

## **Free or Fragmented? Can We Overcome a Polarized Society?**

Many western societies suffer from cultural conflict because of incompatible worldviews. The public square is governed by moralized debates that frequently culminate in quasi-religious claims. How can we as Christians strengthen free and stable democratic societies with intellectual, cultural, and social leadership rooted in biblical wisdom and courage?

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- I. The fragmentation of a free society
  - A. The grand ideologies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – Power kills and absolute power kills absolutely.<sup>1</sup>
  - B. Karl Marx and his creative grandchildren – When ideology becomes common sense.<sup>2</sup>
  - C. Identity politics, wokeness and cancel culture – When madness becomes common sense.<sup>3</sup>
  - D. The gospel of guilt – No new heaven or new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2. Pet. 3,13)
- II. The silent societal transformation
  - A. Destroying the foundations<sup>4,5,6</sup>

- B. Highway to hell – vanity, opportunism, fear
  
- C. The result: A shattered society
  
- III. Christians: The friends of freedom and unity
  - A. The liberal, secularized state lives on conditions it cannot guarantee – We can
  
  - B. From conformity to courage – Advice of Alvin Plantinga<sup>7</sup> and Paul in Romans 12:2
  
  - C. Christians and the government – between Romans 13 and Revelation 13
  
- IV. Can we overcome a polarized society?
  - A. How should we then live?<sup>8</sup> – Some encouragement to go
  
  - B. A new Christian manifesto?<sup>9</sup> – Changing nations<sup>10</sup>

**Sources:**

- <sup>1</sup> Rudolph J. Rummel: Death by Government. Transaction Publishers (1994), 6<sup>th</sup> paperback printing 2008
- <sup>2</sup> Karl Popper: The Open Society and its enemies. Routledge (1994), first published in 1945
- <sup>3</sup> Roger Scruton: Fools, Frauds and Firebrands – Thinkers of the new left. Bloomsbury (2015)
- <sup>4</sup> Douglas Murray: The strange death of Europe. Immigration, Identity, Islam. Bloombury Continuum (2017)
- <sup>5</sup> Vishal Mangalwadi: The book that made your world - How the Bible created the soul of western civilization. Thomas Nelson (2011)
- <sup>6</sup> Gabriele Kuby: The global sexual revolution - Destruction of freedom in the name of freedom. Angelico Press (2015)
- <sup>7</sup> Alvin Plantinga: Advice to Christian Philosophers. With a special preface for Christian thinkers from different disciplines. *Faith and Philosophy – J. of the Society of Christian Philosophers* 1, S. 253-271 (1984).
- <sup>8</sup> Francis A. Schaeffer: How should we then live? The rise and decline of western thought and culture. Crossway, 1976 (2005)
- <sup>9</sup> Francis A. Schaeffer: A Christian Manifesto. Crossway (1981)
- <sup>10</sup> Vishal Mangalwadi and David Marshall (Eds.): The third education revolution. Sought after media / fontis (2021)