

Understanding and Engaging Woke Culture from a Biblical Perspective

Pastor Rossi Teaching

Immanuel United Reformed Church Adult SS Class 2 March 12, 2023

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Highlights (*Dana Perkins*)
Class 2 March 12, 2023

Opening Prayer

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

Good morning, everyone. Good morning. Morning. Morning. So everybody made it for the coffee. That was pretty funny I thought, Donna <laugh>.

Donna ([00:09](#)):

Dana did it.

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

Oh, that you, yeah.

Dana ([00:11](#)):

She told me to <laugh>.

Pastor Rossi ([00:14](#)):

Throw somebody under the bus, I guess. Yeah. I suppose Pastor told me to <laugh>. So all right, well, we will get started with the word of prayer, pray together,

Pastor Rossi ([00:32](#)):

Gracious God and Father from the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised. And we are so thankful that we can wake up this morning knowing your mercies that are new every day, and that we can wake up knowing that Jesus is Lord and Savior, that he is king of kings and Lord of lords, and that we belong to him, embody and soul in life, in his death. And that no one can snatch us out of your hand oh Father, not even Satan. And so we pray, father, that you would bless us on this Lord's Day, that we may know the riches and glory and majesty of Christ. And we may know the majesty of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And that we may not only know this in the head, but in the heart the entire being, that we would truly know who you are as you have revealed yourself in your holy word, and may feed us spiritual food and drink so that we may feast upon the bread of life, who is Jesus, but also walk in a manner are worthy of the calling. They we may put feet to our faith, walking as Christians in this dark world. We pray, Lord, that you would give us a holy boldness and zeal, devotion to serve you and honor you and glorify your name even in the world in which we live, calling many people to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, to be saved. In your name we pray. Amen.

Pastor Rossi ([01:50](#)):

Comments

Review

Gnosticism
Docetism

Definition of woke

The woke mindset results in a non biblical way of looking at what it means to be a person. It is called Personhood Theory

Nancy Pearcey in her book “Love Thy Body” describes Personhood Theory well.

Personhood Theory is essentially like Gnosticism

Personhood theory explained

Dualism:

Spirit/Body each opposed to the other
Person/Body each opposed to the other

This is an unbiblical idea, but for the woke, it results in a radically different view of what a person is

All right. Well, please bear with me. I've been sick all week, <laugh>. So yeah, I'm a little congested, but I apologize for that. So last week we spent the second half of the class talking about Gnosticism and Docetism. Do you guys remember what Gnosticism is? What do they believe about body and spirit? Spirit and body? They are two opposed, absolutely opposed, diametrically opposed. Ideas. Okay. Beliefs. Docetism came from the word dopa, which means to see. Remember we looked at the text in first John, who is the anti-Christ? The one who does not believe that Jesus came in the flesh. He only seemed or appeared to be human, but he was some kind of a phantom apparition, but he didn't come in the flesh because God cannot come in the flesh. And so Docetism - to seem.

Pastor Rossi ([03:08](#)):

Okay? This morning, I wanna kind of piggyback off of last week, and I gave a working definition of what woke is. And it comes from the book by Noelle Mering. **And she defines, woke to be alert and attuned to the layers of oppression in society that surrounds issues like race, sex, and gender.** And it comes into play even more in the time period in which we live. And it's morphed into this, it's called the Personhood theory. And by the way, you know, take notes, but transcripts are made available. I have a couple of transcripts from last week. You can need 'em. Just a heads up. They're on the website too. So if you just want to listen, that's great. Personhood theory, which piggybacks off of this. Okay? And what is the personhood theory? Well, in her excellent book right here, Nancy Pearcey, there's one available here. If you want to borrow it, you're welcome to. But the personhood theory is essentially like Gnosticism. Okay? You have the person and the human.

Speaker 18 ([04:36](#)):

What can we, can we slide in? Slide in. You have four.

Pastor Rossi ([04:43](#)):

Okay.

Pastor Rossi ([04:44](#)):

Sorry. There's some here. Slide in.

Pastor Rossi ([04:56](#)):

Okay, so the person who has theory, you have the same idea. Two diametrically opposed philosophies about who an individual is. I'll put it that way, because in this woke worldview, there is the mind and the body, the person and the human. Does that make sense to you? What do you think about this? This is a what's called a dualism, diametrically opposed ideas that are at odds

[Sidebar Title]

Abortion as an example of woke Personhood Theory applied

See last page for graphic

Person in Christian Worldview
body and soul: distinct but not divided and the two will be reunited at the resurrection.

Christian Worldview: no enmity between body and soul

Woke worldview: enmity between spirit and body.

Diagram: See bottom of Figure 1 at the end of this transcript

Question: What constitutes a person?

Various answers given by audience.

with one another. Let me give you an example to kind of help flush this out. Now, use the example of abortion, okay? As Christians, we say abortion is what?

Pastor Rossi ([05:58](#)):

Murder.

Pastor Rossi ([05:59](#)):

Murder of what? Of who? <Inaudible>. Okay. How do we define a human being? What is human to you?

Speaker 21 ([06:09](#)):

God created a person with a soul and a spirit

Pastor Rossi ([06:13](#)):

Soul, a soul and a physical body. Okay? So we define a Christian defines personhood as body and soul. Yes, they're distinct, but they're not. We can't separate the two. The way that God made a human being in his image, okay? It encompasses both of this. That's why in the redemption in the last day, what's going to be redeemed? Body and soul. You know, oftentimes in evangelical Christianity, we talk about going to heaven when we die. Well, amen. Yeah, we're going to be with Jesus, right?

Pastor Rossi ([07:00](#)):

But we seem to forget that's not the end of the story. But even the soul desires to be with the body. And Christ came to be crucified, buried, raised from the dead, ascended into heaven, so that in the last day, he shall come again, and there will be a resurrection of the dead. Okay? Body, soul, there's not enmity between body and soul, like there's enmity between spirit and body in woke worldview. Okay? So they manifest this worldview in this personhood theory that exists today, where the mind and body are diametrically opposed, at enmity with one another. So I use the, the example of abortion. Do they believe the child in the womb is human? Yes. Do they believe the child is in the womb? Is a person? No. Did you hear me? The child in the womb is human. It's a biological organism. Matter molecules, but it's not a person. So what constitutes a person?

Let me ask you. What do you think, in their worldview, constitutes a person?

Speaker 23 ([08:35](#)):

Ability to think, reason, interact, think, reason, intelligence,

Comments

Explaining the logic behind why some people support abortion and think euthanasia is acceptable.

Word laundering.

One case where woke definition can't determine if you have a person or not.

Pastor Rossi ([08:49](#)):

What else?

Speaker 26 ([08:50](#)):

High levels of consciousness. That's why that leading thinker in the East, argues that therefore a pig, you know, at one year has more consciousness than, for example, a two month old baby, and therefore a pig at one year has more of a right to exist.

Pastor Rossi ([09:09](#)):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>? Yeah. I don't know who that is, but I yeah, I've heard that.

Pastor Rossi ([09:14](#)):

Ability to make decisions, choices. So in their worldview, they are justified in aborting a child. And an abortion is nothing but a euphemism. Euphemism For what? Murder. Murder. Right? We're gonna get into the whole language talk in a few weeks. What I think Noelle Mering, she points out and, and defines it excellently saying that it's word laundering, just like you launder money illegally. Well, they're in the business of word laundering, but we'll get into that. And so in the personhood theory, you're not a person unless you think, reason, able to make choices for yourself. That's a big one. Okay? How about euthanasia? You have an elderly person who's unable to make decisions. She, she or he is bedridden, seemingly in a comatose state.

Pastor Rossi ([10:30](#)):

Why not have the right to die? Why not put her out of her misery? The prison house of the soul? See, for them, the human body, this is where they talk about the science, biological organism. But the person, you don't become a person until you make decisions. That's why you go into not partial birth abortion, but you can go into even killing, murdering a child who has birth defects. One year in this stuff is happening, sadly. And our heart's should grieve. So I was administering to a lady who had ALS and she was near death, and she communicated through a computer screen, and her eyes would hit this keyboard that's on the computer screen, and she would type out words with her eyes. So fascinating. But I wouldn't have known that she can communicate if they didn't have this technology. So imagine decades ago, if they didn't have this technology, I would've thought she was in an unconscious comatose state. She's a never, never. I mean, she is out. She, it is just matter and molecules that they would say,

Pastor Rossi ([12:18](#)):

I

Comments

Further evidence for unity of body and soul

David in Psalm 32

By personal experience:
spiritual hurt that leads to
physical ailments.

Clear example of how personhood
theory affects medical decisions:
2005 Terri Schiavo case

Woke: awareness is a critical criterion
of personhood

Biblical: personhood as described in
Gen 1-11 (and other passages) as unity
in body and soul

*Recognizing this difference is crucial
in defining, understanding and
engaging the woke.*

Pastor Rossi ([12:22](#)):

It's so wonderful the way God created us, isn't it? Body and soul? Yes. Distinct, but not entirely. Why is it that when you are sick physically, you can hurt spiritually? Isn't there a profound truth to that? Or when you're hurt spiritually, you can be hurt physically, they're separate, but you can't separate the two. And our bodies long for the day of redemption when our bodies will be made like Christ. And so they have this worldview, this personhood theory. Let me read from you, for you from Pearcey's book. You guys may remember this. This case that came about was 2005.

Pastor Rossi ([13:19](#)):

I remember it. Many Americans still recall the 2005 Terri Schiavo case. Terri was a young married woman who suffered cardiac arrest and was declared by some doctors to be in a persistent vegetative state. Her husband wanted to discontinue her food and water, but her biological family would take care of her, disputed the diagnosis. They lined up medical experts who claim that Terri responded to efforts to communicate after a series of highly publicized court cases, and even the intervention of the US Congress, her food and water were cut off, leading her to slow death by dehydration and starvation. You guys remember that?

Speaker 27 ([13:59](#)):

Yeah.

Pastor Rossi ([14:00](#)):

Terry's story was presented in the media as a right to die case, but Terri was not dying. She was not terminally ill. So that was not actually the heart of the debate. The court issue was personhood theory. In a television debate, Wesley Smith of the Discovery Institute asked a bioethicist from the University of Florida, do you think Terri is a person? No, I do not. The bioethicist bioethicist replied, I think having awareness is an essential criterion of personhood. So this theory right here is essential to our discussion as we move forward in defining and understanding and engaging woke, because as I said last week, unless we firmly believe and uphold the first eleven chapters of Genesis, everything else crumbles.

Pastor Rossi ([15:09](#)):

Everything

Pastor Rossi ([15:10](#)):

Else crumbles.

Pastor Rossi ([15:12](#)):

Comments

Questions from the class.or Pastor Rossi

What is personhood theory really saying about humanity?

Rossi's challenge: How do you define personhood as a Christian? How would you explain this to a person holding to the personhood theory?

Answer should include WHO is the authority on this definition.

Well,

Pastor Rossi ([15:15](#)):

Any questions

Pastor Rossi ([15:16](#)):

Here?

Pastor Rossi ([15:22](#)):

What is the personhood theory really doing with creation and the way God created? Man? What is it really doing? What, what is it really saying about humanity? What do you think?

Speaker 36 It redefines

It redefines it.

Pastor Rossi What else? Important? What's that?

Speaker 28 ([15:46](#)):

Seems like the animals are more important

Pastor Rossi ([15:48](#)):

Now than man. Yeah. So it devalues Yeah, right? It devalues the human being. To the example of Pastor Brummel that he gave it, oh, go ahead.

Speaker 30 ([16:02](#)):

We're oppressing the earth.

Pastor Rossi ([16:04](#)):

We're op Yeah. Oppressive. We destroy the purpose and meaning of life, the way God created it, the value of human life. It denies the creator God. It's completely and totally tical to God's creation of man as body and soul. United in one human being. To be a human being is to be a person. And what is a person? A person is one who's made in God's image with body and soul. rational thinking being. But if a person loses the ability to reason loses, ends up in a vegetative state, does that make him less human or less of a person? No. So how do you define personhood as a Christian? That's my challenge to you. When you engage in someone who may have this particular world and life view, how do you engage in a conversation saying, well, what is, who determines who determines what personhood is? Right? Isn't that the, the ultimate question? Who defines life? Who defines what personhood is? Who defines what good is right?

Comments

The answer spiritual battle and lies in the truth

Conformity is not the way, speaking the truth is, and it will be offensive.

Let know our telling be self-righteously spoken by done in a loving way.

Pastor Rossi ([17:33](#)):

Who is the ultimate authority? See, the, it goes back to truth, what we talked about yesterday. Who holds the truth? Who defines the truth? Yeah. The Lord Jesus. Who is the way, the truth and the life. And so this is a battle for truth. And it's a battle that is one that is spiritual in nature because the devil is working overtime to seek and destroy. I've been recently watching some conversations among the Church of England, and wow, how this ideology, this worldview has entered into that church. It is a mess. And how it's entering churches in this country and even around the world. So as Paul says, stand firm, keep guard, guard your own hearts, right? We need to guard our own hearts because sometimes a Christian can feel for the sake of love, a love that really is not known for the sake of love. I need to conform to this to show them Christ. No, it's not how it works. Because of love, love for those who are lost in sin and rebellion. They need to know truth regardless of the cost, because Christians are afraid to be offensive. Well, I'm sorry, but the truth is offensive. Now, there's a way in which we can be arrogant in our approach. I get that we can come across as self-righteous, arrogant, bold, actually,

Pastor Rossi ([19:39](#)):

But we need to speak the truth in love.

Pastor Rossi ([19:43](#)):

Yes, thanks.

Pastor Rossi ([19:49](#)):

I want to point out some scripture passages here, passages here related to body and soul. Psalm 32, 1, notice the relationship between body and soul and these passages and just the profound way in which God created us. It's, it's, it's truly astounding. Again, the first number of chapters in Genesis should really blow our mind away.

Pastor Rossi ([20:27](#)):

That our creator, God created us in this way, blesses the one who's transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, blesses the man against whom the Lord counts. No iniquity in whose spirit. There is no deceit. Now listen, for when I kept silence, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long for day and night. Your hand was heavy upon me. My strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledge my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord. And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. He was so spiritually in turmoil because of sin that his, his own body was aching. Psalm 63, 1, oh God, you are my God. Earnestly I seek you my soul,

Comments

Psalms that are relevant in defining personhood as unity of soul and body.

God's purpose (telos) for creating us in His image and his end goal of fellowship/company with him is relevant.

A question for the woke: how is this view of body/soul connection working for you?

Another look back

Charles Darwin, Hegel and Marx

thirst for you. My flesh faint for you as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. We can go on in some other passages. 44, Psalm 44, verse 25. So who defines personhood? And here's another question. What is the, tell us What is the end purpose for human beings?

Pastor Rossi ([21:55](#)):

To glorify

Pastor Rossi ([21:56](#)):

God, to glorify God and love him? And what is the end goal? What, where is God taking us? He's taking us

Pastor Rossi ([22:09](#)):

Heaven

Pastor Rossi ([22:10](#)):

To heaven. Okay, keep going. Where, where is God taking us? What's the end goal? Fellowship with him. Fellowship with him, embody soul redeemed, fully redeemed. What happens? What's the end goal with this worldview? Here? He drink and be married for tomorrow. You die. Exactly. It's a, it's a hedonism, right? A pleasure seeking. They're dependent on no one. We would say as Christians, we're dependent. Holy on God, right? They're dependent on no one. They are their own God. They define the terms. They define who's in authority. They define who is the right to live and who is the right to die. They have the right to exercise choice. And yet, when you look at the world today, how do we account for the mass amounts of suicides, the mass amounts of depression, the sadness, the hurt? How do you account for that? Which means what Then? If there's this hopelessness, is it this supposed to give them hope? Why does the exact opposite happen? Because you'll notice, and you probably know this, noticed this already, those who hold this worldview are absolutely miserable. So your worldview has implications on how you live and how you think and what you believe, what you hoping,

Pastor Rossi ([24:27](#)):

How you live your life. Well, there's more to say on that, but I'm going to move on to a brief look back. So we had a working definition of woke that I gave you. We talked a little bit about that. We talked about Gnosticism,, Docetism and this Personhood Theory, a brief look back philosophically, politically, morally, the beliefs and practices of woke folks have its beginnings in one materialist, Charles Darwin and two philosophers mainly Hegel and Marx. And I said this last week, one of the BLM founders, Patrisse Cullors, said that she describes herself as a trained

Comments

Self-described Marxist leads the BLM movement, but those participating may not be aware of the underlying philosophy.

Darwin: no purpose or meaning in the material world.

His materialism suffers from many contradictions.

Darwin quote

The contradiction

Marxist and was the protege of one of the members of the weather, ground weather underground terrorist organization. Some of you guys may know the, the name Bill airs, but this is who was leading the charge in that movement, a self-described Marxist. But this is the case for all those who are leading the charge in this movement. You won't find it so much in the disciples of the movement, like those in the mob that are on the streets, but those who are leading the charge, who have this, this grounding in these philosophical beliefs.

Pastor Rossi ([26:09](#)):

So first, Charles Darwin, I won't go a whole lot into him. A lot of this you probably already know. He wrote the Theory of evolution. And in this work, he argues that there's no purpose or meaning in the physical material world. Everything exists by random chance. Therefore, morality is neutral. Life is not sacred, low value even in the material world, especially in the human body. And if you hold this worldview you essentially can see where you end up with something like this. Right? But Darwin's worldview, his materialism suffered many incoherent contradictions. And what do I mean by that?, I want to read a couple portions of his book. In The Descent of Man, h says this, "for my own part, I would as soon be descended from the heroic little monkey who braved his dreaded enemy in order to save the life of his keeper. Or from that old baboon who descending from the mountains carried away in triumph, his young comrade from the crowd of astonished dogs as from a savage who delights to torture his enemies, offers up bloody sacrifices, practices. Infanticide, without remorse treats his wives like slaves, knows no decency, and is haunted by the grossest superstitions.

Pastor Rossi ([27:36](#)):

Christianity would be in that. Do you notice any contradiction? How does he, how can he say this stuff about infanticide treats his wife like slaves, knows no decency and hold a materialistic worldview? Anyone other than the pastors in the room?

Speaker 34 ([28:01](#)):

If he is against that philosophy in the society, isn't that what they're doing now in abortion?

Pastor Rossi ([28:11](#)):

Yeah, he would be opposed to it. That's what he's saying, infanticide.

Pastor Rossi ([28:17](#)):

Yeah.

Comments

Where does Darwin get his morality from?

Without God Darwin can not make these statements

Philosophers following Darwin embraced his materialism.

Hegel and Karl Marx

How to achieve Utopia: Hegel's dialectic.

See Figure 2 at the end

Pastor Rossi ([28:19](#)):

But if he holds a materialistic worldview, okay, which means all there is is matter. Where do you get your morality from? How do you account for these statements that he'd rather live among the monkeys and the baboons than among savages. He calls savages those who treat their wives like slaves. Of course, that's savagery. I mean, we agree with that <laugh>, but how does he account for it? That's the question. How can he account for having this value, this morality, if he holds this view? Does anybody follow me?

Speaker 41 ([29:11](#)):

How do they account for reason and thinking? I mean, who gives them intelligence?

Pastor Rossi ([29:22](#)):

That's exactly the point. That's good. Yeah. Without God, he cannot make these statements. Without God, he cannot talk about what treating wives like slaves or decency, or he cannot talk about infanticide as evil. If this is the worldview you hold, then where does evil come from? So he's contradicting his own worldview. He's not practicing what he preaches because he understands that there is evil. He understands that there is barbarism. He's an important figure because the following philosophers, especially Karl Marx, who was a materialist, embraced this. I want to talk briefly about Hegel. Hegel was a rationalist. He was a philosopher, and he's probably one of the harder philosophers to read and understand. So I won't get into this. But for Hegel, there needed to be a revolt over state politics in order to achieve a more fair society. And what you find in the philosophers is how you achieve a utopia, a place where there is perfection, where people get along together, you know, like John Lennon's, imagine, you know, imagine there's no heaven. Imagine there's no religion. Everybody's just getting along. There's no wars. It's kinda like the seventies hippies, you know, let's just get along and live together.

Pastor Rossi ([31:38](#)):

So he came up with what's called a dialectic. Let's take a little bit of time to explain this, because this is very important. Okay? So the way he talks was this, you have the thesis. The thesis is the way things are now. Okay? The way things are now, the way that institutions are, the way that people are living their lives, their worldview, what they're thinking, how they're living, the thesis is the way things are now. The antithesis is the way that things should be, okay? The way that things should be, and the way to achieve a more utopia is to synthesize, a synthesis. Here are the way things are now. In order to change to a more utopian society, it has to go through a revolution, a revolt, okay? And how do you

Comments

Examples of the struggle between thesis and antithesis for a new thesis. This is a repeating pattern until Utopia is reached.

Audience question: Who decides what utopia is?

A world spirit behind everything – known as zeitgeist.

do that? Through the antithesis in order to achieve a synthesis. So here are the way things now, there needs to be change based on the way that culture is moving.

Pastor Rossi ([33:10](#)):

For example, today, how are people trying to change the way things are now among this woke revolt? How about street mobs? How about attacking places of government? How about silencing speech? How about taking away the constitution, the way things are? No, this is the way they should be. And then as a result, you have a synthesis, a combination of the two. And this cycle keeps going until we reach a utopia. You know, I asked you earlier, what's the end? What's the telos? What's the end goal? That's the end goal. That's the end goal for them. For the Christian, it's different. It's the new heavens new earth. It's the glory of God. It's fellowship with his people, the redemption of the body and soul, or for them, it's that this materialistic worldview. This is what it is. Now, Karl Marx embraced this. He embraced it and used it for social change, for economic change in society.

Pastor Rossi ([34:52](#)):

That's how he used this. Are you any questions on this? We're gonna talk about it more, but yeah.

Speaker 10 ([35:00](#)):

So who decides what utopia is?

Pastor Rossi ([35:08](#)):

That's such a great question, Jack <laugh>. That is a great question, and we're going to get into that.

Speaker 11 ([35:14](#)):

Well, I can answer it too. Part of the answer is that he believes in a world spirit behind everything that's happened in human history. Hegel says there's a world spirit who has somehow, you know, claimed this mm-hmm. <Affirmative>, this evolutionary role in everything that happens Yeah. In the world of matter.

Pastor Rossi ([35:27](#)):

Yeah. They call the zeitgeist. It's the, the spirit of the world. Yeah. So we're gonna get into that. But that's a great question, Jack. And you hit the nail on the head. Really? Come back next week. Yeah. Come back. <Laugh>. There will be more coffee.

Speaker 12 ([35:44](#)):

So one, just an observation. There's so many things there that you're talking about that almost they don't sound biblical, but you

Comments

A rejection of God.

A “cultural” spirit of the age.

Underlying it is the lust of the flesh and pride.

Hegel, Marx and the Hegelians

About Karl Marx

know, they're looking for harmony amongst everybody. Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>, what? The new heavens and the new Earth is a spirit behind everything. Yeah. We've got God the creator, like it's mm-hmm. <Affirmative>, it's not Christian and not biblical at all. Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative> it's way off. And yet the things are after. But yeah, God says this is what the world is and this is how to get there. Yeah. But they're just rejecting him.

Pastor Rossi ([36:13](#)):

Yeah. No, that's good. Yeah. The, the spirit is the spirit of the age, really like the cultural spirit of the age. And that the cultural spirit of the age, it's kind of like what we hear today. Like, oh, Christianity is antiquated. Let's get with the age, the culture is changed. Let's allow same sex marriage, allow certain things that are disallowed in the Bible to exist because the spirit of the age has changed. Does that make sense? (The spirit is Satan), I think behind it. Yeah. That's essentially, yeah. But they wouldn't say that, right?

Speaker 13 ([36:58](#)):

It's also the lust of the flesh, the pride of the mm-hmm. <Affirmative> of life. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

Pastor Rossi ([37:03](#)):

Yeah. It is those things underlying it. All right. Doesn't Paul say, you know, he uses false teachers. False teachers, but what are those false teachers who do they essentially serve Satan, who is at work in the world? So yeah, you have human responsibility, but then there's a spirit of the age that is at work too, in the sons of disobedience.

Pastor Rossi ([37:31](#)):

All right. So Hegel influenced Marx and Marx belonged to a group of folks that were called Hegelians. And most of them were, were staunch atheists. A little bit about, about Karl. Marx. Marks' father was Jewish, but then he, then he came from a long line of rabbis, but he later converted to Lutheranism. His father became very successful and wealthy, and his mother was very devoted to her husband. But Marx adored his father, but hated his mother. There was a very very bad relationship between the two of them. And that comes out later in life when Marx's his father died and the relationship between him and his mother was just terrible. And he, he even demanded that he that he received all of his father's inheritance. And, and so his mother was sick and tired of sending him money.

Pastor Rossi ([38:35](#)):

Comments

Thomas Sowell Reader: Marx The Man. Listen to YouTube audio.

Poems by Karl Marx
reveal his animosity

How Marx incorporated Hegel's dialectic.

You'll, you'll see the irony in Marx for one who pushed for this communist manifesto. And yet he was just a moocher, essentially, at the end of the day, he was a moocher. He mooched from anybody he could. His mom said, fine, here's the inheritance. Go. We're done with you. And what did he use his Inheritance? For revolt, buying weapons to revolt against <laugh> government. So he focused in life on economics and philosophy. But before he got involved in that, into the Communist manifesto, he was into poems. I don't know if you knew this, but Marks was a poet. And if you ever get a chance to listen to this chapter from Thomas Sowell, if you ever heard of Thomas Sowell, he's worth listening to Thomas Sowell on YouTube. He, he reads part of his book, the Thomas Sowell Reader, and there's a chapter in there called Marx the Man.

Pastor Rossi ([39:41](#)):

It's an excellent brief biography on Karl Marx, and you can find it on YouTube and listen to it. But listen to some of the poems that Marx wrote,

Pastor Rossi ([39:54](#)):

Then I will wander godlike and victorious Through the ruins of the world
And, giving my words an active force, I will feel equal to the creator.

Pastor Rossi ([40:05](#)):

Then he writes, But who advances here full of impetuosity? It is a dark form from Trier, an unleashed monster, With self-assured step he hammers the ground with his heels And raises his arms in all fury to heaven As though he wished to seize the celestial vault and lower it to earth. In rage he continually deals with his redoubtable fist, As if a thousand devils were gripping his hair.
Sowell, Thomas. The Thomas Sowell Reader (pp. 176-177). Basic Books. Kindle Edition.

Pastor Rossi ([40:06](#)):

He was you know, we talked about atheism last week, and then we also talk about antitheism. What's the difference between the two? One believes in no God and one God and the other hates God. That's essentially atheism, antitheism. There is no God and I hate him. Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>. And that's where Marx was at. So Marx gravitated towards Hegel's philosophy, but he believed revolution occurs through socioeconomics. And he distinguished between two classes of people.

Pastor Rossi ([41:10](#)):

You had the working class. Now you're gonna start to see through this how the woke movement has shaped itself in society today.

You're gonna start to see why there's animosity towards institution and authority, and it's gonna come through here. So you had what was called the proletariat. And then you had those who owned the means of production. Those who owned businesses, owned the factories, those who were the bosses of the working class. We'll, we'll call 'em the capitalists, okay? You had the capitalists who were the bourgeoisie, and you had the working class. And during the Industrial Revolution, workers from rural towns migrated to cities to work in these factories. And they depended upon the wages from their employers, the capitalists, the bourgeois. Marx called the workers slaves because the bourgeois, who were the capitalists, had a monopoly over the means of production. And the workers owned nothing. They were slaves to their employees because the employees owned the means of production. And the workers only got a salary. They didn't have ownership in the business, in the property. They owned nothing. Therefore, he believed that capitalism dehumanizes and exploited the working man.

Pastor Rossi ([43:00](#)):

Okay? Again, just think of what was just said, why would Marks even care about the working class with his underlying worldview? A materialistic worldview? Why would he even care about the working class?

Audience question

Speaker 15 ([43:35](#)):

Wasn't he trying to make those as followers?

Again – who decides utopia?
It is about power and authority.

Pastor Rossi ([43:41](#)):

Yeah. Make disciples. It's gonna kind of go back to what Jack asked earlier or said earlier. Who decides these things? <Laugh>? It's about power and authority, right? Always has been nothing new under the sun. Comes in different forms and shapes and sizes. Capitalism, dehumanizes and exploits the working man. He called religion the opiate of the people. Have you, you've heard that before? Do you know what that means? Does anybody know what that means? The opiate of the people. What did he mean by that?

Religion as the opiate of the people

Speaker 16 ([44:22](#)):

It's a drug that keeps them content.

How?

Pastor Rossi ([44:25](#)):

Yes. Yep. It's used to distract. Religion is used to distract and appease the working man. So they would not revolt. Something needs to happen to the capitalist because they have the means of production. The working man owns nothing. And in order to keep

Comments

Capitalist use religion to appease the workers

How religion works against the dialectic.

Christianity teaches the different gifts given to men is a good thing.

Marxism wants everyone equal.

Pope encyclical counters this: "The Evil of Equity"

the working man from revolting, give him religion. Because what does Christianity teach about work?

Speaker 17 ([45:06](#)):

You don't work. You don't eat.

Speaker 18 ([45:11](#)):

Well, it's a gift, actually. Gift. It's, yep.

Speaker 19 ([45:16](#)):

It's wonderful.

Speaker 20 ([45:18](#)):

I think too, it's you know, the working class with religion is satisfied and they're willing to endure suffering, which really works against what, you know, Hegel and Marx are trying to do, which is to make people discontent so they revolt. Yeah. And bring you to a new state of being. Yeah.

Pastor Rossi ([45:38](#)):

Your rights. Right? And it's let's, what it really does here is it does not distinguish between the way that God creates every human being. I'm a pastor. You may be a businessman, you may be a plumber, you may be a contractor, you may be a lawyer, an accountant. You may do various different jobs. But isn't that the way God gifts human beings? They try to make everybody the same. It, it's about, and we'll see this later, it's about group and not person. It's about the group and not the person. There was a pope in the late 18 hundreds and he wrote an encyclical to the church. An encyclical in the Catholic church is a letter written by a bishop of usually the bishop of Rome. And it's sent to all the churches throughout the world, a teaching from the Vatican essentially.

Pastor Rossi ([46:42](#)):

And he talks about the evil of equality. It's a pretty fascinating read. He's not talking about that we're all equal in God's sight as image bears. He's speaking against communism, against Marxism, that's been permeating throughout Europe, throughout the world. And he's teaching that no, God gives gifts to individuals. Some are working class, some are capitalists, some will be poor, and the church needs to care for them. There are a variety of people in the world and not all are equal in terms of status in society, but we're all equal in God's sight. And therefore we love one another. Love our neighbor as ourself. So I'm just gonna conclude with this. And then we need to come to close. At the conclusion of the Communist manifesto.

Comments

The Communist Manifesto

Thesis

Antithesis

Revolution (forceable overthrow)
brings a synthesis which becomes the
new Thesis

Closing Prayer

Pastor Rossi ([47:58](#)):

I dunno,

Pastor Rossi ([48:00](#)):

It's a thrilling read.

Pastor Rossi ([48:01](#)):

<Laugh> <laugh>.

Pastor Rossi ([48:06](#)):

In short, Marx and Engels writes, the communists everywhere support every revolutionary movement against the existing social and political order of things. You hear that? You had the thesis, the way things are, the antithesis, the way things ought to be. Okay. A revolutionary movement against the existing social political order of things. In all these movements, they bring to the front as the leading question in each the property question, no matter what is degree of development at time. Finally, they labor. Communist labor everywhere for the union and agreement of the democratic parties of all countries. The communist disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. This is Marx and Engles, the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a communistic revolution. The Proletarians, working class, have nothing to lose but their chains, they have a world to win, working men of all countries unite. And that's how he ends his Communist Manifesto; revolution. So what you're seeing today is nothing new. It's nothing new. So, oh, we'll get back into it next week. So let's close in a word of prayer.

Pastor Rossi ([49:50](#)):

Father in heaven, we thank you for the Word of God, which is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword. We thank you for the truth and the truth that sets us free. That Jesus is Lord and king, that he is almighty one, and that he is the son of the living God, the Word of God who became flesh and through Christ the final revelation of God. And through your holy Word, we can know truth, by the power of your spirit and by your grace. Oh Lord, we thank you. We thank you oh Lord, that you have revealed to us the truth of your word. For we, oh Lord, do not take credit upon this ourselves, for this is a gift from your fatherly hand. And so, Lord, forgive us for the sin of self-righteousness, the sin of pride. Help us, oh Lord, to humble ourselves before you and be thankful that you have revealed this to us. From your fatherly goodness, from your grace. Oh, father, we pray that you would help us to be ready, always to give a reason for the hope

that is within us. And to do so with gentleness and kindness. For in Jesus name we pray. Amen. All right. Thank you all.

