

Worldviews

Apologetics Resource Center Newsletter

WWW.ARCAPOLOGETICS.ORG

SPRING
2022

Director's
Column 1

Rev. Clete
Hux

Economics 2

Dr. Paul
Cleveland

Salt & Light 4

Alyssa
Ahlgren

Church &
State 8

A. Eric
Johnston

Reason 10

Dr. David
Talcott

Disney Gone Awry?

By Rev. Clete Hux



“M. I. C. K. E. Y, M. O. U. S. E! Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck! Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck! ...” Many of us remember this sing-along song that opened the Mickey Mouse Club program when as children we were enjoying the biggest name in entertainment. That, of course, was the wonderful world of DISNEY. At one time, Walt Disney’s family-oriented programming was enjoyed by almost everyone, adults and children alike. However, times have changed and so has Disney, so much so that ole Walt is probably “turning over in his grave”. Disney now promotes the progressive anti-family and anti-Christian LGBTQ woke culture that the founders of BLM intended for the destruction of the nuclear family.

Chances are that if you want to watch a good movie, sporting event, or have your child watch an animated cartoon program, more than likely it will be connected to the vast empire that Disney has become, owning a good portion of the television and entertainment world. Just three years ago Disney, for \$73.1 billion, bought the film and TV assets that were held by 21st Century Fox, marking the transaction one of the largest media mergers in history.

The above is just for starters. Add to that the list of Disney-owned companies and you begin

to get a sense of just how big Disney really is. That list includes ABC, ESPN, Touchstone Pictures, Marvel, Lucasfilm, A&E, The History Channel, Lifetime, Pixar, Hollywood Records, Vice Media, and Core Publishing among many others.

Included are recognizable brands and film franchises as the following: *Star Wars*, The Muppets, The Marvel Cinematic Universe (but not the X-Men - yet!), Disney Princesses/Princes (such as characters from *Cinderella*, *Mulan*, *Frozen*, *Aladdin*, and *The Lion King*), *The Chronicles of Narnia* Franchise, *The Pirates of the Caribbean* Franchise, Pixar Films, (such as *Toy Story*, *The Incredibles*, and *Cars*), *The Winnie the Pooh* Franchise, *The Indiana Jones* Franchise, *Grey's Anatomy* and other popular ABC shows. See: <https://www.titlemax.com/discovery-center/money-finance/companies-disney-owns-worldwide/>

The LGBT culture is alive and flourishing within Disney. During a recent virtual meeting, a group of Disney filmmakers together with employees said they have been given the freedom to add “queerness” and LGBT characters to children's programming, but they believe a lot more needs to be done. Such was expressed during an “all-hands” meeting following controversy regarding Florida's parental rights bill that prohibits classroom teaching about sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade. Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis has signed the bill into law. See: <https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/poll-americans-support-florida-parental-rights-law-2-to-1-when-read-actual-text.html>

[Continued on page 16](#)

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion ... Genesis 1:26-28a ESV

The first thing God says about humans as He initially creates them is they should have dominion over all the earth and all its creatures. We cannot begin to take dominion over the earth, unless we are first able to identify, understand, and act upon the fixed principles inherent in God’s design. These fixed principles imply there is a *fixed nature of things* that has been inherent from the beginning and cannot be altered by us. Anything less than correctly understanding and identifying this nature will necessarily lead to failure. To do this investigation and discovery, we must first understand who it is that we are. Thus, we need to confront human nature.

Bearing the Image of God

To begin our exploration of human nature, let us consider what it means that we bear the *image of God*. One thing it means is that we were created individually with an independent will and thus we are sovereign over ourselves. That is, every person is understood to be someone who is independently valuable and whose singular existence and decision-making skills ought to be respected by everyone else. Beyond this, Genesis instructs us that we share certain attributes in some connection to those possessed by God Himself. Among these are personality, rationality, creativity, purposefulness, emotion, and a conscious awareness of morality.

God Has No Need

In the Scriptures we discover that God is a Trinity. That is, he is one in essence, but three in person—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thus, the Bible teaches that God is personal and relational. It also presents God to us as thoughtful and knowing. He is most definitely creative and purposeful as evidenced by the act of Creation itself. It should be noted that this action was not motivated by some need in God, but rather by a desire to share himself with creatures capable of entering into a relationship with him. That is, it was God’s plan in creation to have creatures capable of marveling at and enjoying God’s vast goodness and majesty. Moreover, given the infinite nature of God, he created human beings capable of exploring his majesty through all eternity without ever being able to plumb the depths of his being.

Our Limits of Knowledge

Unlike God’s act of creation, which did not arise out of any need in God or tax his power to create, our action does arise out of our need, and it does tax our power since God created us in a limited way. Our biggest need is ultimately to know God in the process of life. While God knows everything there is to know, our capacity to know things is limited and in this fallen world subject to error. To gain knowledge of the world we have to investigate it and discover how things work. Over the course of human history there has been a general accumulation of knowledge, and this has led to all sorts of things that we take for granted today. Past generations could not have dreamed of many of the things that we use daily in the course of our lives.

The Accumulation of Knowledge

Think about it for a moment. How many people 150 years ago thought it would be possible for four hundred people to board a Boeing 747 and fly halfway around the

world in a matter of hours? Nevertheless, it is routinely done today because our knowledge of aerodynamics allows us to do it. I recently watched a video of a group of engineers aiming at producing an engine capable of propelling an aircraft at much greater speeds than anything we currently possess today. These engineers believe the aircraft they can design will be able to accomplish the same task of transporting people halfway around the world in a fraction of the current time it takes. What they are doing is simply building off the past accumulation of knowledge to improve our capacity to achieve the ends that we desire.

Beyond our limits in knowing, we are also dependent creatures. To achieve our ends, we can only use the means ready at hand. Even in the garden, Adam and Eve had work to do if they were going to begin the task of taking dominion. While there were fruit trees, they still had to pick the fruit, prepare it, and then eat it. Moreover, they were given the task of tending the garden and reproducing it elsewhere around the world. In addition, I can well imagine that their own creative instincts would motivate them to produce a variety of tools and other products that would be useful in achieving their ends. From their original starting point, they had much to learn, to discover, to try, and to build.

Human Action Has Purpose

The study of economics begins with the observation that all people act with purpose. Thus, *human action is aimed at achieving some self-defined end*. To achieve that end, the person must use the means at hand. But because we are capable of imagining an increasingly wide variety of ends and the means we have at hand at any moment are insufficient to the achievement of all our potential ends, we must choose how to employ our limited means.

As a result, every choice carries with it a cost, which is the end foregone to achieve the most desirable end at the moment of choice. Adam and Eve faced the requirement to choose even before they sinned against God. It was established in the nature of things by God himself.

Why did God set things up this way? I think it was for the purpose of providing an environment in which every act could bring us into a deeper relationship with our Creator. I think God created a material universe and put us in it to explore it, learn about it, create in it, develop new inventions, build houses, plant vineyards, and encounter God's creation in a new way every day. I think that as we engaged in that activity, he wanted us to and his hand in it and so to be just more fascinated every day by his grandeur. I believe it was his intention that we would daily become more satisfied in him as we flourished and thrived in the world he had made for us.

The Essence of Trade

Consider for a moment the implications of this perspective. A natural progression of development would ensue from this situation. Adam and Eve initially faced life in a wide-open world. However, as they began to take dominion things would begin to change through a homesteading process. That is, the process necessarily results in taking charge over nature and, thus, creating individual property. The actions of their children and their children's children would create various forms of property as they individually engaged in their productive activities.

[Continued on page six](#)

The Privilege of Being Woke

By Alyssa Ahlgren

PAGE 4

What do pronouns, gender norms, “toxic masculinity,” white privilege, and political correctness have in common? They are topics that average Americans don’t care about.

They are irrelevant in our daily lives. They are “issues” only the most privileged of countries have the unfortunate opportunity to discuss.

According to Pew Research, the current top five issues Americans are concerned with are the economy, health care, Supreme Court appointments, and the coronavirus — with foreign policy and gun policy closely trailing. To everyday Americans, these priorities are a matter of life and liberty. Yet, we are being bombarded by woke social issues that are merely a matter of privilege and comfort.

The onslaught of these ancillary issues is coming from countless directions. From those who spend their lives in government servitude mooching off the public dime while berating capitalism. From the self-proclaimed thought leaders in our education systems, mainstream media, and pop culture. Even from our supposed sources of truth like the scientific community, which has been highjacked by partisan players and used as a weapon to uphold a pre-determined narrative (the Brown University study on rapid onset gender dysphoria is a great example).

The institutions running our society are subscribing to the dogma of wokeness because, frankly, they have nothing better to do. The United States, and Western countries in

general, are tainted by a little something called privilege. No, not the kind of privilege the left likes to parrot, like white privilege or male privilege. No, I’m talking about the privilege of prosperity. I’m talking about American privilege. This type of privilege knows no race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion. This type of privilege only knows geography. When you are located in the freest, most prosperous nation in the world, then you, my friend, are privileged.

So, why do we insist on talking about woke social issues that no one actually spends their precious time thinking about? We’re bored. We’re prosperous, privileged, and itching for something to complain about. We live in an era of unprecedented wealth, access to goods, availability of medicine, mobility to move up in society, and liberty to change our circumstances.

In America, the poorest households have goods that only the wealthiest can afford in most nations. According to the Census Bureau, over a span of two years, only 3% of households below the poverty line stayed below the poverty line within that timeframe, meaning 97% of American households that were at one point living below the poverty line moved up into the middle class within two years. Simply put, we aren’t collectively struggling in America.

Time for some nuance: I didn’t say no one is permanently poor. I didn’t say we don’t have homeless or disenfran-

chised people. I didn't say every person in the country is considered well-off by American standards. However, abject poverty and disenfranchisement in America are immense statistical minorities, not the norm. Even those below the poverty line are considered wealthy by global standards and enjoy luxuries like air conditioning, a TV, and a phone (according to survey data from the Department of Energy). Of course, there is always room to help the least of us, but to see any trace of extreme poverty in America and claim it is an overarching theme in our nation is dishonest and has no foothold in reality.

I ask again, why do we nonsensically talk about woke social issues that are of no real-world consequence to the average American? Everyone is equal under law. Our nation's poverty line is 35 times the global average. America is one of the youngest countries yet has the longest standing constitution on earth, providing us extraordinary freedom and liberties. But we are overtaken by declarations of marginalization because the woke left who control the country's major institutions can't handle their own privilege. They feel guilty for the prosperity America provides instead of being grateful for it.

The uprising in critical race theory and the notion of systemic racism is another example of how this guilt and search for power has manifest itself. No one has been able to provide substantiated evidence of systemic racism besides pointing to statistical disparities among minorities — excluding Asians of course — and calling that “proof” in of itself.

Contrary to the idea of a racially decrepit America, black Americans are the most successful group of people of African descent in the world. More black families in the United States live in the middle and upper classes than in the low-income bracket. Nigerian Americans have an average income of \$5,000 more than the nation's annual average. If we are a systemically racist country, we are the worst systemically racist country in history.

Instead of counting their blessings and making the most out of the great gift of living in America, woke progressives feel the need to be oppressed, or an ally of the so-called oppressed, in order to harness the power of moral authority. They collect the virtue that comes with fighting against a perceived evil. In the absence of true systemic discrimination and widespread adversity, leftists have created their own faux obstacles to combat in order to fight their internal guilt that stems from their inherent fortune of being an American.

A family in Uganda living on \$20 a day doesn't care about transgender representation in movies or think about the number of women who choose to be in STEM fields.

[Continued on page 7](#)

[Continued from page three](#)

These activities would include developing new vineyards and gardens, building houses, and creating useful tools of various sorts.

Moreover, given that people are naturally endowed with different talents, skills, and proclivities, there would be a wider and wider array of this property. The differences between people and products would result in an increasingly wide array of mutually beneficial trading opportunities. To actually engage in trade, people would naturally have to possess an excess of something that was desired by others if they were going to engage in the trading process.

Property Before the Fall

While we cannot know exactly what the world was like prior to the fall, we do know that it was going to be far easier for people to successfully achieve their desired ends. Nature was going to cooperate with man in the process. Work was not going to involve the sweat of one's brow or thorns and thistles. Instead, work was going to be rewarding and would lead to lasting results. As far as we know, in its original formation there were not going to be tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, or other forms of natural destruction. Moreover, there was not going to be rot and decay. These came about after the fall when God cursed the ground. Thus, as originally designed the process of property creation and the expansion of production and trade would lead to a continual condition of material and spiritual betterment in a wider and wider variety of ways.

[Dr. Paul Cleveland](#) is a Professor of Economics and Finance at Birmingham-Southern College. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics

from Texas A&M University and began his career at SUNY-Geneseo in 1985. He spent one year as a Visiting Professor of Economics at the University of Central Florida in Orlando before joining the faculty at BSC in 1990.

<https://www.boundarystone.org>



Books by Paul Cleveland

This book clearly lays out the important foundational issues that policy makers either sadly miss or deviously seek to mask. The ideas in this book will more than likely challenge your view of what constitutes good public policy.

\$25.00 Paperback

<https://boundarystone.org/product/unmasking-the-sacred-lies/>

Individual freedom and liberty are fundamental principles upon which a good society is based. The notion that paradise on earth can be achieved by coercive means has led to the spread of tyranny and despotism. Dr. Clarence B. Carson originally explained this truth in his 1978 book, *The World in the Grip of an Idea*.

\$19.50

<https://boundarystone.org/product/the-great-utopian-delusion/>

[Continued from page 5](#)

Citizens living under communist tyranny in China and Cuba don't care about critical race theory or corporate virtue signaling; they're too busy dreaming of living in a free capitalist society. Woke ideology only exists in prosperity and privilege.

White privilege, male privilege, wealthy privilege, cis-gender privilege, heterosexual privilege, able-bodied privilege — you get the idea — have nothing on egotistical, woke privilege. America isn't perfect, no country is, but she has done more to alleviate the sins of her past than any other. She has seen more safety, freedom, prosperity, and success than any other. Spitting in the face of that isn't "woke." It's privileged.



Alyssa Ahlgren has her Bachelor's in Business Administration and currently works as an analyst in corporate finance. She grew up in northern Wisconsin and is a former collegiate hockey player. Alyssa is pursuing her passion for current events and politics through writing and being an advocate for the conservative movement.

HAPPY EASTER HE IS RISEN!

FROM THE BOARD AND
STAFF OF ARC



Up from the Grave He Arose
By Robert Lowry

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

VCAP— Vulnerable Child Compassion and Protection Act.

Sex change procedures are vogue among LGBTQ+ advocates. It is yet the latest “sex” right being advocated. Once the “privacy” door of sexual freedom was opened by SCOTUS in *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965), there has been a continuing stream of perversion.

This is the third year Alabama has considered legislation to criminalize sex change procedures on persons under 19 years of age. Covid killed the first two efforts, but this year it should pass. Texas has similar concerns and its Attorney General released a devastating opinion. SLI supplied it to the House Judiciary Committee members along with the following comment:

Attached is a Texas Attorney General Opinion <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/opinion-files/opinion/2022/kp-0401.pdf>

He is explaining that sex change procedures of a minor, through drugs or surgical procedures, violates constitutional and Texas law. The purpose of this memo is to give a comment of the attached opinion and recommend that you read it for legal insights into this issue.

1. “The novel trend of providing these elective sex changes to minors often has the effect of permanently sterilizing” “It is impossible to truly change the sex of

an individual”, it is only an “illusion”. The trans goal is an artificial body achieved through puberty blockers, then cross-sex hormones, finally to surgery. This leads to permanent sterility. Early discontinuation of puberty blockers results in a low probability of permanent sterility, but continuation results in sterility.

2. The federal CMS (which regulates Medicaid and Medicare services) says there is not enough high-quality evidence of whether gender assignment surgery approves health outcomes. CMS does not fund these procedures until the person is 21 years old. The Alabama age of majority is 19 in the bills before you.

3. State and federal governments have wide discretion to pass legislation where there is medical and scientific uncertainty. *Gonzales v. Carhart*, See p. 4. The state’s power “is arguably at its zenith when it comes to protecting children”. *Bellotti v. Baird*, See p. 5, where SCOTUS explains “that children’s ‘inability to make critical decisions in an informed, mature manner’ makes legislation to protect them particularly appropriate.” VCAP is one such appropriate law.

4. The sex change procedure permanently deprives minor children of their constitutional right to procreate. The chemical and surgical procedures for sex change surgery prevents the per-

son's body from developing the ability to procreate. SCOTUS recognizes the right to procreate as fundamental under the 14th Amendment. *Skinner v. Oklahoma*, See p. 6. If a person is sterilized, he or she is deprived of a basic liberty. Procedures done on a child before his or her legal capacity to consent violate his or her right to procreate.

Parents may not consent to medically unnecessary procedures that violate a constitutional right. Thus, a parent cannot consent to a sterilization procedure which would deprive his or her child of the constitutional right to procreate. Sex change procedures are sterilization procedures.

The sex change decision is in effect asking the child to make the decision. The child has gender dysphoria, reinforced by questionable medicine, putting the parent in the position to acquiesce to an unconstitutional demand.

5. Child Abuse is broadly defined for the protection of children. In Texas, as in Alabama, physical, emotional, or mental harm to a child is abuse. These procedures are child abuse.

6. Texas has a Female Genital Mutilation law that criminalizes unnecessary procedures on young female's genitalia. Representative Rod Scott has similar legislation, which compliments VCAP.

Alabama and Texas laws bear great similarities for the protection of children. This Texas Attorney General opinion reinforces Alabama's need for VCAP. Sex change procedures on a minor violates a minor's constitutional right to procreate. VCAP is necessary to protect that right which is currently being violated by UAB. Also, since it is a constitutional right, the legislature cannot pass a statute permitting the procedure.

This statement is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to provide legal assistance. We hope if you have questions or know of those who do you will contact us and we can assist through referral to one of our cooperating attorneys.

@ 2022 Southeast Law Institute



A. Eric Johnston

To read past newsletters visit the Southeast Law Institute website - <http://www.southeastlawinstitute.org/news.asp>

Post Christian Ideologies at Christian and Secular Colleges

By Dr. David Talcott

PAGE 10

For some time now, truthXchange has been warning the church about the inroads that post-Christian ideologies are making into Christian colleges. The pagan worldview that reasserted itself in America in the late 20th century has now incorporated new ideas about sexuality, race, and other hot-button topics. A recent series of articles in mainstream outlets shows just how bad things have become in both secular and Christian higher education.

That secular education has become hostile to the truth is at one level not surprising. In a broadly Christian culture, the expectation that we will be truth-seekers spills over from Christianity into the broader social world. Colleges have had many problems, but until recently there was no debate whether the purpose of a college was to discover the truth and to pass it on to the next generation. The ability to freely discuss and debate contested ideas is part of that truth-seeking enterprise. Professors do research, make presentations, and have their conclusions challenged by their colleagues. There were always limits, of course – heresy and political insurrection weren't treated as ordinary topics for discussion. But, today, the limits have moved.

Campus speakers have been subject to threats and cancellations for some time. The attack on Charles Murray at Middlebury College, when he was about to give a speech to the local

chapter of the American Enterprise Institute, is now nearly five years ago. And, we have come to expect that schools simply will not allow some speakers and some topics to be discussed in public. But things have become much, much worse. Now, anyone who has an unpopular opinion about any topic may be “uninvited,” even if their talk is not about that controversial issue.

In October, Chicago geophysicist Dorian Abbot had a public lecture cancelled at MIT. Why? The answer is surprisingly mundane. This summer, in the pages of *Newsweek*, he argued that universities are being taken over by administrators and bureaucrats committed to “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” (DEI). Their task is to increase DEI on campus, and they do so through a whole range of student life initiatives, scholarships, success programs, hiring mandates, etc. While well-intentioned, the practical results are often destructive. He writes: “equity” does not mean fair and equal treatment. DEI seeks to increase the representation of some groups through discrimination against members of other groups. The underlying premise of DEI is that any statistical difference between group representation on campus and national averages reflects systemic injustice and discrimination by the university itself.

The magnitude of the distortions is significant: for some job searches discrimination rises to the level of implicitly or explicitly excluding applicants from certain groups.

Abbot argued that schools should return to merit-based student admissions, and even go further, eliminating legacy, athletic, and race-based advantages for certain groups of applicants. It's an old-school framework that he says is about "Merit, Fairness, and Equality." While not the majority viewpoint, is this something that should get an otherwise world-class professor uninvited from giving a lecture on his area of expertise? At MIT that answer is apparently "yes." And what signal does this send to every other academic? "If you agree with Abbot, keep it to yourself, or your job will be in jeopardy."

Also in October, the accomplished physicist and President of the Origins Project Foundation Lawrence Krauss wrote an article in the *Wall Street Journal* entitled "How 'Diversity' Turned Tyrannical." It adds to Abbot's argument, providing an incredible exposé of how DEI programs are suppressing debate and research on a range of issues. As the article's subtitle reads: "What began as an effort to hire more minorities has turned into a demand for ideological engagement." A range of initiatives designed to help hire minority faculty

and make the campus environment better for minority students have turned colleges into something that they were never intended to be. There is now "a climate of pervasive fear on campus" which "shuts down what should be an important academic discussion" about healthy diversity.

A recent *Atlantic* article argued this is a whole new level of "cancel culture" in action. The author writes "Abbot's disinvitation...is qualitatively different from other recent instances in which invitations have been rescinded—and suggests that the scope of censorship is continuing to morph and expand." Not only are "his opinions are much less extreme," he writes, but "It is also because the views that provoked such controversy are completely unrelated to the subject on which he was invited to lecture." It's one thing for campuses not to want certain controversies to be discussed. It is a whole further level to exclude any speaker who has an unpopular opinion utterly unrelated from the topic of his speech. If we are always having to worry that our political arguments are going to get us into trouble, trouble of the sort that ends people's careers, then "in effect, this would create a prohibition on controversial political speech for all academics—and eventually perhaps, professionals in other highly visible domains." This is not a small problem, it is huge. The author concludes:

“MIT’s decision is not just another in a long series of campus controversies, then. It sets a precedent that will, unless it is forcefully resisted, pose a serious threat to the maintenance of a free society.”

Some secular scholars who support free speech have had enough. A group of them has decided to found a new, anti-woke university, The University of Austin. This is no fly-by-night operation. Their first president is Pano Kanelos, who resigned his position of President of St. John’s College (Annapolis) last spring. Their advisory board has been stacked with academics and public figures who have been burned by the intolerance of the new left: Journalist Bari Weiss, Biologist Heather Heying, Stephen Pinker, Glenn Loury, Jonathan Haidt, Larry Summers, Andrew Sullivan, and the list goes on. The group is heavy on secular progressives and light on Christians, so it seems unlikely they can maintain a spirit of free inquiry over the long run. But, in the medium-term one thing is certain – the education at this school will not merely be theoretical, but will recognize the courage required in defense of the truth. These students will have professors who have paid a real personal price to stand up for truth.

But what about Christian colleges? As

we mentioned at the outset, things are grim there, also.

One of the more conservative Christian colleges is Grove City College. But, this fall a group of parents and concerned friends wrote a petition outlining the widespread presence of Critical Race Theory at the college. Grove City is one of the more conservative colleges in Christian higher education. They are part of a small circle of long-established colleges who refuse to take federal money because they want to maintain a strong independence of governmental interference. But, this petition outlines how Critical Race Theory (CRT) has made significant inroads at the college. The means are not surprising to some of us in higher education: student life programming, chapel speakers, the teacher education program, and administrative bureaucrats. A chapel speaker used a secular TED talk that promoted CRT and urged students to reflect on the way that it displayed “justice” and “biblical mercy.” The school established a “Diversity Council” that is promoting DEI-friendly books. An RA training session presumed that every white person carried “white guilt” and tried to get students to confess.

Followup articles, first in American Re-

former and then in the Daily Wire, showed that the parents' case was even stronger than it initially appeared. For one example: an education professor is teaching an education activism course about "how to become actively anti-racist." If pursuing "antiracism" simply meant being opposed to racism and trying to get rid of it anywhere it appears, every Christian would support it. But, being "antiracist" means much more than that – it requires white people in particular to "acknowledge and understand their privilege, [and] work to change their internalized racism." It presumes that normal American society is radically racist, that while people inherently have white privilege and white guilt.

Being "actively anti-racist" requires seeking to tear down ordinary and customary American ways of life. It requires seeing racism everywhere – race becomes the lens through which life is viewed. "Antiracism" also turns out to be central to the chapel series. A headlining chapel speaker went on to be hired by Abram Kendi, author of *How to be Antiracist* and one of the most influential persons in the country when it comes to promoting Critical Race Theory.

Even one of the most conservative colleges in the country has chapel speakers that promote Critical Race Theory – that is where Christian higher education has reached in 2022.

Grove City is in a mild situation relative to the

rest of Christian higher education. Gerald McDermott of Beeson Divinity School recently brought to light the extent to which CRT has made inroads into Wheaton College, Baylor University, and Samford University, in his article "Woke Theory at Evangelical Colleges."

Wheaton has an "Office of Multicultural Development" which hosted a "Racialized Minorities Recognition Ceremony" during graduation week 2021. One of the main speakers at this event, who had served as Wheaton's chief diversity officer until this summer when she was hired by a large secular university, said America had a "racialized caste system" and encouraged the students to pursue "anti-racism." If this seems strange to you, or perhaps like something you would hear from a secular news outlet, realize it has become the new normal at Christian colleges.

McDermott also outlines new policies at Samford University in Alabama, a Baptist university and a member of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities. Every student organization now has to host a race-related event every year in order to remain in good standing with the school. So, as McDermott notes, "Parents might wonder why a math or chess club must talk about race in order

to survive.” It is not just student organizations that are having to adjust: faculty at Samford must now undergo “implicit bias” training, despite piles of evidence that such training does no good. In fact, there’s evidence that a lot of the time the training backfires, since many people resent being falsely told that they are biased. Implicit bias training has become a standard part of many workplaces, so at this point it is an “industry standard,” but one would hope that Christian institutions would find ways to address racism without simply going along with current faddish trends.

At all of these institutions there are dissenting faculty members – professors who would like to do things differently, but are unable to bring about change. At some institutions, like Grove City, their jobs may be at risk if they speak out. Grove City professors are all on one-year contracts. And, while turnover seems relatively low at the college, there is the constant background risk that if you offend the president or provost, or cause public embarrassment for the college, you could be out of a job. Even at other institutions, where faculty have the job security of tenure, there are major risks. You could be ostracized by your peers, both locally and in your broader academic community. You could be uninvited from con-

ferences or attacked by organizational leaders (like eminent philosopher Richard Swinburne was attacked by the Society of Christian Philosophers). You could be turned down for promotion, have teaching assignments changed, or lose your leadership positions. Christian academic cannot easily just “find another job.” Even large colleges employ only a handful of professors in each discipline. When an accountant is fired, there are lots of places that they can move to. When a professor is fired, it can mean the end of a career they have been investing in for decades.

Christians often arrive at certain fads even after the broader culture has moved on. Wokeness may turn out to be one such issue. The tides appear to already be turning. The 2021 election for Governor of Virginia is a warning beacon for Christian colleges that are flirting with new left-leaning ideologies. Between the 2020 presidential election and the 2021 governor’s election, the state votes shifted 10% away from Democrats and toward Republicans. Rarely are such large changes seen in such a short amount of time. What was the major issue that prompted such change? Schools and

race. Parents around the state realized that racial ideologies, like the “antiracism” ideas of white guilt, white privilege, and “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” were being taught in their kids’ elementary school classrooms. It was not just left-wing professors or mainstream media that had bought into these ideas, it was their child’s 2nd grade teacher, who was teaching kids about their white privilege and the need for “equity.” The rise of virtual, at-home schooling because of the pandemic allowed parents to “sit in” on their kids’ classrooms for the first time. When the reality of these ideas comes out into the light, secular parents and Christian parents alike reject them.

Christian schools must recognize that these new progressive ideologies pose an existential threat to their continued existence. As colleges around the country struggle with enrollment, and face the risk of closure at an unprecedented rate, Christian schools must send a clear message that their education is fundamentally different from what goes on in secular

institutions. Parents, donors, and k-12 educators must have confidence that what happens at Christian U will build on, rather than tear down, the early education of their students. If you hear stories about a college, reach out to them. Ask questions. Don’t accept easy answers. Many leaders at many colleges want to do the right thing, but aren’t convinced it will work. The more encouragement they get from parents, pastors, and k-12 educators, the more they will be strengthened to lead with integrity.



David Talcott is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at The King’s College in New York City. He lives in New Jersey with his wife Anna and their six children. He is an elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) and oversees the Christian College Project of truthXchange.

Link to the document online:

[Post Christian Ideologies at Christian and Secular Colleges](#)

[Continued from page 1](#)

In a series of videos released by journalist Christopher F. Rufo, a fellow at the Manhattan Institute, Disney executive Karey Burke told attendees of the meeting that she is the "mother of two queer children - one transgender child, and one pangender child". Wanting to see more LGBT characters in Disney programs, she states, "We have many, many, many LGBTQIA characters in our stories, and yet we don't have enough leads and narratives in which gay characters just get to be characters and not have to be about gay stories." Rufo, in a tweet, said that Burke added in the video that she wanted a minimum of 50 percent of characters to be LGBTQIA and racial minorities.

See here: <https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/disney-filmmakers-in-leaked-videos-adding-queerness-to-childrens-programs-is-the-goal.html>

and here: https://www.city-journal.org/disneys-ideological-capture?wallit_nosession=1

Latoya Raveneau, directing two episodes of *The Proud Family* on Disney Plus, reports she previously had heard "whispers" - when she worked for other studios - that Disney does not allow LGBT characters in its programs. But she said that's not the case. *The Proud Family* includes a same sex married couple. She says, "My experience was bafflingly the opposite of what I had heard, and the showrunners were super welcoming of LGBT characters." She further states, "Our leadership over there has been so welcoming to my not-at-all secret gay agenda...I don't have to be afraid to, like, let's have these two characters kiss in the background. I was just, wherever I could, just basically adding queerness [to projects]."

See here: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6418940/bio?ref_=nm_ov_bio_sm

Another Disney production coordinator, Allen Martsch, discussed adding LGBT content to the upcoming Disney series, Marvel's *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur*. Martsch applauds Disney saying, "They've been really open to exploring queer stories, ... we take place in modern-day New York -

so making sure that that's an accurate reflection of New York. So I put together a tracker of our background characters to make sure that we have like the full breadth of expression."

He concludes by saying, "...It's not just about a numbers game of how many LGBTQ-plus characters you have,...The more centered a story is on a character, the more nuanced you get to get into their story. And especially with trans characters, you can't see if anyone is trans - there's not one way to look trans. And so kind of the only way to have these canonical trans characters, canonical asexual characters, canonical bisexual characters, is to give them stories where they can be their whole selves."

Yes, Disney holds great power to persuade children and adults into believing it is kind and loving to accept this perverted worldview. Add to this the promotion of the LGBTQ lifestyles by politicians and lobbyists, then a sense of the battle takes on a greater sense of urgency. And it gets more complicated when the President of the United States aids and abets the issue. Just recently some observed a Transgender Day of Visibility and President Biden has declared his support of children and adolescents with gender dysphoria to undergo body mutilating surgeries or use puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to look more like the opposite sex despite unknowns about the long-term side effects.

See here: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/mar/31/joe-biden-to-mark-transgender-day-of-visibility-wi/>

Standing in opposition to the above procedures the American College of Pediatricians said, "There is not a single long-term study to demonstrate the safety or efficacy of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgeries for transgender believing youth,"... "This means that youth transition is experimental and therefore, parents cannot provide informed consent, nor can minors provide

assent for these interventions. Moreover, the best long-term evidence we have among adults shows that medical intervention fails to reduce suicide."

See here: <https://acpeds.org/transgender-interventions-harm-children>

Also, on their website, acpeds.org has a page stating that "Transgender Interventions Harm Children" and that puberty blockers may cause both mental illness and permanent physical harm adding that such is not only experimental but dangerous.

Besides Disney, now Apple is lending its strength to opposing gender legislation. That makes two very powerful entities. According to an article in Politico, Apple's communications, government affairs and legal offices are working with policymakers and advocacy groups to plot out strategies in filing court briefs in cases involving LGBTQ "rights."

Fred Sainz, their senior of corporate communications, recently pressed leaders of fellow Fortune 500 companies to denounce an order by the Texas governor that called for child abuse investigations of parents who provide transgender children with "gender-affirming" procedures despite opposition from doctors. Sainz asked these leaders to lend their company's name to the issue because Apple will lend its name and logo to fight for LGBTQ rights. All Americans will be affected by decisions made by Disney and Apple.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2022/04/01/apple-lobbying-anti-lgbtq-laws-00022127>

Note: I believe it is important to distinguish some terms. The so-called "anti-LGBTQ" laws are not *against* the 1% of the population who identify as transgender or the 3% who identify as homosexual (percentages according to the YouGov poll released in March). Instead these laws should rightly be *termed parental rights legislation or child protection laws* to protect the vulnerable from possible lifelong harm.

What is a parent to do? What is a Christian to do? How are parents to handle the area of children's programs and entertainment? How do we respond? Boycott Disney? Throw away your Apple phone? Good luck with that! Even if that were possible, the extensive effects of Disney influence are worldwide. I think it is safe to say that one thing Americans will not give up is their freedom to be entertained. I'm probably including myself. I love sports. Many people do and to give that up would be a challenge. "Don't mess with my entertainment" might be the prevailing attitude.

I remember reading about the contrast between Christians in the Soviet Union under Khrushchev and Christians in America during the same time period. The difference was Christians under Khrushchev were tested by persecution while Christians in America were tested by their freedoms. Can it be said that our freedoms have blinded us and are holding us hostage, preventing us from bringing every thought captive to the word of God and keeping us from seeing the threat at our doorsteps? Some say that only time will tell, but I believe time is already telling! Let's open our eyes and be accountable to truth. Let's seek to be transformed by the renewing of our minds in the Word of God instead of being conformed to the world system and its culture.

Donate



Apologetics
RESOURCE CENTER

2376 Lakeside Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244
www.arcapologetics.org