression of their husbands by entering the factories in a workforce. Women are not women in a traditional sense, but must fight oppression at the core of their being. And so a woman in the home who is doing what God has called them to do is, in his eyes, an oppressed person. And I can go on and on about the sexual revolution and how women were lied to about how sex is freedom, how sex will release you from that oppressive bondage. Promiscuity was big, too, and so sex became meaningless, and women plunged into the sin of sexual immorality to find freedom from oppression, when in fact, it created more pain and oppression spiritually. So

How do we, as Christians, navigate through this? Let's think about this together.

Engaging the Woke Culture

Don't acquiesce

Pastor Rossi felt need to do more than address this in sermons. A need for SS classes and discussion/lectures in public places.

destroy the father, destroy the home, destroy the woman, the traditional woman, which, interestingly, they can't define what a woman is, But we'll get to that in a moment. Indoctrinate children through the education system. We talked about that. And so, yeah, these are ways in which they try to infiltrate, abolish private property, centralized state run programs and things like that, those things I talked about.

00:29:34 Pastor Rossi

So what I want to do now is, as Christians, how do we navigate through this? I have quite a few things I want to talk about that will probably take the rest of our time today and all of next week. Okay? And I want this to be communal. I want us all to be thinking about this together, because you may have something in your head and heart that is helpful for some of us that we're not thinking that. So I want this to be collective. I don't want to be doing all the talking, in other words. So if you have thoughts or questions or points of application, as you've been processing all of this, please share, okay? I think that's important for all of us to hear what you have to say about

00:30:23 Pastor Rossi

this.

00:30:26 Pastor Rossi

So engaging the woke culture, the Christian response. I guess for me, when I was beginning to study all of this a couple of years ago, it was actually during the George Floyd case and the protesting that was going on. And particularly when protests were going on. And the mob was trying to just really push upon individuals on the street and push people to acquiesce or bend the knee to their worldview. And it really was concerning, I thought, as a pastor, how do I talk to the congregation about this? How do we as Christians engage this? And I think especially when a young person came to me after a service, I think, well, I did a sermon series on the Bible and race. And then a young person came to me and said, at college, what do I do when, let's say, a BLM member comes to me and gets in my face and tells me to bend the knee to their ideology? What do I do? What do I do? What do I do when they ask me if black lives matter? And I said, first thing that came to mind is, well, maybe you

00:31:43 Pastor Rossi

need to ask them what Black Lives Matter means to them, what they're talking about. And that kind of got me thinking, all right, I think I need to write something on this or start addressing this more openly rather than just sermon series, but also in context like this. And in other

Comments

First: Know and be able to articulate the Gospel. Know the Christian Worldview

Why? It is a battle for the truth
It's a spiritual battle

Be able to explain why you believe in capitalism, in private property and in how we know what we know.

Seek God's wisdom in prayer.

Since it is a spiritual battle – use the weapons/armor described in Ephesians 6

places and hopefully in the public square, I'd like to do something like this as well. But these points that I'm going to bring out are for our consideration, and they're not by any means exhaustive, as you may have something to add. First of all, I want to say this. As Christians know the truth. I mean, this sounds simple, but yet it is something that's very profound. I think that how well equipped are we in knowing the truth?

00:32:38 Pastor Rossi

How well do we know the Word? How well do we know the Gospel? Because it's a battle for the truth, as I started off this whole series, it's a battle for truth. It's a battle for what is right and what is wrong. It's a battle against the spiritual forces of evil. And so how well do you know the truth? And not only know the truth, but how well are we able to articulate the truth to a neighbor or somebody who has embraced this worldview? So, in other words, do you know the foundation of your worldview? If you think of a building and you have all these beliefs, okay, what's the foundation that holds that building?

00:33:30 Pastor Rossi

Yeah, I believe in capitalism. Well, so what? Why do you think that would be a legitimate form of society or governments? I believe in the right to private property. Well, so what?

00:33:52 Pastor Rossi

Why do you believe what you believe? And how do you know that what you believe is even true?

00:34:04 Pastor Rossi

And so what is your foundation built upon? Is it firm and fixed? Jesus Christ, by His Spirit, breaks down and demolishes our ungodly, unbiblical foundation and replaces it with truth. And so how well are we in understanding the truth and seeking his wisdom in prayer?

00:34:28 Pastor Rossi

If it's a spiritual battle, we need to go in with spiritual weapons. The sword of the Spirit being the Word of God, and prayer, breastplate of righteousness, all those spiritual armor that he has given us. Jesus says, he who hears these words of mine and does them build his house on the rock. Okay, you're building your house on Jesus. John says in the Gospel, in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him. And without Him was not anything made that was made.

Don't leave Jesus on the shelf.

The most important thing:

Make it known people need King Jesus and that He will come again. Jesus – the way, the truth, the light and the only way to the Father.

Paul and the apostles reasoned with the Jews by using the Scriptures.

Paul reasoned with gentiles through both general and special revelation

The burden is on them to prove that He is not Lord.

Why we don't make it a conversation about political parties

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness is not overcome it. Jesus is the Word who became flesh. He is the very Word, the very Logos.

00:35:19 Pastor Rossi

He is reason. He is the self-existent one, and he is the one who communicates to us the Father. He is the very thought, the very idea, the very concept, the very Word of the living God. And therefore our foundation is built upon Him. And so all of this begins with Jesus. Don't leave Jesus on the shelf, because he is King and Lord. He is king and Lord, and he can handle it himself. He doesn't need you and me to defend his existence. He can do that on his own. And he does. We just make it clear that people need to know that this King Jesus will come again. He will come again, and he is the only way, truth in life, and the only way to the Father. Any thoughts on that?

00:36:19 Pastor Rossi

I think that's probably the most important one that we can really take away from this whole movement, because if we're not equipped in the Word, if we're not able to reason with the Word I mean, think about Paul and the apostles. When they were with the Jews, what did they do? They reasoned with the Scriptures.

00:36:42 Pastor Rossi

When Paul was evangelizing the Gentiles, he reasoned with them through general revelation, but then brought in special revelation that this man Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead. Okay? He never put Jesus on the shelf. He never put Him on the shelf. You know what I mean by that? They never put Jesus in the witness box to give testimony of Himself. They never put Jesus on the shelf as if he's ignored. We're not going to talk about Him because he's offensive. No Jesus. King Jesus comes out first and foremost because he's Lord. Okay? The burden of proof is on them to make a claim that he is not.

00:37:35 Pastor Rossi

Okay. Another point I want to bring up and I mentioned this before, did I make the conversation about political parties? What do you think happens when you make a conversation if you're a Christian and you're engaging in this discussion? What do you think the problem, how it becomes a problem if you bring up politics, republican, Democrat or Independent, what happens? Cause a divide? Yeah. What do they think of immediately? Probably. What are some things they think of?

00:38:16 Participant

Well, I'm right and you're wrong, or vice versa. Yeah. Kind of like a baseball team with Red Sox. You're never going to cheer for the Yankees. Yeah. There's no agreement there the same when you're there, there's no common ground. Right. Very good. It's a good example. You know what it always seems to me ironic is where did our laws come from? Even if you're an unbeliever, you shouldn't murder, shouldn't commit adultery, you shouldn't steal. Where do they think these laws come from? Ten Commandments clearly points all that out. Yeah. And now they're trying to get rid of all that.

00:39:11 [Pastor Rossi](#)

Yeah. Because those are your values and not theirs. It goes back to "Will Over Reason". Okay. It goes back to we're going to get back to progressive values, and progressive values have progressed past the biblical values and morals and norms that we've known.

00:39:38 [Pastor Rossi](#)

But yeah, again, the challenge for them would be, okay, well, where do you base your values from?

00:39:53 [Pastor Rossi](#)

Because when push comes to shove, they actually would hold the same values you do. They just suppress the truth and unrighteousness. Just think about it. If they hold the squatter rights, okay, so they leave the house and I squat it in their home, I would assume they'd be pretty ticked off, right? Or if you just turn it on them, put it in their court, if somebody stole from you, you'd be pretty mad, pretty upset. If somebody murdered someone in your family, you'd want justice. So it goes back to Romans one oppressing the truth and righteous on the one hand, yeah, they promote these things, but in reality they can't when it happens to them. So we don't make it about Republican, Democrats or independents because then you start bringing in political candidates or oh, you're this supporter or that supporter or you just digress the conversation, just digress into a political policy becomes about political policy, really. And we believe that as Christians that, yeah, this topic influences

00:41:21 [Pastor Rossi](#)

political policies for the country, but we're talking about Christians engaging those of this particular worldview. The conversation becomes sidetracked. It doesn't become about God and His authority and his ultimate authority and standard by which truth is known. And so

00:41:47 [Pastor Rossi](#)

Challenge them: where do you get your values from?

They probably actually hold some of the same values as you, when it comes to things like justice and private property.

When the conversation turns political, then the conversation gets sidetracked from a conversation about God and His authority and the standard by which truth is known.

Participant question

How do you get back to talking about the presuppositions a person has – because all the rest they believe is downstream of that?

Pastor Rossi’s answer

First – He is addressing Christians first of all. So know the Word, the Gospel and be prepared by prayer. Don’t make the conversation about politics,

Second: focus on the spiritual nature of the other person – as a person created in God’s image.

Third: Get to know the person. Ask questions to find out what their presuppositions are and argue from those. (*sample questions follow*)

any questions?

00:41:54 Participant

Yeah, I don't know if the starting point is God's word and it ties in, like you said, with “Power Over Authority” and other things like that with your authority. If there's this suppression of the truth, then I'm trying to frame the question, I guess, into saying that if you keep going back to the Christian worldview, there must be certain elements and you alluded to what some of them are like the second coming of Christ. There is a judgment day. There is creation and natural law. So if a person has so suppressed the truth and it's yet still trying to say I believe in God and all the rest of that, all of their other policies are downstream of that, I guess I'm struggling with how do you bring the conversation back to that starting point? And maybe you don't even talk about all that other stuff because it's irrelevant if you don't believe in the Logos, believe in the Word.

00:43:13 Pastor Rossi

Yeah. So the first point, I'm speaking more in terms of the Christian like us, okay, sorry if I didn't clarify that. But we as Christians need to go in ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us. Okay? So it involves knowing the Word, the Gospel, being prepared by with the Word and prayer. Not making it about politics,

00:43:40 Pastor Rossi

but making it about the spiritual nature of the heart of a person, making it about them. Really you're focused on them as a person created in God's image. Now when I say I'm not going to put Christ on the shelf when I talk to the person because our presupposition, those things that we know and believe going into a conversation, I'm not going to set those aside in order to find common ground with a person who doesn't believe what I believe. Because they're going to argue from their presuppositions. We all argue from a certain set of beliefs or presuppositions and we bring it into a conversation, and we argue from those. Okay? And so I'm wanting to know their presuppositions. I'm wanting to know why they account for the things that they believe. And so it involves, okay, I'm going to know the word going into the conversation. I want to know who they are as a human being, who they are as a person, what they believe, because what they believe may not be exactly what another individual believes.

00:44:52 Pastor Rossi

Just like in Christianity, you have different Christians who believe differently than other Christians on maybe like, issues like baptism, but you still call each other brothers

Here are some questions you can ask.

Another Participant question

Next week – Definition of words –
Ask people to define terms.

and sisters. Okay, well, even in the woke world, you have little denominations of what they believe. And so I want to know what you believe. Okay, so you ask questions.

00:45:18 Pastor Rossi

What do you think about truth? Do you believe in truth? Where does truth come from? How do you know that you have this truth so they can give you your life? I want to hear their life story. I want to hear their world and life view. I want to know what they believe about God. Do you believe in God? If you believe in God, what do you believe about Him? How do you know? How do you know that what you believe in God is really true about God? And you're always kind of like you're not being pushy, you're just wanting to know. And it's really forcing all of us to, okay, why do I believe what I believe, and how do I know that what I believe is really true?

00:45:58 Participant

So you need to be able to answer the same question of yourself for yourself, same questions you're asking them.

Pastor Rossi

Yeah, I would make it personal. I wrestle with that. I'm sure you wrestle with it. How do I know that this is true? We'll all ultimately come to the same agreement that God revealed it to me in His Word. But there's a process there that happens.

00:46:28 Participant

Years ago, we were in a park in Georgia, and we saw this man go from a couple of different people, and he came to us and he said, where do you think Jesus is? In Heaven, sitting at the right hand of fathers. And so he knew we were Christians, but that was his witness. That was his question. Interesting. That would be a good question just for people, or do they

00:47:08 Pastor Rossi

I don't know how I would ask that question or where in the conversation I would ask. It probably wouldn't be my first question. I would want to even know if they believed in Jesus historical existence, maybe down the line in the conversation. But, yeah, we'll talk more about it. I have to let you go because we're out of time.

00:47:33 Pastor Rossi

But next week we're going to talk about, as Christians, how we engage this worldview, and we're going to talk about definitions. One of the big things that we need to know is we need to ask the defined terms. When you say justice,

Homework: Look up definition of woman in an on-line dictionary

Closing prayer.

what do you mean by justice? When you say equity, what do you mean by equity? What do you mean by equality? It sounds weird. But when you say woman, what do you mean by woman? Right. So we need to ask questions. I encourage you to go to the Cambridge Dictionary online and look up woman.

00:48:16 Pastor Rossi

Look up woman online on your Cambridge Dictionary and you will see what you get. That's why you need to ask to define terms. So now you can just feel like you're a woman and you're a woman. So, yes, will over what reason?

00:48:35 Pastor Rossi

All right, well, let's pray. Father in heaven, we thank you for the word of God, which is living inactive and sharper than any double edged sword. We thank you that you have opened our eyes and our minds to believe the Scriptures. And we just pray, Lord, that you would equip us, that you would help us to learn the word of God and to rightly apply it in our own lives and to share it with those who do not know and to be confident in Your grace and Your spirit to lead us and guide us in conversations that we have with others. And maybe we show a genuine love for our neighbor, whatever religion they're from or whatever belief structure that they build their life upon. Lord, help us to approach our neighbor in love and in kindness and gentleness, and yet standing firm for the truth of Your Word. For we, too, Lord, were once lost, but now we have been found. And we humble our selves before you. We humble, humble ourselves even now as we come to you in worship. And may you bless, O Lord, the worship service and the preaching of Your Word and the singing and all the elements of worship, Lord. May they impact our hearts and lives in such a way that you sanctify us, O Lord, and draw us closer to our Savior, Jesus, whose name we pray. Amen. Amen.