

## **Fallen Angels** *Architects of This Present Darkness*

### **IV. How Evil Forces Corrupt Cultures**

Satan, fallen angels, and demons (nephilim spirits) torment individuals

Evil supernatural beings also corrupt groups of people, cultures and nations

There are human rulers of nations and peoples in this world, and there are spiritual supernatural beings behind that influence them.

God gave Jesus, as a reward of His obedience, death on the cross, and resurrection, the authority over all the rulers of the world, both supernatural and human

Eph 1:19-21

These (our hope and inheritance) are in accordance with the working of His (God's) mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Colossians 1:16

For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities.

But there are evil beings (principalities, powers) in authority behind the leaders of this world—in history and now

Luke 4:5-6

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

John 14:30

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

These evil beings are still ruling, because the manifested, complete reign of Christ has not yet occurred

Heb 2:7-8

You made him a little lower than the angels; You crowned him with glory and honor and placed everything under his feet." When God subjected all things to him, He left nothing outside of his control. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

So we in the church, in the power of the Holy Spirit, must still deal with not only demons, but these evil principalities and powers behind the secular leaders of the world

Ephesians 6:12-13

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Satan will be the invisible authority behind and the visible antichrist

Evil being have been the authority behind famous despots

Nero, Napoleon, Stalin, Hitler, Putin

These demonic powers are behind all secular governments, even those that are not so bad

Where is God and the holy angels in all of this?

The Holy Spirit and our prayers can change the course of government and rule on earth

An obedient church can rule and reign in her personal and local affairs

But the Spirit's and Jesus' total rule, His truly being the authority and power behind the human leadership, awaits the ages to come

Even more frighteningly, evil principalities and power have corrupted and influenced churches as well as secular institution—by watering them down to conform to society

A moderated religion is as good for us as no religion at all—and more amusing.

Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis

If a man can't be cured of churchgoing, the next best thing is to send him all over the neighborhood looking for the church that 'suits' him until he becomes a connoisseur of churches.

Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis

Evil powers attack churches in revival and have helped end revivals

We did not understand clearly about the principalities and powers, and, in our ignorance, all these dark hosts gathered around and slowly stole again upon the land that God had claimed. They stole upon the church, and even upon the living witnesses of revival, and bore upon them the crushing weight of opposition and darkness, criticism, unkindness and coldness.

Jessie -Penn Lewis after the Welsh Revival

Recognizing the evil powers ruling the lost world, what is the role of Christians in their culture (government, media, art, commerce)

How can we affect culture

How should we let culture affects us

Should we engage or withdraw?

Christians from the time of Jesus have had regular social interactions with the "world" that required constant discernment

Definition of culture: the beliefs, way of thinking, behavior, customs, and arts of a particular society or group at a particular place or time

What degree of participation in secular culture is compatible with our Faith?

What degree of participation helps culture while not compromising our beliefs and allegiance?

Verses promoting civic involvement by believers

Prov. 29:2

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;  
But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.

Prov. 11:11

By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,  
But by the mouth of the wicked, it is torn down

Jer. 29:4-7

This is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and live *in them*; and plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and father sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may give birth to sons and daughters; and grow in numbers there and do not decrease. Seek the prosperity of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD in its behalf; for in its prosperity will be your prosperity.'

Verses warning against associating with the secular world

II Cor. 6:16-17

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing..."

Rev. 18:2;4

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!... Come out of her, My people, so that you will not share in her sins or contract any of her plagues."

Early Christians in Rome (60A.D. – 323A.D.)

No power or influence in the public square

Lived simple lives

Persecutions came and went

Yet they showed no signs of panic

No frantic voices of their leaders called Christians to retreat from culture or take up arms  
in violence

They exhibited a steady commitment to learn the art and practice of living as Christian in  
a wicked pagan culture

Believers did not try to establish their own political structures,  
They trusted in God's sovereignty and accepted their lot  
This was no easy task.

Rom. 13:1-7

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment... Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing

Loyalty in Rome to its Caesar demanded loyalty to a god

Disloyalty was political and pagan religious heresy

Cultural engagement could not be done on the streets, only within the gathered community, often hidden.

The early Church recognized Caesar's authority, paid taxes, and obeyed civil laws

Christians becoming what even secular Roman writers admitted were the most faithful and dedicated citizens of all Rome

They had to say "no" to their culture's astrology, fortune-telling, infanticide, sexual promiscuity

They built relationships and the Church by invited people into their communities

This relationship to Rome lasted until the mid-300's when Christianity became the state religion

Churches were permitted and built

Christian membership was demanded for civic posts

The hope of Christendom, a civil society permeated with Christian authorities, where Christianity was the dominant force, looked possible

But this hope would not deliver

As the relationship between church and civil society transformed, the church failed to maintain its purity and as an institution was corrupted

Rome began to "fall" a little at a time in the 400's

St. Augustine's response to the fall of Rome: The City of God

Two cities existed—each "created" by man's love for either of them

1) The Earthly City:

Glories in itself; seeks glory from men; lusts for mastery and subduing the people; loves its own strength

2) The Heavenly City: Glories in God; seeks to please God; serves others rather than self

True Christian citizenship depends on what we love and nurture

Phil.3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

As the Church became more political and corrupt, the center of genuine faith became the monasteries

#### Monks and Monasteries

Misunderstood, maligned, mocked

Benedictine; Cistercian; Augustinian; Dominican; Franciscan; Jesuit

Monasteries were not so isolated from the world that they had no cultural impact

Monasteries were the centers of economic production, improving lands, breeding better livestock and crops, reproducing rare books

They consistently practiced holiness and hospitality

"Let all guests that happen to come be received as Christ." The Benedictine Rule

Monks kept vibrant Christianity alive through the Dark Ages and into the Reformation

...(the monasteries) sustained the moral life through the dark ages. These dark ages are again upon us... This time however the barbarians are not waiting beyond the frontiers: they have already been governing us for quite some time. And it is our lack of consciousness of this that constitutes part of our predicament

Alisdair MacIntyre *After Virtue* 1981 in *Christian History* Jan. 2022

#### The Reformation

##### Luther and Three Estates (jurisdictions)

Family

Church

Government

"There are three estates in this life: the household, the church, and the state. If all men want to neglect these and pursue their own interests, and self-chosen way, who will educate the young and till the ground?" Who will be a shepherd of souls? Who will baptize, absolve, and console those who are burdened with sins? Who will administer the government or protect the common fabric of human society?

Martin Luther

Engagement in these three estates formed the foundations for faithful Christian engagement in the world.

Families: required the sacrifice of fathers and mothers for their children

Church: required faithful contribution by priests and laity to proclaiming the gospel and shepherd believers

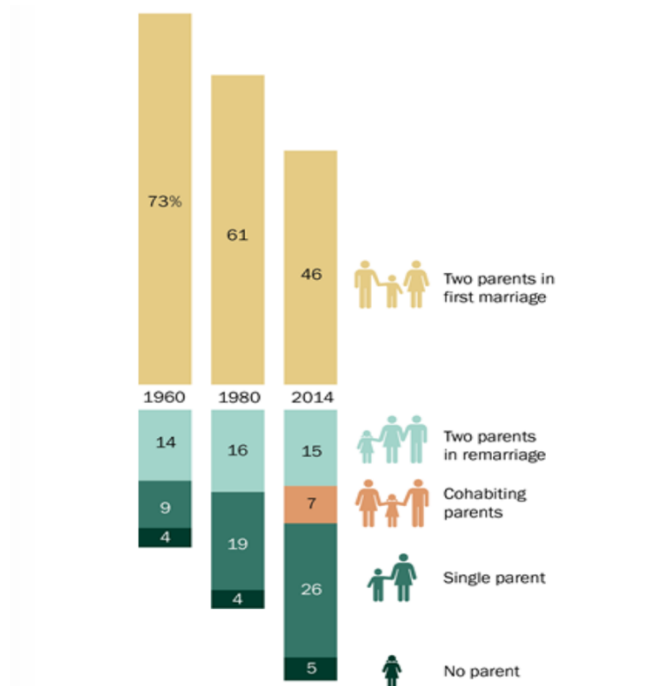
Government: required wise, honest government officials protecting and preserving order and justice

## Families

Success in marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person.  
Rob Browning

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.  
Theodore M. Hesburgh

Percentage of children living with:



## The Church

The Church has the Word and the Spirit, the two forces that counter evil supernatural being that corrupt culture. But...

...in our so-called Christian lands, the authority of the Word is now called in question by the leaders of churches; and there are few theological institutions where it is recognized as the very Word of God. In like manner, the Spirit of God is dishonored, first, by this very denial of the Word which God has inspired, and second, by the disregard paid to His Person and authority. Thus, there is a reversion to heathen conditions spiritually, and as these two great agents for the overthrow of demonic powers are discredited, evil powers are pressing in again upon our country and people.

John MacMillan *The Authority of the Believer*

Church leaders are given *relational authority* to guide and discipline those *inside the body of Christ* in a nurturing, redemptive way.

Wise leaders strive to never view those under their authority as adversaries or opponents.  
And cannot force anyone to do anything

Church leaders are given representative authority when relating to those outside the body of Christ

Presenting civic society with church support for its responsibility to care for citizens  
(education, keeping the peace, helping the disabled and poor)

Opposing civic society corruption and ungodly policies

Slavery, child labor, domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, Hitler, Stalin

Abortion

Lobbying for the freedom to spread the gospel

When institutional church leadership has confused its relational and representative roles, trouble has occurred.

Treating its parishioners as enemies (Inquisition; martyring Protestants and Catholics)

Treating other faiths as enemies (Crusades)

Sharing authority with profane secular power (Roman Catholic's pope and Holy Roman Emperors)—instead to speaking to the power as prophets

Orthodox church in the Soviet Union

Protestant churches in Nazi Germany

Much of the organized church sanctioned slavery for over three hundred years.

Institutional Christianity has for the most part thrived when it has sided with prevailing political powers whose rule has been secured by the oppression of defenseless people.

Persecuted Christianity, without secular power and connections, has historically demonstrated the most growth and vibrancy

## Civic Government

The purpose of civil government is to establish and enforce the laws of a nation.

Able governments protect their responsible citizens from law-breakers

Civic leaders guard them from their enemies—both domestic and foreign.

They provide an atmosphere where their citizens can raise their families in safety, pursue their livelihood, and enjoy the fruit of their labors, and worship freely

## Culture in Christians

"There always is this fallacious belief: 'it would not be the same here; here such things are impossible.' Alas, all the evil of the twentieth century is possible everywhere on earth."

In the times ahead we will see:

More pressure placed on those who accept the traditional teachings of the Bible

More character assassination in communities and the media (soft totalitarianism)

In contrast to Soviet Union and its treatment of the underground church (hard totalitarianism)

Increasing federal and state government mandates

Increasing power of large corporations

Increasing surveillance of our activities

Example: China and dissidents

Computer and phone tracking of our thoughts, actions, movement  
     GPS / Alexa / Siri  
     Data harvesting and sharing  
     "Surveillance capitalism"  
     Edward Snowden's metadata revelations  
 Increasing entertainment  
 Decreasing need to work  
 Increasing pressure to not follow the Lord or fellowship with other believers

"We're in a tight spot!" (Ulysses Everette McGill in "Brother Where Art Thou")

It has never been more crucial for us:

To live truthful, godly lives, raise our children in the Faith  
 To attempt to influence our culture and government positively  
 To help individual people who are being deceived in the culture  
 To try to advance the Lord's kingdom and influence

"There always is this fallacious belief: 'it would not be the same here; here such things are impossible.' Alas, all the evil of the twentieth century is possible everywhere on earth."

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Secular government (and the institutional church) in power *always* tries to move in the direction of "soft" and "hard" totalitarianism. Why?

Man is fallen and is a sinner  
 Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely  
 The reason for the safeguards and checks and balances in the U.S. Constitution  
 The goal of the powerful: increasing control of our lives by its organizations  
     (government, corporations) through persuasion (media) and force (police, military)  
 The dynamics of power always heads in this direction  
 The "prince of the power of the air" behind this is always targeting believers and is bent  
     on hindering the advance of the Kingdom of God

If you don't have a seat at the table, you are probably on the menu.

Elizabeth Warren

It seems to me that you have been entrusted with stewardship over the world, not given possession of it...there is no poison more dangerous for you, no sword more deadly, than the passion to rule.

Bernard of Clairvaux to Pope Eugenius III in 1150A.D

Sometimes, the powerful take over nations completely against the people's wills

But, usually the people let them take away their rights  
     Wanting to be provided for and taken care of  
     Wanting to be protected from preserved threats  
     Wanting justice for previous wrongs done to them  
     Nazi Germany; Stalinist Russia



Who is "at the table"

Outside the Western World (the "liberal" democracies):

Autocrats

Government leaders

Church leaders

Within the Western World

"Elites"/theoreticians/academics

Corporation heads

Mainstream and social media corporations

Who needs "Big Brother" when we have "Big Data?"

The powers-that-be may be conservative or liberal; fascist or communist

There is always a danger in a society of the development of authoritarianism, often with its cult of personality and its totalitarianism

Authoritarianism: the enforcement or advocacy of strict obedience to authority at the expense of personal freedom, with a lack of concern for the wishes or opinions of others

Cult of personality: when a country's regime (or organization) uses the techniques of mass media, propaganda, spectacle, the arts, patriotism, and government-organized demonstrations and rallies to create an idealized and heroic image of a leader, often through unquestioning flattery and praise.

"Dictators can always consolidate their tyranny by an appeal to patriotism." ~ Aldous Huxley

"Wherever the choice has had to be made between the man of reason and the madman, the world has unhesitatingly followed the madman." ~ Aldous Huxley

Totalitarianism is a form of government and political system (or organization) that prohibits all opposition parties, outlaws individual opposition to the state and its claims, and exercises an extremely high degree of control and regulation over public and private life.

Hard totalitarianism

Rome before Constantine and the early Church

The church in the dark middle ages

Persecution of believer by the "church" itself

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century communism

True anti-Christian militancy—the goal was (is) the eradication of Christianity

21<sup>st</sup> Century radical Islam (ISIS, the Taliban); radical Hindu groups

The life of Christians under the communist (and other repressive) world systems

Could not meet openly

Could not preach openly

Were betrayed routinely

Were imprisoned, tortured, executed

Were watched over by secret police Ex: the surveillance and files of the Stasi and NKVD

The True Fruit of Communist/Socialistic Thinking:

Socialism: defined by Winston Churchill: "The philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy."

The Great Leap Forward in China 1958

Privately-owned plots of land was forbidden  
Farming was organized into people's communes

What followed was the Great Chinese Famine

Occurred between 1958 and 1962 in the People's Republic of China  
It widely regarded as the deadliest famine and one of the greatest man-made disasters in human history  
An estimated death toll due to starvation ranges from 15 to 55 million

The "Killings Fields" of Cambodia 1975-1979

The Khmer Rouge regime was highly autocratic, totalitarian, xenophobic, paranoid, and repressive.

Their leaders decided to use the China's Great Leap Forward as its model for government and management of agriculture

Summary executions and torture were carried out by its cadres against perceived subversive elements (*everyone above a "peasant" social level*)

Starvation became widespread

This led to the death of 1.5 to 2 million people -- around 25% of Cambodia's population.

North Viet Nam ended the reign by invasion

Pol Pot's final thought on the debacle

Traits of Totalitarianism

It ideology must be fully adapted by everyone

State controls every aspect of society and the lives of individuals

Its goal: develop a love and allegiance to the Party

Dynamic leader(s)

Dictatorship and one-party rule.

Methods of Enforcement.

Police terror

Indoctrination by public education

Censorship

Control of the Press

Persecution of dissenters

Use of modern technology

Mass communication to spread propaganda

Advanced surveillance and use of police/military weapons.

"A really efficient totalitarian state would be one in which the all-powerful executive of political bosses and their army of managers control a population of slaves who do not have to be coerced, because they love their servitude. People will come to love their oppression, to adore the technologies that undo their capacities to think."

Aldous Huxley, Brave New World

### Soft totalitarianism

Definition: an *ideology* seeks to displace all prior traditions and institutions with the goal of bringing all aspects of society under control of that ideology  
 Truth is whatever its leaders decide it is  
 The goal is control of thoughts, speech, and actions  
 No one quite knows who makes the rules

"You have no idea what completely normal thing you do today, or say today, will be used against you to destroy you tomorrow. This is what people in the Soviet Union saw. We know how this works."

*Live Not By Lies by Rod Dreher*

"The victim of mind-manipulation does not know that he is a victim. To him, the walls of his prison are invisible, and he believes himself to be free." ~ Aldous Huxley

Soft totalitarianism: a love and allegiance to the *belief system*  
 The belief systems and agendas: LGBTQ / Global Warning / BLM / COVID control  
 Political correctness, public shaming, reputations of businesses and careers destroyed  
 Stigmatized as racist, sexist, homophobic, Islamophobic

Doublethink: a process of indoctrination in which subjects are expected to simultaneously accept two conflicting beliefs as truth, often at odds with their own memory or sense of reality.

"Group" justice replaces individual freedom protection  
 Good and evil is seen in relation to *power dynamics*, not absolutes  
 Exposing oppression and its victims abound  
 The larger the oppressed "group" becomes, the closer we get to totalitarianism

Equality and diversity become the greatest goals

Academics and intellectuals set the mood, the zeitgeist, the acceptable culture that tends to be progressive and liberal

The history goal of a "liberal" education  
 Note: all education is subversive of the status quo (*sometimes for the good; sometimes not*)  
 The intelligentsia have been wrong before  
 They suffer no consequences for their errors  
 They stand up for the "oppressed," many of whom do not want them standing up for them  
 They frame the differences that exist between cultures, races, nations in terms of grievance and oppression—believing that the reason that the less fortunate have less is exclusively because the more fortunate have taken it from them

Schools of Resentment ("grievance studies") – Black Studies, Women Studies, Queer Studies

Deeper truths: responsibility, sacrifice, endurance, hard- work, overcoming

II Thes. 3:10

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat

Achievement, whether modest or spectacular, bring a self-respect, as well as respect from others—something that cannot be realized by playing the role of societal parasite in the name of a make-believer equality

“The most valuable of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it has to be done, whether you like it or not.” ~ Aldous Huxley

When minorities lag behind other in a society, for whatever reasons (geographic, historical, cultural, the prevalence of crime, family structure, attitudes toward performance and education,), they face a daunting task of bringing themselves up to the level of the rest of society in knowledge, skills, and experience, and attitudes necessary to acquire this.

Minorities in history have succeeded at this, but it may take decades. It will take even longer, if it ever occurs, however, if minority leaders and academics 1) discourage some degree of assimilation into the majority culture; 2) encourage the subsidizing of non-productive behavior (welfare); and 3) most particularly if these leaders promote the idea that their minority's lagging behind is exclusively due to the malice and discrimination of other people.

Taking what others have produced and giving it to those who have not produced as much (or anything at all, in some cases) is make-believe equality – as contrasted with real equality, which would be enabling the less productive to become more productive, so that they could create for themselves rather than take from others. This real equality takes work and incentive and is much more difficult than creating a sense of entitlement for the disadvantaged and then legislating economic redistribution.

Thomas Sowell from *Intellectuals and Race*

Political Correctness:

Avoidance of expressions or actions that can be perceived to exclude or marginalize or insult people who are socially disadvantaged or discriminated against.

The insistence that people politely describe something that is actually untrue or wrong

Cancel culture: a form of ostracism in which someone is thrust out of social or professional circles for saying something or holding an opinion that is not politically correct

Consciousness-raising: bringing to light all the offences, grievances, and injustices we've experienced

Critical theory -- "Ruthless criticism of all that exists." Karl Marx

"Those who don't build must burn. It's as old as history and juvenile delinquents."  
Fahrenheit 451 Ray Bradbury

Euphemism treadmill: the over and over again introduction of new terms to redefine things

Feminism:

Simone de Beauvoir: "As long as the family and the myth of the family and the myth of maternity and the maternal instinct are not destroyed, women will still be oppressed."

Pat Robertson definition: "A socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their babies, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians."

At Taylorsville Baptist Campground Revival the preacher said that our country is being run by "socialists, sorcerers, and sodomites!"

Reproductive justice: the legal authorizing of abortion

Reproductive rights: the right of a woman to not reproduce (*irony and doublespeak*)

Systemic racism: racism inherent in education, institutions, and corporations in addition to individuals

Implicit bias: unconscious bigotry (*more correctly, ethnocentricity*)

Microaggression: a subtle insult or racist statement, words or statements indicating that one is a racist or bad person

Social Justice vs. Cosmic Justice (*Thomas Sowell*)

Social justice: equality under the law

Cosmic justice: social justice plus "economic" justice – equality of income, possessions

Trigger warnings: certain words or statements that may prompt offensive in millennials or the oppressed: people are advised to warn the audience before saying them

Vindictive protectiveness: attitudes or responses to political incorrect statements

Soft and hard totalitarian ideologies fills the void left by the abandonment of religion

What prepares men for totalitarian domination is that fact that loneliness, once a borderline experience usually suffered in marginal social conditions like old age, have become an everyday experience.

Hannah Arendt quoted in *Live Not By Lies* by Rod Dreher

Modern society is in the process of formulating an 'anti-Christian creed,' and resisting it is punishable by *social excommunication*. The fear of this spiritual power of the Antichrist is therefore only too natural, and it truly takes the prayers of a whole diocese and the universal Church to resist it.

*Pope Benedict XVI 2013*

All forms of totalitarianism are inherently, and by definition, anti-Christian

Totalitarians desire the eradication of Christianity in the world

Soft totalitarianism is just more sneaky than the Nazis and communists were

We are already in a post-Christian world

Non-Biblical agendas have conquered the secular world

And most of the Church as well

This modern ideology masks its opposition of dissenters in the guise of helping and healing divisions and previous injustices – by having "good intentions"

Totalitarianism values loyalty more than expertise and truth

It views progress as its "religion" (vs. tradition as the foundation of religion)

It was as though some huge force were pressing down upon you—something that penetrated inside your skull, battering your brain, frightening you out of your beliefs, persuading you, almost, to deny the evidence of your senses. In the end the Party would announce that two plus two made five, and you would have to believe it...The heresy of heresies was common sense.  
1984 by George Orwell

Instead of the "Party," we could say that the "Office of Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion" has told you to reject the evidence of your eye and ears

Our response:

Christianity is not about making us happy

"But I don't want comfort. I want God, I want poetry, I want real danger, I want freedom, I want goodness."

"In fact you're claiming the right to be unhappy!"

"All right then...I'm claiming the right to be unhappy."

*In Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" 1932*

Be cool and steady

Nothing gives one person so much advantage over another as to remain always cool and unruffled under all circumstances.

Thomas Jefferson

By perseverance the snail reached the ark.

Charles Spurgeon

Value Nothing More Than the Truth

God has trouble with lies

It is not the Church's job to help spread "misinformation" and "disinformation" in support of the "cause" or the "greater good") – *situation ethics*

Proverbs 12:22

Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

Revelation 21:8

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

John 8:31-32

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Ephesians 4:15

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ

Speak the Truth, but be prudent

Solzhenitsyn: *never*:

Say, write affirm, or distribute anything that distorts the truth  
Go to any meeting or demonstration unless you understand and truly believe in the cause

Support any event as soon as you hear the speaker utter a falsehood, ideological drivel, or shameless propaganda

Vote for a candidate or proposal you consider to be dubious or unworthy

Read or advocate journalism that distorts or hides underlying facts as it makes its points

Recognize the importance of tradition and history

The reason the Constitution and the U.S. is worth preserving

The reason the Bible and the historical faith community is worth preserving

"Who controls the past, controls the future; who controls the present controls the past."

*Slogan in 1984 George Orwell*

Beware of Technology

Consider:

Computer and phone-tracking counter-measures (VPN's, alternative search engines)

Internet filters and oversight of our children

Technology is not neutral

It can change our habits and brains; it is addictive

Teach your children well

Home school

Home time and activities

Limit online time

Model truth

Christian devotions and prayer

Attempt ministry and the miraculous

Model moral courage

Prepare to make sacrifices and suffer

Rejoicing, getting "better instead of bitter"

The importance of "local"

Family / church / community (gardens)

Practice careful hospitality

Rescue the lone (and lonely) individuals

Families as "resistance cells"

Having lost the culture war, we are the revolutionaries now

All education is subversive

"There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self." ~ Aldous Huxley

"People often ask me what is the most effective technique for transforming their life. It is a little embarrassing that after years and years of research and experimentation, I have to say that the best answer is – just be a little kinder." ~ Aldous Huxley

"When you were with your friends in these communities, you had freedom. You knew that when you went outside, there was totalitarianism. It controlled everything and oppressed you."

Jan Simulcik quoted in *Live Not By Lies* by Rod Dreher

Organize now, before it's too late

Should we take an active role in secular culture?

The importance of our talents, gifting, and passion in engaging our culture or not

Some are called to try to steady the cart as it rolls inevitably down the hill

Most of us are called to just stay out of its way

None of us are called to jump on or push the cart to make it go faster and crash sooner