



# Resist Like A Christian

## A Christ in Culture Lecture

### A. Introduction

Let's answer some questions

- a. What does it mean to be a CITIZEN of our country?
- b. What is the role of government in a civilized society?
- c. Why does everything seem like it continues to break down in our culture?

Dr. Glenn Sunshine

- Christian
- Intellectual/Professor
- Central Connecticut State University

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” – John Adams

Is there a better way? YES!!

### B. Christian tradition is one of a growing understanding that Christians are here to be salt and light in the POLIS

So where are we now?

Eschatology matters

Citizenship

- Roman/Greek
- Ultimate Citizenship in the Kingdom

### C. So where have we come from?

-2 main passages to give us groundwork as we look at church history

- Matthew 22:15-Give to Ceasar what is Ceasar's and to God the things that are God's
- Romans 13:1-7
  - Subject to the governing authorities
  - There is no authority except from God
  - Governing authorities have been instituted by God

-Early church understood these passages very well

- “Jesus' own teaching led the church to the idea that government has its place but that its authority is limited” –Dr. Sunshine

Early Christians were radical in the doctrine of loyalty first and foremost to King Jesus over all other Kings -Led to the medieval idea of SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

“Never was a government that was not composed of liars, male-factors, and thieves.” Marcus Tullius Cicero 105-43 BC

## **D. Original Sin and Total Depravity**

-Augustine codified well the doctrine of Original Sin which also led to the doctrine of Total Depravity of man and its effects on government

-Christian tradition began to see the need for government that could balance and be balanced  
-Because the trajectory of the human heart without the “governor” pun intended is  
TOTALITARIANISTIC SIN

We all need the saving blood of Jesus personally and then working out our salvation in all spheres of life

Augustine understood this well and began to discern that governments would need to be limited if they were to be remotely Biblical and God honoring

## **E. Aristotle and Natural Law**

Aristotle-eudimonia-life of virtue and excellence

-Government should protect these “rights” as the purpose of mankind BUT GOVERNMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO CREATE THEM FOR YOU as they were created by GOD not government

-Aristotle said this was NATURAL-made sense-it was the way things were created to be

How did this play out in everyday life?

-Natural Rights led to Natural Law

## **F. Natural Law-the foundation of the Magna Carta**

-Liberty

-Property Rights (Dominium)

-God given rights cannot be revoked or reviled by man

Transformationalists and Two Kingdoms (Protestant Reformation)

-Two Kingdoms-Luther

-Abraham Kuyper—Transformationalist

## **G. Luther and Resistance**

-Started with Luther but later in Luther’s life

-Later Luther saw the theological view of resisting like a Christian

## **H. Along comes *Leviathan***

-Written by Thomas Hobbes

-A story of what happens when the State takes the role of God and makes a “social contract” with its citizens where citizens give up their rights in order for the state to care for them

-Locke and Glorious Revolution and the Puritans of New England

-*Two treatises of Government*

-This led to our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution

## **I. Where are we now?**

-Dr. Sunshine

-75,000 federal regulations

-American commit as many as 3 felonies a day and don't even know it

The creeping of "soft totalitarianism" and the new Leviathan

What to do?

-Become a Christian

-Know your "ordered liberty"

-Live as a citizen not a serf zombie

-Nullification of lesser magistrates

-Running for office

-Voting

-Resistance not violence (self defense)

-Education

-Legal suits

-Civil disobedience

**CORPORATE WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD!!**