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Much Love!

Pastor Ed

Title: Woke or Woke-ism

Text: “for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Ephesians 5:14

Target: Become awakened by the Holy Spirit to God’s righteous standard of holy living according to His word while being aware/activists to the injustices of humanity.

I. The Evolution of “Woke-ism”: Awareness or Agenda?

A. Language Matters:

1. **Origin of Definition:** A watchword that was 1st used in 1923 derived from African American Vernacular English (AAVE) towards racial prejudice and discrimination.
2. **Modified Definition:** Became inclusive of all forms of marginalized identities.
3. **Applied Definition:** Woke-ism-became the all-encompassing word for all things considered politically liberal or progressive in belief or practice.

B. Objective Matters: Ending Inequality and Injustice (This is the Unifier)

1. **God’s Heart is for Justice:** “*The Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds*” (Psalm 11:7)
2. **God’s Heart is for Equality:** “*For you are all one in Christ.*” (Gal. 3:28)
“*For God shows no partiality.*” (Romans 2:11)
3. **God’s Heart is for Diversity:** “*from every nation, all tribes, all peoples and languages standing before the throne and before the Lamb*” (Rev. 7:9)

II. The Error within “Woke-ism”: Tolerance becomes the Gospel

A. Idealism within Woke-ism:

1. **Critical Theory:** A philosophical approach that seeks to confront the historical, social, political, and ideological forces and structures that produce them or constrain them. (Oxford languages) *Oppressor & Oppressed language *Intersectionality. *Repentance unto Oppressed
2. **Deconstructionism is the Goal:** Government (Communism or Democracy), Education (Government or Parents), Economy (Capitalism/Socialism), Religion (Secular or Divine Authority)

B. Ideology within Woke-ism: (Questions God’s Designed Order)

1. **Relativism:** Rejection of Absolute, universal Truth, determined by experience.
2. **Secular Humanism:** You are the Moral Authority, especially the Oppressed.
3. **Postmodernism:** Truth is believed not discovered.

- C. Infiltration of Woke-ism:** 7 Pillars of Society: Religion, Family, Education, Government, Arts, Sciences, entertainment.
 - D. Intolerance of Woke-ism:** To not celebrate, endorse the entire agenda is to be considered not to be WOKE at all. It is all or nothing.

- III. The Entities considered under “Woke-ism”:** CRT-BLM Entity, Cultural Marxism, 1619 Project/ LGBTQIA/ Socialism/Genderism/Environmentalism/Political Extremism.

- IV. The Enlightenment towards “Woke-ism”:** *“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”* (Colossians 2:8)
 - A. Biblical Worldview:** *All Scripture is God Breathed...* (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - B. Spiritual Discernment:** *“so we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”* (Eph. 4:14)
 - C. Gospel Perseverance:** *“BUT you, believe by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.”* (Jude 20)

Takeaway: *“Discernment is not just knowing right from wrong. It is knowing right from almost right.”*

Charles Spurgeon