

Cultural Marxism

1 Chron. 12:32, Daniel 3

ILLUSTRATION: Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (SOL-sin-EIT-zin) writes in his book, “The Gulag Archipelago” of a speech given in 1937 by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. If you have heard clips of Stalin, he was not a moving orator. But he didn’t have to be, he had the power of the totalitarian state behind him. When this particular speech concluded a thunderous applause resonated across the hall for six, seven, eight minutes. Can you imagine?

After 11 minutes of clapping, one man, the director of the Paper Mill decided that it had been enough, and ***he politely sat down.***

Later on that same night Solzhenitsyn says the director of the local paper mill was arrested and sent to prison for 10 years. The authorities came up with some official reason for his sentence but during his interrogation he was told, “***don't ever be the first to stop clapping***”.

Thus Solzhenitsyn writes, “How does Freedom die? To thunderous applause”.

Things are happening across our country that causes those of us who have a Christian worldview to ask, “***why is everyone clapping?***”

CONTEXT: In the text before us, God has rejected Saul as King and sought a man after His own heart. He found such a man in the shepherd boy David, son of Jesse the Bethlehemite. At this point Samuel has anointed David as King and Saul is furiously trying to survive despite the hand of God compelling him away from the throne.

It is then that God begins to send David the men he will need to successfully establish himself as King in Israel.

- Verse 2 tells us that God sent him ambidextrous bowmen.
- Verse 8 speaks of experienced warriors expert with shield and spear.

Then, down in verse 32 we read...

TEXT: 1 Chronicles 12:32 (ESV)

³² Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...

This series will be a bit different than what you are accustomed to. It will require me to **EXEGETE the CULTURE as well as the SCRIPTURE.** We must first understand the times, then we will know what Israel ought to do.

From time to time I'm asked, *"Is America a Christian Nation?"*. Well, in one sense, no Nation can be Christian - Christ died for individual people not Geo-Political Entities. People and only people can be Christian according to the essential meaning of the word. **There can, however, be a Christian consensus within a Nation.**

Few would disagree that the **founding fathers** of this Nation shared a Christian consensus. Some men like George Washington, John Adams and Samuel Adams were devout Christians, others like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were more Diest than orthodox believers, nevertheless they too shared a Christian Consensus - a worldview that shaped their understanding.

It was with that christian consensus that they drafted our **Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and our Bill of Rights** - the documents that formed our Nation and guided it for the past 246 years.

Consider the threats this Nation has faced since it's inception:

- The **British Monarchy**, who wished to keep the country as a part of its colonial empire was met with the unshakeable tenacity of early Patriots.
- Totalitarian forces of **Nazi Germany** and **Imperial Japan** were defeated by the sheer might and technological advancements of American ingenuity.
- **Soviet Russia** collapsed as America's optimism was stirred to new heights under the leadership of Ronald Reagan.
- And the subversive **terrorism** of al-qaeda and Osama Bin Laden were answered with the unified voice and fist of our military as we counter punched with all our might.
- Most recently, the biological threat of **COVID** is behind us as our brightest minds worked endlessly to meet this new and peculiar challenge.

Each drew blood, each posed great challenges, but each was soundly defeated.

There was, however, one threat that took a much different approach... and sadly, it is finding great success and receiving **THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE**. The threat did not come in the form of a missile or a contagion, it came in the form of *ideas*.... Seeds planted in young minds generation after generation until the Christian consensus on which we were founded seems so fragile that one wonders if it can support the weight of the Republic.

What threat am I referring to? The threat of CULTURAL MARXISM.

Not only did German born **Karl Marx** not share America's Christian Consensus, he absolutely hated it.

David Jeremiah writes in his book, "Where do we go From Here?" - If you study the life of Karl Marx, you'll learn he wasn't just a hater of God; he was a cheerleader for the devil. His family thought him literally possessed by a demon.

A biographer described him like this: "He had the devil's view of the world, and the

devil's malignity. Sometimes, he seemed to know that he was accomplishing works of evil."

On one occasion, Marx's own son sent him a letter and addressed it "My dear devil."

Marx's partner, Friedrich Engels, declared that ten thousand devils had Marx by the hair.

In 2020, Paul Kengor wrote a book titled *The Devil and Karl Marx*. According to Kengor, Marx was a tyrant, a racist, and a misogynistic radical who hated God and wanted to see the world burn.

In his 1837 poem "The Pale Maiden," Marx composed these self-descriptive words: Thus Heaven I've forfeited, I know it full well. My soul, once true to God, Is chosen now for Hell.¹

After sowing his godless ideology across Europe, in **1852** Marx began to write for the **New York Daily Tribune**. America at that time did not serve as good soil for Marxism. Why? The Christian Consensus was still strong.

It did however take root in Universities of revolutionary Russia. A young student **Vladimir Lenin** became a follower of MARX after reading, "the Capital" in 1867. Lenin rises to power amidst the chaos of revolution followed by his protegee, also well versed in the principles of Marxist Ideology **Joseph Stalin**.

By this time, Russia shared a **MARXIST CONSENSUS** in the same way that AMERICA HELD A **CHRISTIAN CONSENSUS**.

The seeds of Marxist thought had already begun to be grow in the Universities of the United States, Columbia University in particular as the Christian Consensus had begun to crumble.

By the year 2000 enough young people had a favorable view of Marxism that Democratic Socialist **Bernie Sanders** made a strong run for the Presidency.

Nevertheless, true ***ECONOMIC MARXISM can only be instituted in the chaos of revolution***. Marx had predicted a workers revolt in America that never took place. So a change in strategy was required to spread Marxist ideology in America.

UNDERSTAND: There are two types of Marxism:

- **Economic Marxism** - "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need". Marxism in that sense is diametrically opposed to capitalism. It finds its

¹ Jeremiah, David. *Where Do We Go from Here?* (pp. 7-8). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

ultimate expression in a socialist or communistic system.

- **Cultural Marxism** - Marx disciples, men like **Antonio Gramsci** and the a group of German Philosophers known as the, "**Frankfurt School**", proposed a different expression of Marxism that would permeate culture, leading to a similar overthrow of cultural norms. This is **cultural marxism**.

What we have witnessed in the last 3-5 years has been a tsunami of cultural marxism that is changing the landscape of our country and in the process is taking scores of souls into an ATHEISTIC, Anti-Christ, socialistic and ultimately communistic direction.

Cultural Marxism is expressed with ideas like **CRITICAL RACE THEORY** and **INTERSECTIONALITY**.

Critical Race Theory CRT - argues that the **Hegemony** (*that is the dominant leadership structure*) has influenced the norms of culture in a way that oppresses anyone outside the hegemony.

FOR AMERICA - The cultural hegemony is patriarchal, white, male, heterosexual cisgendered (meaning that your identity correlates with your biological gender), Christian, Able-bodied, native born Americans.

If that describes you, you are the hegemony... and according to cultural Marxism you have had inordinate influence over culture and you have designed culture to oppress minorities.

Who are minorities? Anyone who is not in the Hegemony. Thus, women (who make up at least 50% of the population) are considered a minority group, why because they aren't the hegemony.

Cultural Marxism suggests that by nature of you being a white, male, heterosexual, cisgendered, Christian, Able-bodied, native born American you are **AUTOMATICALLY RACIST** by virtue of you being in the hegemony.

In other words - you are PRIVILEGED.

For everyone who is not in the hegemony, the number of areas that you do not align with the hegemony, race, religion, gender, able bodied, etc... **determines how marginalized and oppressed you actually are. That is INTERSECTIONALITY.**

These things are being taught at the UNIVERSITY LEVEL as undisputed facts.

Even Churches have jumped on the bandwagon and Pastors are calling people to repent of a sin they never actually committed.

ARTICLE: Victor Davis Hansen is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Residence in Classics and Military History at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and a professor of Classics at California State University, Fresno. So this isn't some religious commentator, or FOX news pundit. This is a leader in a secular university context.

Hansen wrote an OpEd for the Las Vegas Review Journal where he raised the question, **“Are American’s Being Sovietized?” In other words, is there an organized plan to spread Marxist propaganda here, like happened following the Soviet Revolution?**

He goes on to provide 10 similarities between the spread of Marxist thought in Soviet Russia and the spread of the same in America.

1. **There was no escape from ideological indoctrination** — anywhere. At home, at work, a movie, at a sporting event. Everything in the culture was leveraged to indoctrinate. Folks, even churches today jump on the marxist bandwagon.
2. **Press worked with Party and was no longer independent.** Pravda, or “Truth,” was the official megaphone of the state, it simply parroted the talking points provided by the administration.
3. **Surveillance was used to ferret out ideological dissidents.** Recently, we learned that the U.S. Postal Service recently admitted it uses tracking programs to monitor the social media postings of Americans.
4. **The Soviet educational system sought not to enlighten but to indoctrinate young minds in proper government-approved thought.**
5. **The Soviet Union was run by a pampered elite, exempt from the ramifications of their own radical ideologies.** Now, woke Silicon Valley billionaires talk socialism but live royally.
6. **The Soviets mastered Trotskyization, or the rewriting of history to fabricate a present reality.** Are Americans any different when they indulge in a frenzy of name-changing, statue-toppling, monument-defacing, book-banning and cancel-culturing?
7. **The Soviets created a climate of fear and rewarded stool pigeons for rooting out all potential enemies of the people.** Systems are being developed designed to turn citizens against one another. Over hear an ill-considered word in a private conversation - you are now encouraged to absolutely destroy a persons career over such things.

8. Soviet courts were weaponized according to ideology.

In America, where and for what reason you riot determines whether you face any legal consequences. Politically correct sanctuary cities defy the law with impunity. Jury members are terrified of being doxxed and hunted down for an incorrect verdict.

9. The Soviets doled out prizes on the basis of correct Soviet thought. In modern America, the Pulitzer Prizes and the Emmys, Grammys, Tonys and Oscars don't necessarily reflect the year's best work, but often the most politically correct work from the most woke.**10. The Soviets offered no apologies for extinguishing freedom.** Instead, they boasted that they were advocates for equity, champions of the underclass, enemies of privilege

THESE ARE THE TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE. This agenda is begin spread to sound of THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

In Dan. 3, we read of a similar cultural conflict.

CONTEXT: The Hebrews of Dan. 3 were born into a Nation that was under God's Judgement. Babylon had invaded the Southern Kingdom of Judah and as was their habit, they took the best and brightest captive back to the capital for them to be reconditioned into a Babylonian worldview.

Key among the indoctrination was a statue mentioned in Dan. 3...

Daniel 3:1–30 (ESV)

¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar instructed that when the cacophony of instruments began to play that everyone was to fall down and worship the statue. But it was noticed, that some were not bowing, some refused to applauded...

¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” ¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But

if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

Talk about CANCEL CULTURE. If you do not applaud the indoctrination of Babylon... you will be CANCELED to a CRISP.

How would your kids respond? How would your grandkids respond? Are they prepared for this sort of thing?

I observe four principles in the text that we need to teach our families in the midst of our own firey furnace.

1. TRUST THE POWER OF GOD -

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve **is able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

They understood that THIS battle is NOT ultimately democrat against republican, liberal against conservative, or Jew against Babylonian... it was ultimately Satan against God.

That is vital to understand.

ILLUSTRATION: Someone said to me, "Pastor, I wish you wouldn't talk about abortion, just stay out of politics". Folks, I have no desire to step into politics, but when we are talking about the lives of humans made in the images of God, politics has stepped into my territory. It does become a matter of theology at that point.

If you do not wish to see the Christian consensus in your family washed away, you better get your kids in everything this church has to offer. Why? So when they are faced with the wrath of Babylon, they will know how to stand, trusting the POWER OF GOD.

2. TRUST THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD -

¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

In other words, "We will not clap".

ILLUSTRATION: WW2, Dunkirk is happening, the German soldiers are coming in to destroy the allied forces. And the command of the allies writes a telegram back to England with only three words, "But if not...".

You see, at that time, Great Britain shared a Christian Consensus and the commander knew that the readers would immediately associate his telegram with Dan. 3 and this scene.

Pastor, is God required to vindicate me if I stand for truth. No sir.

Hebrews 11 that Great Hall of Faith Chapter tells of some who overcame by faith and were victorious - **Hebrews 11:32–38 (ESV)**

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Sometimes it happens that way, God allows you to bring Him glory by WINNING. But not always.

³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Sometimes you glorify God by losing. It's a fact.

Matthew 5:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sometimes, God calms the storm and sometimes God calms you in the storm.

Trust the Power of God, Trust the Providence of God...

3. TRUST THE PRESENCE OF GOD -

They are thrown into the furnace...but then the King seems something astonishing.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵ He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

Folks, there in the midst of the fire, the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ showed up.

You are NEVER closer to Jesus than when you are suffering for His sake.

Remember Saul on the road to Damascus, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” Saul said, “Who are you?” I don't even know you how can I persecute you?

Jesus said, I so identify with my people in their suffering.... “To persecute them... is to persecute me”

Trust the Power of God, Trust the Providence of God, Trust the Presence of God...

4. TRUST THE PROMOTION OF GOD -

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way."³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

God not only delivered these men who were faithful to their God, he promoted them. And it was their refusal to clap that ultimately gave credence to their faith.

There is something about taking a stand that lends credibility to your faith claims.

ILLUSTRATION: Dr Henry Blackaby who has been a blessing to many of us said , "do you not already hear the warnings of God do you not see that the enemy is coming in like a flood God is trying to raise up a standard against it and you and I are that standard"

Take a stand, refuse to bow, refuse to let freedom die, to YOUR thunderous applause.