

SEXUALITY & HUMAN REBELLION AGAINST GOD

Apologetics

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Heb 2:6-9 διεμαρτύρατο δέ πού τις λέγων· τί ἐστὶν ἄνθρωπος ὅτι μιμηθήσκη αὐτοῦ, ἢ υἱὸς ἀνθρώπου ὅτι ἐπισκέπη αὐτόν; ⁷ ἡλάττωσας αὐτὸν βραχύ τι παρ' ἀγγέλους, δόξῃ καὶ τιμῇ ἐστεφάνωσας αὐτόν, ⁸ πάντα ὑπέταξας ὑποκάτω τῶν ποδῶν αὐτοῦ. ἐν τῷ γὰρ ὑποτάξει [αὐτῷ] τὰ πάντα οὐδὲν ἀφήκεν αὐτῷ ἀνυπότακτον. Νῦν δὲ οὕτω ὁρῶμεν αὐτῷ τὰ πάντα ὑποτεταγμένα· ⁹ τὸν δὲ βραχύ τι παρ' ἀγγέλους ἡλαττωμένον βλέπομεν Ἰησοῦν διὰ τὸ πάθημα τοῦ θανάτου δόξῃ καὶ τιμῇ ἐστεφανωμένοι, ὅπως χάριτι θεοῦ ὑπὲρ παντὸς γεύσῃται θανάτου.

Mt 22:30 ἐν γὰρ τῇ ἀναστάσει οὔτε γαμοῦσιν οὔτε γαμίζονται, ἀλλ' ὡς ἄγγελοι ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ εἰσιν

Heb 2:6-9 It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? ⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Mt 22:30 in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

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0. INTRODUCTION

- the problem of sexuality → the problem of identity – a larger problem
 - modern humans → torn between **evolutionism** (identity determined by natural laws – hormones, social environment) and **liberalism** (self-determined identity by the personal will)
- [BERGER *The Homeless Mind* (1973) p. 78] On the one hand, modern identity is open-ended, transitory, liable to ongoing change. On the other hand, a subjective realm of identity is the individual's main foothold in reality. Something that is constantly changing is supposed to be the *ens realissimum*. Consequently it should not be a surprise that modern man is afflicted with a permanent identity crisis, a condition conducive to considerable nervousness.
- history from the Renaissance (apostasy) and the Reformation (revivals)
 - Renaissance: Vasari → "the spirit of criticism" (GUINNESS *The Dust of Death*, (1994) p. 21)

0.1. THE PROBLEM BEHIND THE PROBLEM

[TYSON *De-Fragmenting Modernity*] Maurice Blondel has said that there are no more difficult problems to solve than those that do not exist. (*L'Action*, p. 417...il n'y a problèmes plus insolubles que ceux qui n'existent pas.) What he means is that if we do not understand what our real problems are our most intelligent problem-solving strategies will fail to make any impact on reality. Genuine solutions to real problems do not follow from a miss-assigned understanding of what the real problem is. ... solutions blind to existential and spiritual drivers.

0.2. A HISTORY OF HUMAN IDENTITY IN THE WEST

- a history of rebellion against *imago dei* definition/theology of humans
- the INCARNATION → Jesus - the *normal* human being
- a history of substitutes...

0.2.1. DEFINED BY RELIGION

- man defined by *FAITH*.
- Man → a member of CHRISTENDOM ("the Kingdom of God")
 - [Pico Della MIRANDOLA: *Oration on the Dignity Of Man*] He [God] made man a creature of indeterminate and indifferent nature, and, placing him in the middle of the world, said to him "Adam, we give you no fixed place to live, no form that is peculiar to you, nor any function that is yours alone. According to your desires and judgment, you will have and possess whatever place to live, whatever form, and whatever functions you yourself choose.
- Pico, → Thirty-years war

0.2.2. DEFINED BY CLASS

- man defined by *PROPERTY* (wealth)
- Man → a member of a SOCIAL CLASS (property – the central idea) ROUSSEAU
- The French Revolution → Bolshevism (disaster)

0.2.3. DEFINED BY NATION

- man defined by *POLITICS, CULTURE* ...
- Man → a member of national community (language, history, culture, power, security)
 - [MAZZINI *Political Testament*] We have seized the spark from the Eternal One, and have placed ourselves between Him and the nations ; we have assumed the part of Christ, as emancipators, and God has accepted us.
- Romantics → WW1 (disaster - WILSON)

0.2.4. FRAGMENTATION: MINORITIES, INDIVIDUALISM, SEXUAL REVOLUTION

- man defined by *FEELINGS*...
- Man → an independent individual (personal development, genius, celebrity, difference)
- the cult of *great men* – heroes → egalitarianism (no special heroes)
- Freud → PSYCHOANALYSIS,
- Frankfurt School → Cultural Marxism
- Individualism → Sexual revolution (THE SIXTIES!)
 - **FOUCAULT**: "The Faustian pact, whose temptation has been instilled in us by the deployment of sexuality, is now as follows: to exchange life in its entirety for sex itself, for the truth and the sovereignty of sex. Sex is worth dying for."
 - Woody **ALLEN**: "Political solutions do not work. I believe in SEX and DEATH."
- SEX → SALVATION
 - Goethe: "eternal feminine" in Faust
 - D.H. Lawrence, in *The Man Who Died*, made Christ return to the world and to discover the true saving power of sensual love.

0.3. THE WESTERN LITERARY CANON

- “Canon” → authoritative literature (Shakespeare; Goethe; Tolstoy; Ibsen)
- [Harold BLOOM *The Western Canon*] (1) The Theocratic Age - (2) the Aristocratic Age - (3) the Democratic Age - (4) the Chaotic Age (Freud, Proust, Joyce, Woolf, Kafka...)
- Camus: “The novel is born simultaneously with the spirit of rebellion and expresses, on the aesthetic plane, the same ambition. ... The aim of great literature seems to be to create a closed universe or a perfect type. The West, in its great creative works, does not limit itself to retracing the steps of its daily life. It consistently presents magnificent images which inflame its imagination and sets off, hotfoot, in pursuit of them.” (*The Rebel*, p. 258-9)

1. THE THERAPEUTIC CULTURE

- “If you have nothing to *die for*, you have nothing to *live for*...” (James Irwin – astronaut)

1.1. MEANING OF LIFE

- Philip RIEFF: “...a sense of well-being has become the end, rather than a by-product of striving after some superior communal end...” (*The Triumph of the Therapeutic*, p. 261)
 - Rieff says Freud's theories started the most important cultural revolution since Christianity “conquered” the Roman Empire.
- [LASCH *The Minimal Self*] The hope that political action will gradually humanize industrial society has given way to a determination to survive the general wreckage or, more modestly, to hold one's own life together in the face of mounting pressures.

BALDWIN: I sensed, then—without being able to articulate it—that this dependence on a formula for safety, for that is what it was, signaled a desperate moral abdication. People went to the shrink in order to find justification for the empty lives they led and the meaningless work they did. Many turned, helplessly, hopefully, to **Wilhelm Reich** and perished in orgone boxes.

THE “THEOLOGICAL METHOD” FOR TODAY:

[Alan WATTS *Beyond Theology*, p. 37] Why not ask, therefore, what might be the most esthetically satisfying explanation for one's own existence in our particular universe? It must be an explanation that will completely satisfy me for the most appalling agonies that can be suffered in this world. Upon what terms would I be actually willing to endure them?

[McCallTiger&Tirabassi *Transgendering Faith* p.] ...theword homosexual first appeared in the Bible in 1946 and that the scriptures used against queers were mistranslated from the original texts...

1.2. MEANING OF LIFE IN THE BIBLE

- **Mark 8:35-36** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?
- **Romans 12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,

2. VISUAL CULTURE

- [Fredric JAMESON *Signatures of the Visible*, p. 1] The visual is essentially pornographic, which is to say that it has its end in rapt, mindless fascination; ...Pornographic films are thus only the potentiation of films in general, which ask us to stare at the world as though it were a naked body.

2.1. THE POWER OF IMAGES

- [DEBORD *Society of the Spectacle*] The spectacle is the material reconstruction of the religious illusion.

- [BOORSTIN *The Image* p. 37] The American citizen thus lives in a world where fantasy is more real than reality, where the image has more dignity than its original.

[GABLER *Life the Movie*, p. 7] Not only are celebrities the protagonists of our news, the subjects of our daily discourse and the repositories of our values, but they have also embedded themselves so deeply in our consciousness that many individuals profess feeling closer to, and more passionate about, them than about their own primary relationships...

[HORAK *Girls will be Boys*] Where previous accounts have identified only thirty-seven silent American films featuring **cross-dressed women**, I have discovered more than four hundred.' ...feminist scholars have read cross-dressed women as feminists; lesbian scholars have read them as lesbians; and queer and postmodern scholars have read them as queer and postmodern.¹ Transgender scholars have considered cross-dressed individuals as examples of historical gender variance, though they usually stop short of claiming them as trans.

2.2. THE VISIBLE IN THE BIBLE

- **Psalm 101:3** I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.
- **2Cor 4:18** For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

3. THE FORCES OF MODERNITY

3.1. TECHNOLOGY

- [ELLUL *Technological Society*, p. 125] "Technique cannot be otherwise than totalitarian."

THE "DIVINE" ATTRIBUTES OF TECHNOLOGY:

- "**omnipresent**" media, worldliness (visual!), ENTERTAINMENT, FUN, PLEASURE
- "**omniscient**" internet, science(?), INDOCTRINATION, MANIPULATION
- "**omnipotent**" technologies, TRANSHUMANISM, VIRTUAL REALITY, TRANSGENDERISM...

3.2. POLITICS

- "Weapons of Mass Instruction" (Zbrane hromadného učenia)
- Identity politics → abuse of the notions of *guilt; justice; liberty; equality* ...
- "Follow the money!" → ??? sincere activists do not understand the real aim of the revolution.
- The real aim? → disintegration of family; politization of private sphere; state-dependency (statism)

3.3. THE DEFENSE

- [MAZZINI p. 106] "Analysis can never regenerate the peoples. Analysis is potent to dissolve ; impotent to create."
- **Daniel 11:32** He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.
- Protect your children → Moses hidden, then put in a basket... the remainder was in the care of God...

4. TO REMEMBER

- The human rebellion against God is expressed in our human self-understanding, our identity.
- Identity has been going down from being religiously defined to an individualistic and sexually determined personal choice that is at variance with God's purposes for the humankind.
- The defense of believers presupposes not only understanding of what is going on in society but most importantly empowerment by the personal knowledge of God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.