Redeeming Leadership Today

Week 5: Tyranny

Raymond Chiu • NYCBC Sunday School • July 9, 2023

For class materials go to <u>bit.ly/nycbc-redeeming</u>



Agenda

- Introduction: Recap and redemption
- Youth: The masculine dimension
- Biblical: The archetypal Bible case •
- Global: Three big-picture themes
- Church: A home-grown church case
- Personal: What kind of follower am I? lacksquare
- Applied: What makes us great?





Introduction

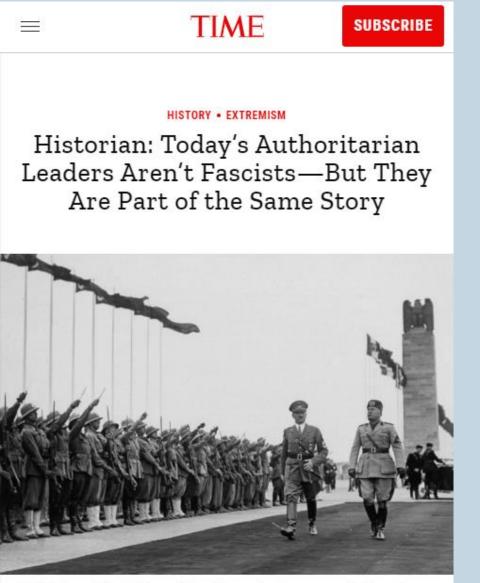
What we've covered so far

• "In a world where fallen image-bearers of God fight for safety and dominance, our anxieties about life in the world induce within us traditional views about purifying and protecting our own people, and these priorities appear to be addressed by leaders who fit the strong-man image. As demonstrated by biblical history, these innate fears, moral intuitions, and impressions—which are based on imperfect **information**—pose a **serious challenge** to our humanity and faith, leading us to idolize tyranny in our societies and churches. Yet we are blessed with a hopeful portrait of leadership through Jesus Christ that transforms our understanding of both leadership and followership and redeems our moral character, interpersonal relationships, and church governance."

red – preference for tyranny purple – traditional morality green – fear of external threats



Recap of Weeks 1 to 4



Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini walking past an honor guard in Rome in 1938 The LIFE Picture Collection / Time Life Pictures / Getty Images

BY OLIVIA B. WAXMAN 🤝 NOVEMBER 10, 2020 9:00 AM EST • Week 1

- the challenge of authoritarianism
- how leaders emerge to meet our needs
- Week 2
 - role of processing limited information
 - leader prototypes including tyranny
- Week 3
 - individualizing and binding moral foundations
 - binding traditional foundations focus on the group
- Week 4
 - nature of fear and its manifestations
 - use of fearmongering in politics and churches

https://time.com/5908244/strongman-fascism-history/

bit.ly/nycbc-redeeming

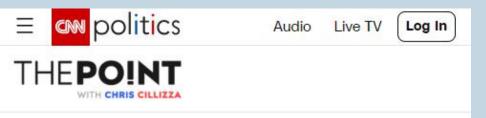


Review of theories

- Fear: <u>Belief in a dangerous world</u> (Week 4)
 - anxieties about the world drive us toward morality focused on the group
 - these people prioritize the protection of social order, hierarchy, and purity
- Morality: Moral foundations theory (Week 3)
 - morality focuses on either individuals (individualizing) or groups (binding)
 - people with group-focused morality are attracted to the tyrannical prototype
- Information: Implicit leadership theory (Week 2) •
 - leader traits present a false prototype of an effective leader •
 - tyrannical traits are domineering, pushy, manipulative, loud, conceited, selfish



The path toward tyranny



Donald Trump just can't stop praising Vladimir Putin

Analysis by Chris Cillizza, CNN Editor-at-large Published 9:53 AM EDT, Mon March 28, 2022



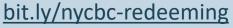
Video Ad Feedback

- One step does not necessitate the next
- 1. Fear, suffering, and death are our shared human inheritance
- 2. Social attitudes and structures grow out of our response to our fears
- 3. Our moral intuitions and choices of leaders are two important responses
- 4. Some people prioritize the protection of social order, hierarchy, and purity

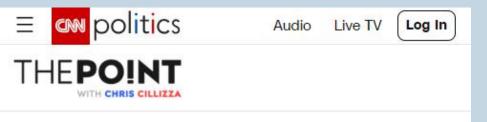
https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/28/politics/trump-putin-ukraine-russia-smart/index.html

Trump can't stop praising Putin

04:09 - Source: CNN



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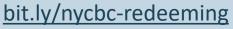
Video Ad Feedback

- 5. We judge leaders imperfectly due to limited information and distance
- 6. We draw from traits that appear to signal effective leadership: for tyranny, domineering, pushy, manipulative, loud, conceited, selfish
- 7. These traits resonate most among men who adopt traditional morality
- 8. Acceptance of tyrannical traits perpetuate support for authoritarian rule
- The solution is a redemptive lens on creation

https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/28/politics/trump-putin-ukraine-russia-smart/index.html

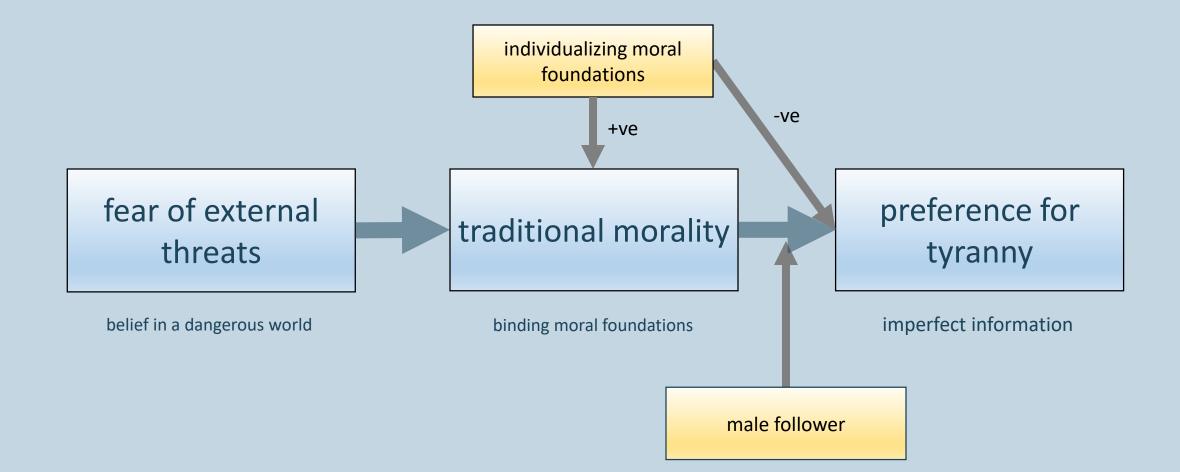
Trump can't stop praising Putin

04:09 - Source: CNN





Stepping through the model



Mirowska, Agata, Raymond B. Chiu, and Rick D. Hackett. "The Allure of Tyrannical Leaders: Moral Foundations, Belief in a Dangerous World, and Follower Gender." Journal of Business Ethics 181, no. 2 (2022): 355-374.

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The meaning of redeeming

THE IDENTITY AND VISION OF REDEEMER UNIVERSITY

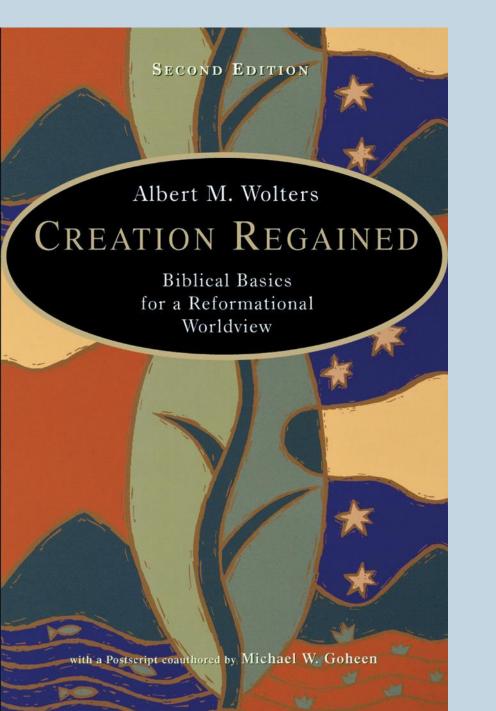
- Passages on redemption
 - "You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." (6:20)
 - "²³ You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men." (7:23)
- The Cross Our Calling
 - "The task of the Christian community, including the Christian university, is to discern that which is creational and therefore good in every aspect of culture. We seek to affirm the good which was intended in culture's making even as we seek to identify and to reject the twisting effect which idolatry has had upon it."

https://www.redeemer.ca/wp-content/uploads/the-cross-and-our-calling.pdf

bit.ly/nycbc-redeeming



The meaning of redeeming



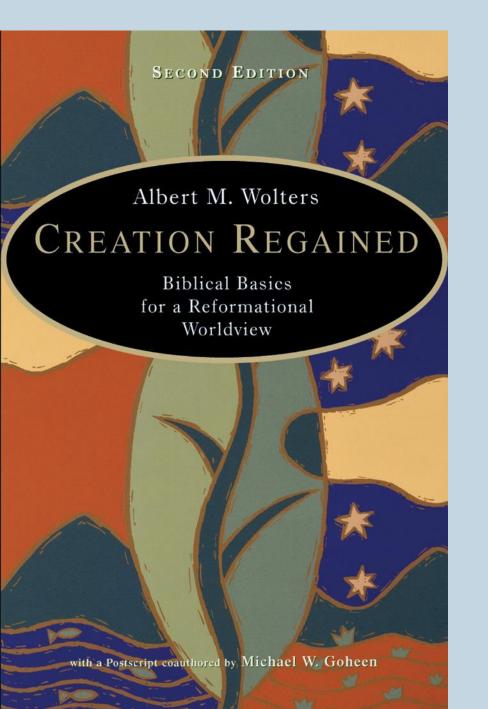
- *Creation Regained* by Al Wolters
 - the scope of creation includes everything physical and human (including organizations, institutions, systems, and their leaders)
 - the creation is subject to natural laws and its order is knowable
 - the creational scheme was altered by the fall, including human cognition
 - the scriptures are a "light" that shows us God's norms in our experience of creation

Wolters, Albert M. Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2005.

bit.ly/nycbc-redeeming



The meaning of redeeming



- We look at creation in the light of scripture; we look at scripture through the image of creation
 - "105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)
- Therefore, to redeem leadership today, we must shine the light of the Gospel on the emotions, convictions, perceptions, and consequences associated with the phenomenon of leadership and followership so that it can be illuminated, appraised, and reformed

Wolters, Albert M. Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2005.

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The masculine factor

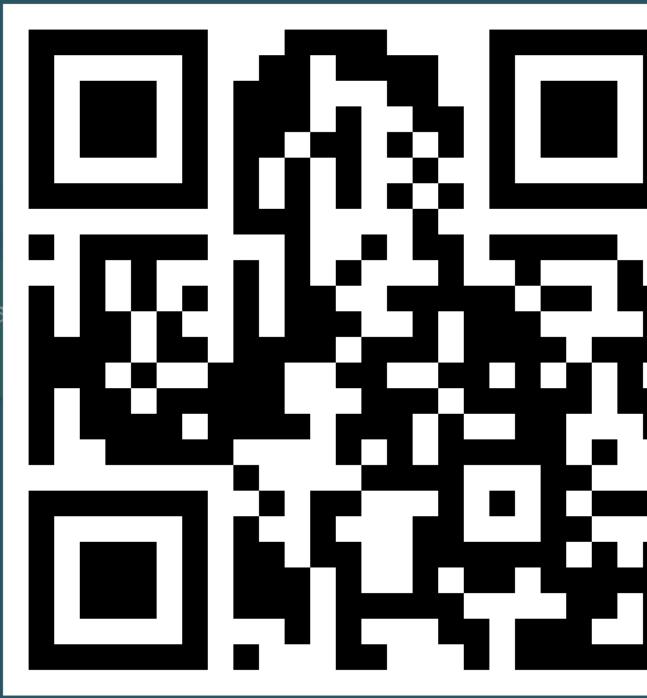
Youth perspective



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others

Values-balancing survey

- First, select the values that describe yourself by marking them with a 'Y'.
- Second, select the values that describe an effective leader by marking them with an 'L'.
- (see handout)

•	1. Compassionate	Analytical
•	2. Collaborative	Decisive
•	3. Sociable	Competitive
•	4. Loyal	_ Ambitious
•	5. Adaptable	Resourceful
•	6. Sensitive to others	Independent
•	7. Uniting	Self-reliant
•	8. Helpful	Persistent
•	9. Contented	Risk-taker
•	10. Interested	Knowledgeable
•	11. Encouraging	Responsible
•	12. Tactful	Driven
•	13. Gentle	Forceful
•		Achievement oriented
•		Action oriented
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Values-balancing survey

- After you have done both:
 - Count how many Ys are in the second column. This score is for yourself.
 - Count how many Ls are in the second column. This score is for an "effective leader." •
 - Enter both scores in the survey depending on whether you are female or male. •



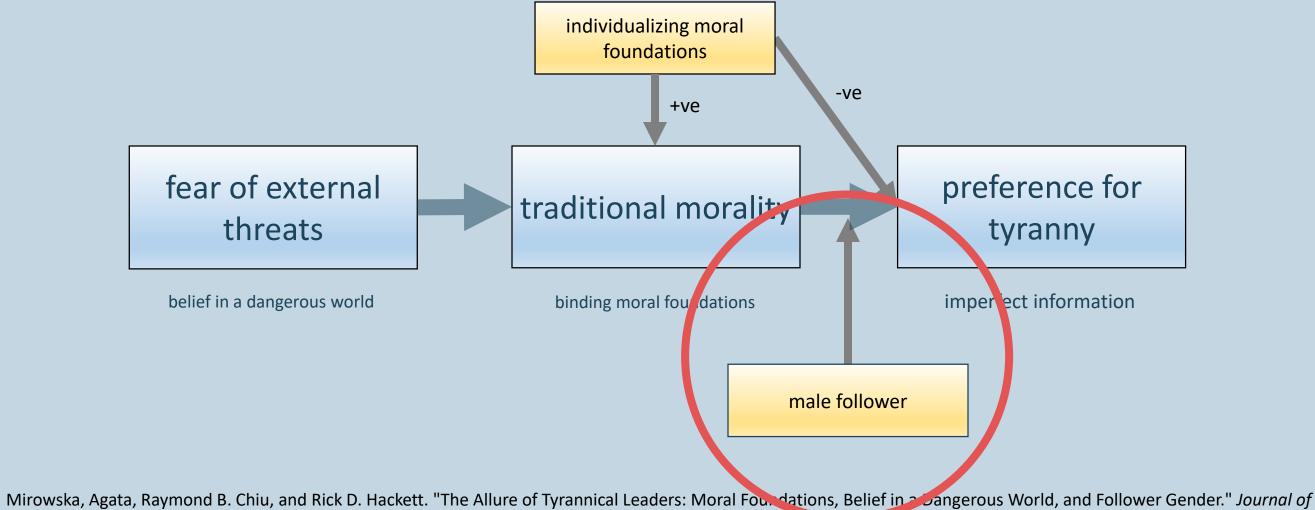


Values-balancing survey

- The survey is sex-role survey, not "values-balancing"
 - second column are stereotypically male or "agentic" traits
 - first column are stereotypical female or "communal" traits
- Examine whether the following are true •
 - men rate themselves as more agentic, women as less agentic
 - men and women rate the "effective leader" as more agentic
 - women rate the "effective leader" as more agentic than men rate them
- How do these insights say about your own self-image?
 - do you not see yourself as a leader because you are not male or agentic? •
 - do you feel that communal traits are just as effective for good leadership? •



Stepping through the model



Business Ethics 181, no. 2 (2022): 355-374.

bit.ly/nycbc-redeeming



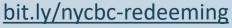
The archetypal Bible case

Biblical perspective



- Identify where the three phenomena we have been discussing appear in the story
 - fear: belief in a dangerous world
 - morality: moral foundations theory, traditional or binding foundations
 - information: implicit leadership theory, tyrannical prototype

https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-samuel-saul/





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- ⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.⁸ According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. ⁹ Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."
- ¹⁰ So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. ¹¹ He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. ¹² And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.

- ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. ¹⁵ He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. ¹⁶ He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men^[a] and your donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸ And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."
- ¹⁹ But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, ²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."²¹ And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD.²² And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city."

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red – preference for tyranny purple – traditional morality green – fear of external threats







- Fear: <u>Belief in a dangerous world</u> (Week 4)
 - the Israelites feel insecure and inferior despite God's salvation
 - they compare themselves to the might and grandeur of other nations
- Morality: Moral foundations theory (Week 3)
 - the Israelites choose conformity, coercion, and centralization
 - they blindly sacrifice individual rights and well-being
- Information: Implicit leadership theory (Week 2) •
 - the Israelites idolize an imaginary unknown figure over God almighty
 - they perceive the figure will fight their battles for them





Three big-picture themes

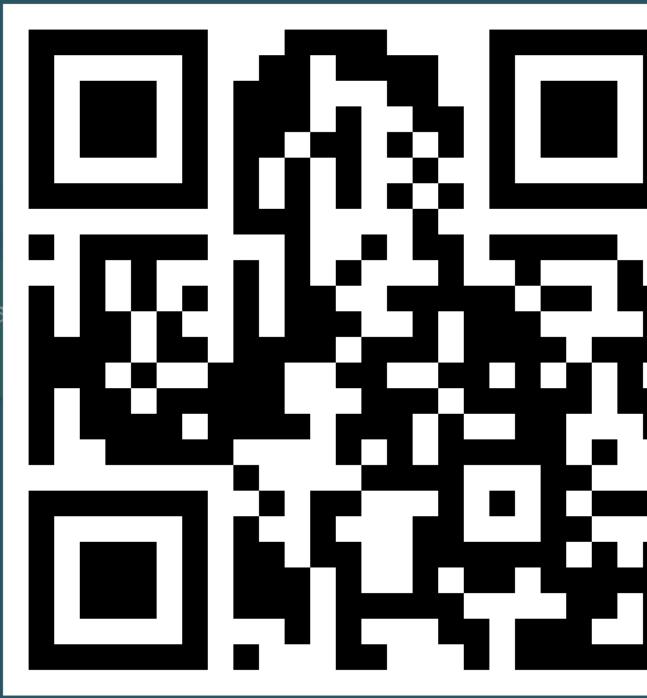
Global perspective



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others

Changing minds

- Answer the question in the poll: Why do we like doughnuts?
 - We are sinful fallen beings
 - We adapted to our environment
 - Saavy corporate marketing
 - Savoury food engineering



7. Double Chocolate 8. Sour Cream Glazed 9. Chocolate Glazed 10. Honey Dip

8. Sour Cream Glazed

9. Chocolate Glazed

10. Double Chocolate

- 8. Sour Cream Glazed 9. Double Chocolate
- 10. Vanilla Dip





Honey Cruller

8. Chocolate Glazed 9. Double Chocolate 10. Honey Dip





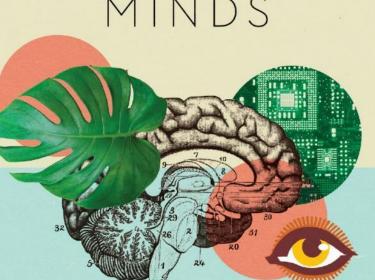
Atlantic

- **1. Boston Cream**
- 2. Old Fashioned Plain
- 3. Apple Fritter
- 4. Chocolate Dip
- 5. Chocolate Glazed
- 6. Honey Cruller
- 7. Sour Cream Glazed
- 8. Vanilla Dip
- 9. Double Chocolate
- 10. Honey Dip



On tyranny as an adaptation

THRIVING WITH STONE AGE MINDS



Evolutionary Psychology, Christian Faith, and the Quest for Human Flourishing

- Justin Barrett
 - graduate of Calvin University, professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, Oxford University
- Thriving with Stone Age Minds
 - talks about how liking for sweet and fatty things is **an** adaptation to benefit from fruits and nuts
 - "My aim is to pursue understanding and truth. That aim, however, starts with some suppositions. I am convinced that the sciences, at their best, are powerful tools for revealing some truths, but not all.





On tyranny as an adaptation

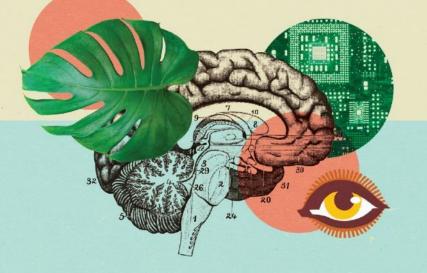
THRIVING WITH STONE AGE MINDS

Evolutionary Psychology, Christian Faith, and the Quest for Human Flourishing

- Thriving with Stone Age Minds by Justin Barrett
 - "I am also convinced that the Bible, properly interpreted, reveals critical truths about human nature and purpose and what it means to live a life worth living.
 - "Evolutionary psychology teaches us an important lesson that informs these claims: one of the distinctive features of humans is the degree to which we solve fitness problems by changing our environment around us, our niche.
 - "This ability to learn niche-specific information enables humans to adapt to new challenges, divide labor, and become experts or specialists at certain survival problems.

On tyranny as an adaptation

THRIVING WITH STONE AGE MINDS

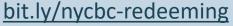


Evolutionary Psychology, Christian Faith, and the Quest for Human Flourishing

- Thriving with Stone Age Minds by Justin Barrett
 - "A central point of this book is to demonstrate that **placing** evolutionary psychology in the service of Christian theology is a promising strategy for making progress in answering these questions.
 - "Humans are attempting to thrive in contemporary contexts with Stone Age minds."

Barrett, Justin L. Thriving with Stone Age Minds: Evolutionary Psychology, Christian Faith, and the Quest for Human Flourishing. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2021.

JUSTIN L. BARRETT with PAMELA EBSTYNE KING





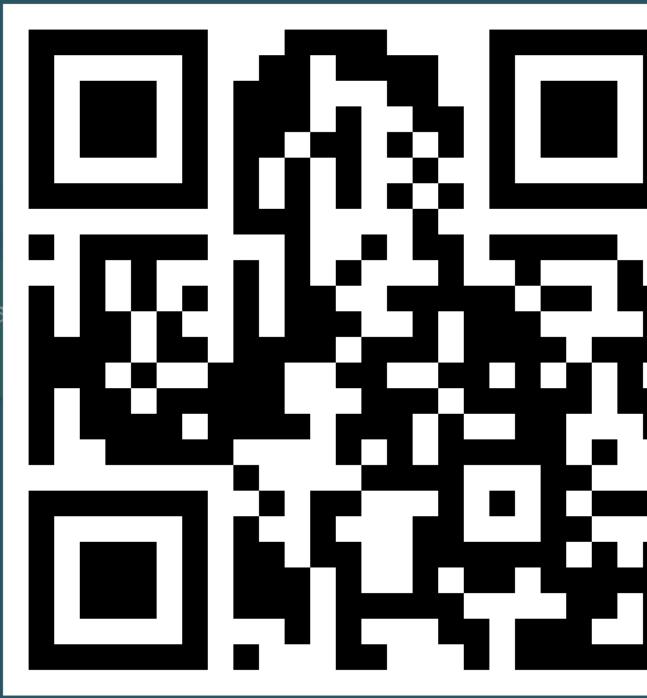




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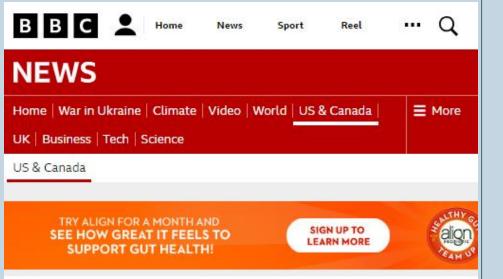




others

Righteous minds

- Answer the question in the poll: With regard to Christians who are asked to make websites, cakes, etc. for same-sex couples, which response do you think the church should teach and advocate?
 - Christians should be allowed to refuse and they need • the law to protect them
 - Christians should decide on their own and they don't need the law to protect them
 - Christians should provide such services and they don't need the law to protect them



US Supreme Court rules website designer can refuse to serve same-sex couples

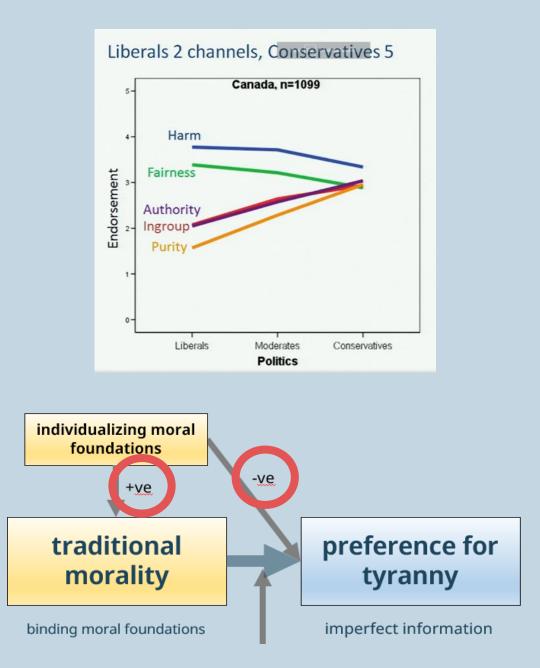




Graphic designer Lorie Smith argued she could not serve same-sex couples because of her Christian faith



On morality as an "elephant"



- We need to respect that good Christians can take either view and want to do right
- Individualizing foundations are common to liberals and conservatives
- Conservatives also express their morality through the binding foundations
- Notice the strange "suppression effect" (acts in opposite ways at the same time)
 - individualizing foundations is positively related to binding foundations, but
 - individualizing foundations is negatively related to preference for tyranny

https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan haidt the moral roots of liberals and conservatives

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On morality as an "elephant"

THE RIGHTEOUS MINI

WHY GOOD PEOPLE ARE DIVIDED

> BY POLITICS AND RELIGION

NNATH

'A landmark contribution to humanity's understanding of itself'



- The Righteous Mind by Jonathan Haidt
 - "The central metaphor of these four chapters is that *the* mind is divided, like a rider on an elephant, and the rider's job is to serve the elephant. The rider is our conscious **reasoning**—the stream of words and images of which we are fully aware. The elephant is the other 99 percent of moral processes—the ones that occur outside of awareness but that actually govern most of our behavior."
 - "Judge not, that you be not judged." (Matthew 7:1-2)

bit.ly/nycbc-redeeming



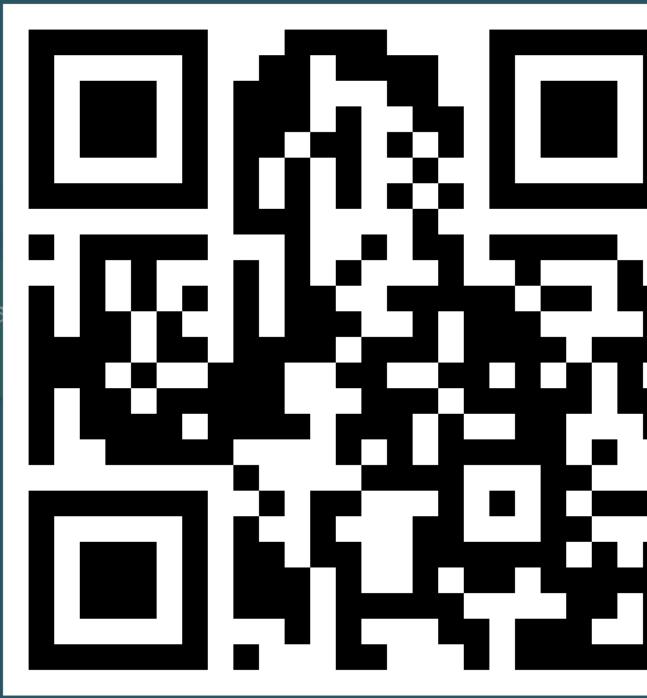




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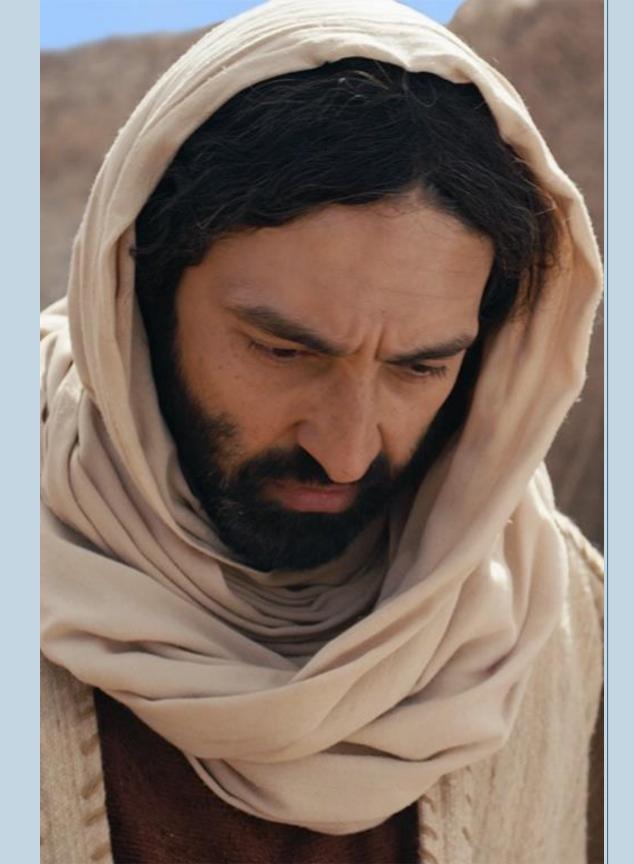


others

Sanctified minds

- Answer the question in the poll: How did Jesus know what was right?
 - Supernatural omniscience
 - Exceptional observation and intellect
 - Study of the Jewish scriptures
 - Communion with his Father

https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-jairus/





On perception as imperfect



- Jesus' perception and his fellowship with the Father
 - "³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my garments?" (Mark 5:30-31)
 - "³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)
 - "¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every **respect**, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:17)
 - "27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." (Matthew 11:27)



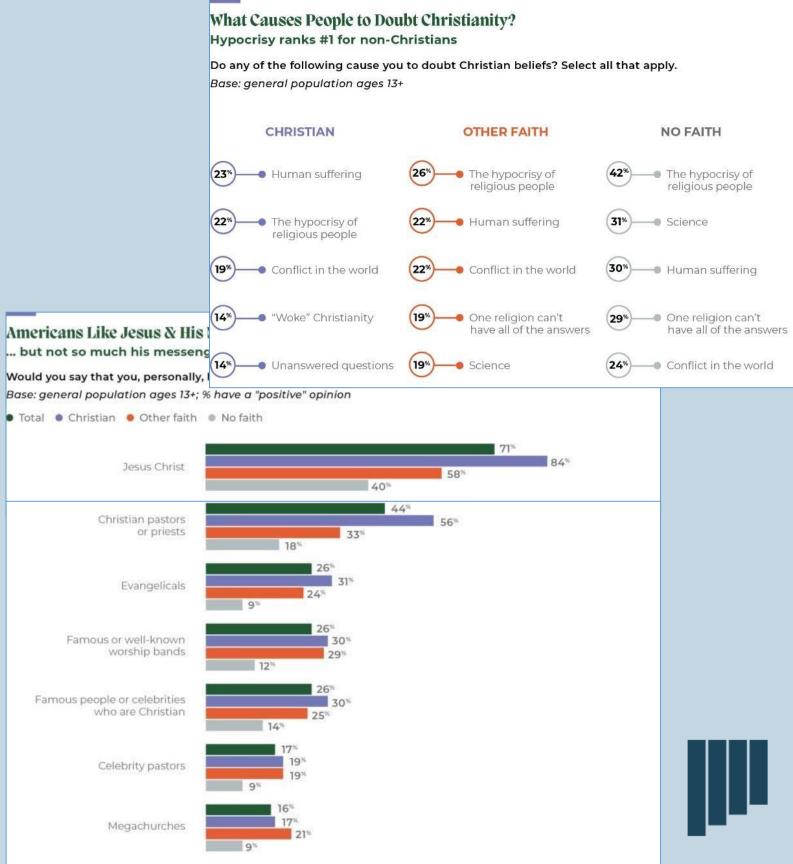




On perception as imperfect

- If Jesus had perfect communion with the Father and **we don't**, how can any leader always be right?
- God speaks through the Word, our prayers, but most of all, the community of believers
- Excessive faith in a single person, • unaccountable council, or training process could compromise our **Christian witness** and may not reflect a reformed perspective on creation

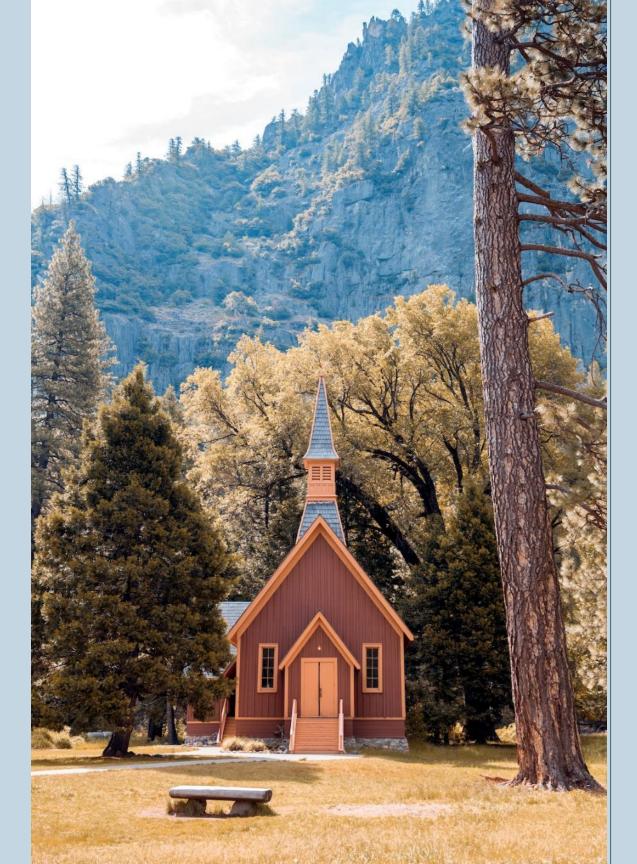
https://www.barna.com/research/openness-to-jesus/



Church perspective

 Using a reformed perspective, how do the theories presented in our classes help us to analyze this case? What should the Small Glen Chapel board do? (see handout)

Photo by Jesse Callahan on Unsplash





- George was excited. "Yesterday I talked to the assistant pastor of Big Rock Church at the edge of town," he \bullet said. "Bob says they're looking to open more satellite locations to broadcast their sermons. The leaders have been on their knees every week praying for us and our struggles, and want us to join them."
- Brenda was curious. She had been on the board for seven years and knew that Small Glen Chapel needed help. Although their church is in a prime location in the old town, they had been declining in attendance and were saddled with building restoration costs. The aging congregation noticed that God was not blessing them with the growth that other churches were experiencing. Some even felt that they were not being faithful to God any more. The board also couldn't come to agreement on church growth strategies offered by consultants.
- "I've heard a lot about the church," she remarked hesitantly. "They seem to attract a lot of people from outside our small town, including a fair number of young guys who are into working out. But they're very different than us."
- "Yeah, I went there with my daughter's family," Rodney piped in. "The grandkids loved the puppets in children's worship. And wow—the pastor has charisma. Really bold. He was sent by a church-planting organization in the States. Calls out members who slack off, especially the men. Preached on spiritual warfare. Talked about fighting the activist groups that are threatening the family. Their worship is quite a production—nothing like Don's out-of-tune guitar on Sunday!"



- (cont.) Lillian perked up. "Why don't we go out to meet them? And how about getting to know the congregation?" she suggested.
- "Bob said that the senior pastor is very busy," George chimed in. "He flies his private plane to his cottage on some island somewhere to get close to God and write his sermons. Bob said he'll be the main contact. Most people just leave after service, but they have small groups whose leaders are supervised by an assistant pastor. Not sure how many join though. They have strict rules for joining or volunteering. Like, they get you to disclose your darkest secrets and commit never to gossip about anything. They actually don't have many meetings where members can talk to each other, except maybe for the summer barbecue, but that's next year. In fact, they don't even have members. The church run completely by their board. The board has four members, and the senior pastor is the chair."
- "How are they going to help us with our problems then?" Brenda asked.
- "Our debt will be paid off," George responded. "The senior pastor says they'll take care of everything. You don't have to worry. They'll take full control of our assets and staff. God has been with them, he says. Their motto is, 'We love and are loved'. Their growth has shown that—just see for yourself, they say—the fruit is there. All he wants to do is share the blessing."



What kind of follower am I?

Personal perspective

What kind of follower am I?



1/5/2022 by JACKSON KATZ



Trump supporters clash with police and security forces as people try to storm the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C on January 6, 2021. (Brent Stirton / Getty Images)

- Tyrannical leadership in the U.S. has attracted hypermasculine, anti-feminist groups such as the Proud Boys
- They include high-school educated, workingclass white men with a deep-seated desire for respect and a return to patriarchy
- Does Jesus want us to follow a leader or ulletmovement that makes us feel more secure as a man or under a man, or does he want us to follow Him?

https://msmagazine.com/2022/01/05/white-men-insurrection-ianuary-6-masculinity-trump/

bit.ly/nycbc-redeeming





What kind of follower am I?

- A Reporter's Footage from Inside the **Capitol Siege**
 - https://www.newyorker.com/news/video-dept/a-• reporters-footage-from-inside-the-capitol-siege (7:40-9:22)
- Man who told LifeSite about entering • Capitol building on January 6 is convicted of 7 charges
 - https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/man-who-• told-lifesite-about-entering-capitol-building-onjanuary-6-is-convicted-of-7-charges/ (3:42-6:28)



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NEWS

FBI arrests man who told LifeSite about experience of entering Capitol building

'I understand there could be consequences for what happened and I will accept those and deal with them'





VIDEO DEPT.

A REPORTER'S FOOTAGE FROM INSIDE THE CAPITOL SIEGE

By The New Yorker

January 17, 2021





What makes us great?

Applied perspective

What makes us great?

- Proposed conditions for the greater good
 - ordered and rational worldview
 - universal legal and moral framework
 - social contract and property ownership
 - human dignity and sanctity
 - human knowledge and development
 - priority of truth in work and life
 - personal sense of spiritual calling
 - virtue, restraint, and productivity
 - redeemed and reconciled relationships
 - strong family and community bonds
- None of these will arise from tyranny all of them come through Christ







Coming up

- Week 1: Leadership | Why Everything Old Is New Again
- Week 2: Information | When Leadership Is All in Our Heads
- Week 3: Morality | How Our Deepest Convictions Drive Us
- Week 4: Fear | Why a Terrible World Is Reshaping Us
- Week 5: Tyranny | When the Strongman Captures Your Heart
- Week 6: Redemption | How Our View of Leadership Is Renewed
 - What do we do when leaders are broken people too? Bringing together previous insights, we rediscover basic realities about leadership, followership, organizations, governance, and church when we revisit Jesus Christ as our model leader.



Q&A

Thank you for building each other up!

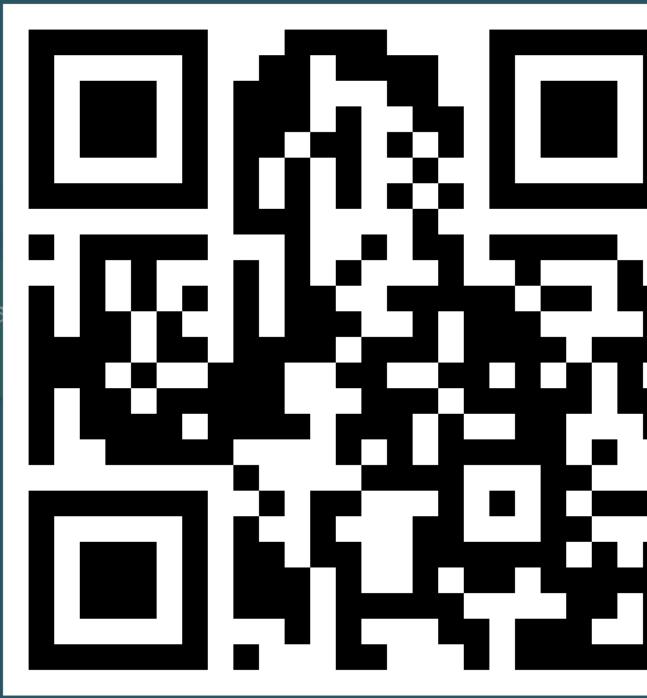




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