

Valuing what God Values

Part 6: Addressing Secular Humanism

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

A Vision

I asked the Lord to give me an encouragement for Father's day. I then had a vision of a man standing in the middle of a marketplace (think like Time Square, NYC) and people were bustling by him. I somehow knew this man was representative of a father. While everyone moved quickly past him, he stood still - almost looking aloof or disconnected from all the action around him.

I said "Lord, what's that mean" and I then am taking back to the vision and I see this gentleman walk into the fray, get down on one of the pedestrian's level, speak with them eye-to-eye and have what seemed to be a transformative conversation. The Lord then said "Father's are relevant."

Fathers, you are SO relevant. Don't fall for the lie of standing in the middle of the marketplace and everyone's passing you by. Step into the fray and address things.

There is a certain anointing on Father's. Ephesians 6:4 says "*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*" Why does Paul go out of his way to charge Father's not to provoke their children to wrath? The answer is because Paul knew it was very possible that would happen. Nevertheless, Paul not only says "don't provoke them to wrath" but also says "train and admonish" them - bring them up in the fear and instruction of the Lord. Fathers - train and admonish! This comes naturally to fathers - directing and correcting, training and admonishing. But Paul is saying "do it out of love - don't provoke them to wrath; do it out of love."

Erasing Gender Norms?

We are living an egalitarian society that is trying erase gender norms. Egalitarian means trying to make everything equal. This is actually from the same spirit as socialism is. Socialism says there are rich people and poor people and the reason the poor people are poor is because the rich people are rich so therefore we should take money from the rich and give it to the poor. In other words, socialism (Marxism) wants to make everyone "equal."

We are now doing the same with gender. But God made man in His image - male and female He created them. This is why it is so important that a marriage is between a man and a woman - so that it expresses God.

Remember that God gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the works of service. (Eph. 4) Jesus Himself was the full "5-fold" ministry. He carried all of those perfectly. He was perfectly apostolic, perfectly prophetic, perfectly evangelistic, perfectly pastoral, and a perfect teacher ... but then He distributed those gifts to men - to multiple men.

Likewise, God is fully everything you could ever want from a father AND fully everything you could ever want from a mother. And what did God do? He made man in His image - male AND female He created them! In other words, there are things that women are carrying that are so precious and core to who God is that they carry on the whole more easily than men. Similarly, there are things men are carrying that are so precious and core to who God is that they carry much more easily than women would by and large.

Yet what's happening is that the same spirit that is behind socialism is attacking our view of gender. (I am addressing a spirit so know that I am not being harsh towards any person.) Do not believe every spirit! Remember that 1 John 4 is clear do NOT believe every spirit. The communist manifesto by Marx was a demonic prophecy. Don't believe every spirit.

That same mindset has now happened with gender. Don't believe every spirit. Imagine listening to the same middle-C note being played over and over. Are you paying to go to that sonata? Musical beauty is not in one note. Can you have harmony with one note? Yet culture right now is trying to homogenize genders into one note and there is no harmony.

Now remember that in Christ, there is neither male nor female. (Gal. 3:28) That means there is not a value system hierarchy between men and women in Christ - just like there is not a value system hierarchy between Jew and Greek in Christ. Now, some people get tripped up because they read Paul's writing to Timothy and conclude "women are not supposed to speak in church because women as a whole are subject to men as a whole." Wrong. That is talking about wives being subject to their husbands in the context of their marriage. So, because someone is a woman doesn't mean that they are subject to me because I am a man. That's wrong.

And just because Megan is subject to me in the context of our household doesn't mean that I tell her everything that she's supposed to do. I ought to give a lot of deference to her, but there may be times I need to talk with her about a something we need to address together (perhaps cutting down spending ... although she is the saver so she may need to talk to me about that!) What I am trying to communicate is that God didn't just put all of who He is into one gender. He made man and

woman. Men and women are different - not in value, but in disposition. And that doesn't mean that men cannot be nurturing and it doesn't mean that women cannot correct and direct. There are certain sorts of skills that are inherent to the genders and God designed it that way and we would do well to honor that so that we can enjoy a C with an E - which makes harmony!

But when we try to bring the E to make it a C and bring the C up to make it an E, all of a sudden you have clashing notes instead of a beautiful representation of harmony in the aspects of who God is.

I have felt a lot of opposition in the spirit to other messages I have shared before - but likely never more than to this message I just shared. The secular humanist agenda has tried to make it totally egalitarian between the genders and they crucify you if you say anything different. But I am not saying there is any difference in value. Secular humanists don't believe in God and they believe you can have good without God so they are saying that when people's hearts are bad the heart can't be fixed so they take injustices and try to fix them with equality. They surmise that if all gender differences could be done away with finally all people would be treated equally.

That's not God's way. God's way is to fix injustices with righteousness! Righteousness comes from transformed hearts. Transformed by the Word of God and relationship with Him. So we don't want to have gender differences sterilized and equalized in order to create a gender socialism.

Have you ever looked at what socialism looks like in a country? I recently watched a Rick Steeve's travel show about Hungry. Hungry under socialism looked so terrible and has flourished once socialism was removed! Socialism in action is so terrible and that is exactly what will happen with our genders if we allow them to go completely egalitarian and allow the secular humanist movement to erase all gender differences ... it's not going to create freedom for women. It's not going to create freedom for men. And it's not going to create freedom for our children.

The Bible differentiates between men and women - which is helpful to see because they both bring beautiful pieces to the table. Ephesians 5:33 says "*However, each one of you also must **love** his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must **respect** her husband.*" (NIV) Husbands are encouraged to love and wives are encouraged to respect. Why the distinction? Does a wife need respect as well? Yes! Does a husband need love as well? Yes! Why did Paul emphasize husbands loving their wives? Because men do the "respect thing" easily / naturally! That's our language! Get a bunch of guys together and we jockey for position on the basketball court to see who is best that day and who deserves the most street ball respect! Get the husband comes home after the basketball game and his wife asks "how is Joey doing?" "Not so sure but he hit an amazing 3 point shot!"

Paul is saying "guys you are going to tend to do the respect thing well, but you need to emphasize the love thing because because you are going to tend to drop the ball on that unless you focus on it."

Likewise Paul is encouraging women “you are going to tend to do the love thing well but you are going to tend to drop the ball on the respect thing with your husband - if you don’t focus on respect.” So what’s going on there? There are differences between men and women and the bible coaches us on them. Isn’t it great to know the differences!?!

Do you want to see what’s jacked up? Here’s a social commentary: when I Google searched “when did men lose respect in our culture” 17 out of the first 20 search results were about how women could get more respect from men. Do you see how backwards this is from the Bible? “*However, each one of you also must **love** his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must **respect** her husband.*” The movement of trying to position women to function as men is not giving women freedom. I want women to be able to be beautiful women - strong as they are strong. I want men to be able to be great men - strong as they are strong. Each playing the “pure C” and “pure E” - and existing in harmony.

Here’s the encouragement for Father’s Day ... Fathers “*bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*” We tend to stand in the middle sometimes and we forget how relevant our input is. As fathers, when we see something that is not right, let us step into the situation, get down on their level, remember love, and also bring truth.

Here’s the next point: the church has been emasculated in culture. We are playing the mother’s role strongly and playing the father’s role weakly with culture. I am not saying all across the board, but if you look at the American church in general, we do the nurturing thing really well, but the direction / correction thing - we are balking at it. The vision of the father in the town square was a two-tier vision. The first encouragement was for us as fathers personally - step into the fray, get down on their level relationally and in love correct and direct.

But, secondly, as a church (women included) let’s also all play the Father’s role in culture. When Jesus was on earth, who represented the Father on earth? Jesus! Now that Jesus is in Heaven, who represents the Father on earth? His church! We are representing the Father. We are meant to play the Father’s role here on earth - impacting culture.

About 7 years ago, I had a prophetic experience. Sometimes I get words, visions, dreams, impressions, etc., but this was actually what I would call a prophetic experience. I was trying to make a music box for Megan and I had 10mm barrel hinges that needed installed in 12mm wood. If you can do the math, you’ll see that leaves just 1mm of wood on either side of the hole I had to drill - a good chance to mess up the entire project! I started working on the hinges and my dad went with my brother to a basketball game. 3 hours later, upon my dad’s return from the game, what should have been about a 30 minute hinge installation process was still not done! My dad pokes his head in the shop to ask how it’s going. I said “not good!” I don’t remember what he said, but then, all of a

sudden, the hinges slipped in and worked perfectly! Now not every crazy thing that happens in your life has a prophetic meaning, but sometimes they do and right then the Lord spoke in my heart “everything hinges on the presence of a father.” Wow!

The church has tended to stand in the middle of the marketplace with society buzzing by - not realizing that if we would step into the fray we would find that what we have to say is SO relevant. What we have to say is so relevant to culture! That’s what this sermon is about - abortion from an apostolic perspective.

The apostolic perspective

What did a Roman apostle do? Remember that there was a position in Rome called an “apostle” who brought the Roman culture to a conquered territory. They Romanized a conquered territory. Jesus, in His perfect wisdom, took the Roman term and put it into the church. He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. The church is built not the foundation of the apostles and prophets - Christ as the cornerstone. He gave first apostle, second prophets. 33 times in Acts of the Apostles it uses the word “apostle.” So, apostles are foundational to the church!

So, Jesus takes the word apostle and then in Matthew 28 says “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you ...*” What we see is that the apostolic commission is central to the church and the church is called to heavenize earth which is a heaven conquered territory!

When Jesus said “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*” He was saying “I just took back the keys to earth! Adam and Eve had the keys. God had said “*Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*” (Gen. 1:28) Adam and Eve gave that dominion to satan because the bible says you are a slave to whom you obey. They gave that authority to satan. Satan then came and tried to tempt Jesus (Mt. 4). “Cast yourself down from there. Turn this into bread ...” Satan was trying to get Jesus to obey him, but Jesus said “be gone satan, you shall worship the Lord your God alone and Him only shall you serve.” Jesus was saying “I’m God, you’re not and you should know that by now - worship Me for I will never obey you!” Satan says “I will come back at a more opportune time” such as when Peter said “far be it from You Lord ...” That was a more opportune time. Look at Jesus’ response “get behind Me satan.” Even on the cross they derided Christ “He can’t save Himself I guess.” Who was behind that? Satan. More opportune times - but Jesus did not fall for it.

Jesus, not submitting to satan, living a perfect, sin-free life, fully submitted to God, suffers, dies, was buried, and 3 days later He rises again as evidence of the perfect sacrifice. Now He has the keys (all

authority) on earth and comes back and tells His disciples *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ...”* In other words, function apostolically. The earth is a heaven-conquered territory. Go into all the nations and heavenize all the nations! That’s the apostolic perspective. *“Thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven”* is the apostolic prayer. (Mt. 6:10)

Before talking about abortion specifically, we need to answer the question “should the church be actively impacting the abortion culture.” That is why we are starting by speaking on the apostolic perspective - if we don’t have an apostolic perspective we are apt to have much more debate in our thinking about whether we should be impacting the abortion culture. But when we realize that we’ve been told to *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations”* and instructed to pray like this *“Thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven”* you start to ask yourself the question “are babies being killed in Heaven?” Therefore, they are not to be being killed on earth. Are people being murdered in Heaven, therefore gang violence in this city must go down. That’s the apostolic perspective. Are there injured knees and broken legs in heaven? Therefore these things must be healed! When Jesus sent out the apostles we hear Him say *“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”* (Mt. 10:7-8) Jesus told them to declare “Heaven’s culture has come and we will now demonstrate what God’s culture is like!” There is freedom in Heaven! People are not sick or oppressed in Heaven! Women are free to be women in heaven. Men are free to be men in heaven. So we should be impacting the culture to say “you are free to be a man and you are free to be a woman, so men pay particular attention to loving your wives and women pay particular attention to respecting your husbands.”

We want to heavenize earth! Now, in America, when we think about heavenizing earth we start thinking about “Separation of church and state.” The trouble is that phrase is not in the constitution. It would be good to cite the actual language of the constitution! It is like when people say “money is the root of all evil.” The trouble is the Bible doesn’t say that! The Bible says *“the love of money is the root of all evil.”* (1 Tim. 6:10) That’s a big difference! It’s about your heart - not about how much is in your account.

Separation of church and state is not in our constitution. What the constitution actually says is that the state should not be ESTABLISHING a religion or preventing the free exercise thereof. Those that know the constitution well call it the “establishment clause.” It means that the state should not be running the church. It does *not* mean that the people of the church should not be running the state! It does *not* mean that you should not be bringing Heaven’s culture into every element of society! It does not mean that the church as a Father-figure in culture should stand in the middle of

town square with everyone running past the church and not step out into the fray and lovingly engage folks and speak the truth in love.

Some people who have a good revelation of the New Covenant get real messed up with this idea of “speaking the truth in love.” They think “no, it’s grace. It’s a new covenant.” Well good! But Ephesians 5 (three chapters after Paul declares that we are saved by grace ALONE) says we should find out what the will of the Lord is and *“have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”* We should be knowing God’s will (the truth) and bringing that into every sphere of culture. John 1:17 says *“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”* The law for the purpose of righteousness was replaced by grace (Rom. 10:4) and we have complete access to the Father in the New Covenant by faith in the blood of Christ. But notice that truth doesn’t leave when grace comes in! *“The law was given through Moses, but grace and **truth** came through Jesus Christ.”*

Jesus is the “Way, the Truth, and the Life.” (Jn. 14:6) People say “well God is love.” (1 Jn. 4:8) I recently saw an online article about homosexuality from a seemingly Christian publication of some sort. They listed 10 scriptures about homosexuality, but while they listed many scriptures that did not speak about homosexuality at all, they interestingly listed none of the scriptures that directly say it is a sin. God IS love and Jesus is the Truth! We have to speak the Truth in Love because if we don’t have Love in the Truth it is no longer the Truth. However, if we take Truth out of Love, Love is no longer Love! The inability or unwillingness to correct is not love.

This is why I am saying that the church has been emasculated - because we are doing the nurture thing real well with culture, but we are not stepping into the fray sometimes to say “not that.” But again, if we do that in a way that we are just beating people over the head with scriptural truths, that doesn’t help at all. We have to speak the truth - in love or else we are not representing the Father.

So, should the church be actively impacting the abortion culture? Yes - because it is clear in the apostolic call and the church is built on the foundation of the apostles. That is the first reason the church should be actively impacting the abortion culture.

Addressing Secular Humanism

The second reason the church should actively be impacting the abortion culture is because if we do not shape culture, the other groups will. The idea that the church can be neutral on cultural realities and that culture will then be neutral on those realities ... is not true.

Secular humanism, in my opinion, has been functioning as the religion of our nation in the political sphere - and definitely in the education sphere. The US government is not supposed to establish a religion but the government has been actually establishing a religion because they’ve been duped into

thinking secular humanism supposedly has nothing to do with God. But do you know that secular humanism has a logo and motto? The American Humanist Society's logo states "Good without God." That's not buried on their website. That's their motto. The idea that the secular humanist agenda, because it does not talk about God, doesn't have anything to do with God is a TOTAL LIE.

You cannot have an atheistic perspective that isn't about God. It is about God! But what has happened is that we have a secular humanist agenda move into education and into politics.

I do not intend to speak politically, but I will have you know that the Johnson Amendment (put in place I believe in the 50's) which said churches cannot speak politically has been removed. This is a very good thing. When 1000 pastors first heard of Donald Trump's plan to remove that amendment, no one applauded - it seems they may have been nervous. Freedom sometimes takes away having anything to hide behind.

Anyway, it is not my attention to be polarizing or harsh. But I will say this "secular humanism's stronghold on America is ending."

You will see what this looks like. For instance, a Christian presidential appointee was recently interrogated by Sen. Bernie Sanders (again, not picking on Bernie Sanders, but he is a secular humanist strongly). This gentleman was supposed to be appointed to a role within President Trump's cabinet and Sen. Sanders very plainly said "do you believe that people that don't know Jesus are condemned (before God)." The gentleman had written as much for a Christian publication. This appointee is a Christian who believes that Jesus is the Savior. Bernie Sanders then said "this is not what this country is about and this person should not be a public servant." (paraphrased). The secular humanist agenda, manifesting through Bernie Sanders (again God bless Sen. Sanders. I love that guy. I don't like his policies, but love that guy though). That agenda manifesting through Sen. Sanders takes and latches on to the fact that a Christian would DARE to have the core Christian belief that no one goes to the Father except through Jesus Christ and says "he is NOT what this country is about!" Do you know what that is? That is the secular humanism stronghold on the political sphere dying. It's lashing out.

The idea that "because it doesn't deal with God" it doesn't "deal with God" ... wrong. We are called to impact culture for heaven, and all creation is screaming out for the revealing of the sons of God because they want the impact of Heaven's culture. In addition, if we leave a vacuum there, it will not be a vacuum. It will be populated and it will be populated by a secular humanist agenda and it is not the season for the church to shrink back. It is the season for the church to push forward.

Knowing the Times and Seasons

The Lord was speaking to me in the Fall of 2016 that there are going to be windows of opportunity in the church to have tremendous impact in culture in the coming years. But what He was speaking to me is that if the Body of Christ is not prepared for it - if their minds have not been cleansed from wrong thinking / worldly perspectives - God will not be able to partner with that person at the level He wants to partner with them at in ministry. I am not talking about their salvation or God loving them. God is saying "I am looking for a band of individuals - analogous to Gideon's 300 - that have purified minds as it relates to the things of the world - that they would step into the fray and have impact in the culture on My behalf."

That is why I am preaching this series! As the Lord was speaking to me about His "set apart" ministers for this coming season I was crying out in prayer "God not the people who are under my shepherding - not them! That they would not miss it!" I am not talking about salvation or relationship with God. I am talking about impact in ministry.

The stuff has become so confusing in culture. The gender stuff - so confusing. The financial / political things - so confusing. This and that - so confusing! God is looking for a people not confused! Not confused about His Word, not confused by the ways of the world, but that they would step strongly and confidently into culture in love and move things towards the way of heaven apostolically. "Oh honey, that's not God's best for you. Let me talk with you, minister to you, love on you." "Young man, that's not what you've been made for. Do you know what the Lord says about you?"

The secular humanist culture's stronghold on American politics is dying and it is causing a lot of freak-out on it's way out of power.

Kim Clement, one of the most accurate prophets of our time died recently. He prophesied Donald Trump's presidency in 2007. This is again not meant to be a political statement, but he prophesied his presidency clear as day 10 years ahead of time "Trump shall become a trumpet and ascend into the highest position in the land" or something like that.

Now, right at the start of that prophecy, Kim Clement also prophesied "the media will say what I want them to say, says the Lord." Then Kim Clement went into the word about Trump and the position he is going to come into.

Speaking prophetically (as in not as a teacher), I want to encourage you that while it seems that media is currently going to Hell in a hand-basket ... it's not; it's a Divine shakeup. It's a Divine shakeup. In my opinion, over the next year you will see the media starting to say what God wants them to say. And what does God want them to say? The truth!

The media had shifted so far in one direction and become such an advocacy point (instead of a truth point) that what God is actually doing is pulling that back and shaking that up with a guy (President Trump) who somehow seems to be unshakable in shaking things up.

Secular humanism is moving so there is going to be a vacuum created that the church is meant to fill. Do you realize that Donald Trump is not supposed to fill the vacuum of secular humanism and to disciple our nation? The church in America has been looking for a political savior for decades. The government has 3 roles in the New Testament: (1) punish bad, (2) reward good, and (3) is implied: get out of the way of the gospel.

When I took over this pastoral role, I was acutely aware that if I spoke what the bible says about homosexuality I could be arrested - depending on who got elected. We, as a country, had moved so far in 8 years in one direction, that I understand that in one city in Texas they were teaching pastor's sermons to find out if they were speaking against homosexuality. And you think "well this can't happen here in America." Well look at communist countries who have to meet in underground churches - of course it can happen. Canada has called it "hate-speech" for churches to teach about homosexuality from the bible. And you know me, it will be in total love when I bring it up. I was a sinner too! There's no judgment from me - Jesus didn't come to condemn the world but that the whole world might be saved through Him - but you can't see them saved if you don't tell the truth.

I am simply saying that I took over this pastoral role knowing that I could be arrested for speaking what the bible says depending on who got elected. I am not trying to melodramatic - I am just sharing what I was thinking. I thought "God will protect me and my family. It is what it is."

What has happened now is that God, I believe, has placed in a battering ram and what the church needs to realize is that battering ram is just to take down a "wall" not to build it up again! The church is supposed to build it up so it looks like heaven! We just want the government out of the way of the gospel. We just want the government out of the way of the gospel. Yes, people of the church can enter the political sphere and have influence there, but we do not need the President of the United States to be Pastor-in-Chief! We don't need a pastor-in-chief. What we need is pastors to not be hindered in sharing what the Bible says. And we have that.

But what I am telling you is going to happen is that we have people in the church that because their mind has become so worldly in their perspective that God unfortunately will not be able to partner with them to fill that cultural vacuum in this season because their mind has become the world's mind instead of God's mind. What God is saying is "if you will cleanse your mind of thoughts that are worldly thoughts and not My thoughts and if you will be about My Word - if My Word will be your operating system - I will be able to partner with you all mightily in this season to

have Kingdom impact in culture.” But you cannot Romanize Spain if you have a Spanish mindset. And you cannot Heavenize earth if you have an earthly mindset.

Secular humanism’s motto is “good without God.” But there is only One who is Good. The Bible tells us to shape culture with Christ and we need to remember that all other groups are shaping it without Him. We’ve been commissioned apostolic ally and we cannot presume culture will remain neutral if we do not step in. We are in a unique season. The media is going to start speaking differently. Strongholds that have been in place have been shaken. (I had a prophetic experience in the fall in which I was on a bridge that shook and fell but everything was OK - that is what has been happening). So the current shaking is actually a really good thing, but we do not have a pastor in chief, nor was the Lord intending him to be one. It was meant to be a shaking. Now it is time for the body of Christ to rise up. “Rise up body of Christ! Let’s impact the culture for Christ. Let’s heavenize earth!”

Sermon Intro (for reading as a group)

American Christians often think that the church should be separated from state, but that's not what the constitution says! The state is not supposed to run the church, but as believers we are called to bring God's will (His Kingdom) to every area of society! "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Mt. 6:10)

If the church does not shape culture for Christ, others will shape it for us. Secular humanism had taken hold of our government and educational systems with a motto of "good without God." We are in a season where the foundations of secular humanism in our nation are being shaken and many believers find themselves disoriented.

God is looking for a band of believers whose minds are not confused by the ways of the world, but instead are clear about the Word of God. We do not need a pastor-in-chief. The church is called to disciple the nations. Secular humanism's hold on our country is dying and God is positioning the church to fill that void and rebuild the walls of righteousness in our nation. A wave of revival has already begun in our nation and God is hoping to partner with each of us to cause His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven!

Points to Ponder . . .

- Why does the secular humanism perspective want to erase gender norms?
- Why, from Heaven's perspective, are the differences in gender a beautiful thing?
- In what way has the church played mostly the mother's and not the father's role in culture?
- How does the apostolic perspective change our view / calling about issues such as abortion?
- In what way does John 1:17 help new covenant believers not give up a stance on the truth?
- How do we know that secular humanism is *not* "not about God" ?
- What is going on in this season and what is God wanting the body of Christ to step into in this season?
- Any other specific things God was ministering to you through the sermon?