

## **EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – Oct., 2022**

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### **WOKEISM: A WORLDLY VALUE SYSTEM**

Any time “Christians” jump on the bandwagon of the world’s latest fad or movement that is a major RED flag. The problem is that the world has a completely different value system that does not align with biblical Christianity. Wokeism is essentially about “**tribal values**”, whereas Christianity is all about “**biblical values**”. And the paradigm of WOKEISM is most certainly about “worldly values”. WOKEISM is the idea of being alert or awake to all manner of social injustices as seen through the worldviews of **secular** minorities.

Paul very clearly tells us “**do not be conformed to this world**” (Rom. 12:2). In 2 Corinthians 11:3 Paul was very concerned that the Corinthian Christians may be deceived and “**corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ**.” In Galatians 1:6 Paul was amazed at how quickly the professing Christians were turning away from the true gospel. This left him “**perplexed**” about them (Gal. 4:20). And so it is with the current “social gospel” that many professing Christians seemingly want to embrace. There is nothing new under the sun (Eccl. 1:9) and this generation’s newfound fascination with another form of a “social gospel” is nothing new. In many ways it is the same old heresy wrapped up in a new and updated dress.

Many professing Christians are all in on “wokeism”. They have the mindset that in order to win the world we have to befriend them and in order to be friends with the world they make virtue signaling concessions. For example, the world now DEMANDS to be able to define your own gender. And so from the youngest of age children are now being taught that we need to announce what our preferred PRONOUN is so that we can be addressed appropriately. It’s a way of DEMANDING that gender perversion be recognized as normal. As a matter of “virtue signaling” many “Christians” are now going along with this on social media. They want to be “woke” indicating that they too are sensitive to the social concerns of the day. They seem to not realize that “**friendship with the world is enmity with God**” (Ja. 4:4). They seem to not realize that Christ plainly told us that it is a given that the world will HATE true Christians (Jn. 15:18-19). Yes, we Christians should seek to love everyone including our enemies, but if one truly stands for BIBLICAL TRUTH, we will be hated for it. If you signal an uncompromising stand for biblical marriage and biblical morality the world will HATE you for it no matter how nice you try to be. And yes, we should at all times seek to be winsome, gracious, and kind (cf. Col. 4:5-6; 2 Tim. 2:24-26); and yet we must NEVER signal the compromise of our biblical faith or biblical values.

Wokeism pits people against each other in the worst form of tribalism. It is “victimology” gone to seed. Wokeism breaks society into the basic categories of oppressors and the oppressed. The worst of the oppressors are seen as WHITE people since America was largely built by them. Thus, just being white is inherently seen as being “racist”. It’s not a matter of what one has personally done or not done. The whole of society is seen as a power structure built by WHITE people and therefore it must be dismantled and rebuilt. ONLY the WOKE really get this! Strangely, wokeism in the end amounts to a form of reverse discrimination as a means of righting what’s been wrong. It amounts to combating racism with a different form of racism! It knows nothing of the Christian ethics of personal accountability, grace, redemption, forgiveness, etc. It knows NOTHING of Biblical UNITY that is found in Christ (cf. Jn. 17:11; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11).

Pastor Gary Gilley has written a four-part series titled, “Racism and Critical Race Theory” which you can find online and which I highly recommend. He has done his homework and shows just how serious is the error of WOKEISM that has infiltrated the Church. Wokeism doesn’t bring healing, rather it is destructive!

Let us stand against sin; let us show compassion for the needy; let us take the opportunities the Lord gives us to demonstrate the love of Christ; let us condemn social injustice, and let us actively take our place in society. But let us not dilute the unique message of the cross, or the unique ministry of discipleship, by adding social justice issues to Christ’s gospel or mandate. This has been done before, always with the same results. What begins as a mere addition to the biblical message and mission soon becomes equal to them, and then overwhelms them, and ultimately replaces them.

– Pastor Gary Gilley

**Thot:** Virtue signaling to the world and signaling biblical values and holiness are mutually exclusive!

***Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald***