**Postmodernism: The Root of the West's Civilizational Crisis**

In our postmodern age, we in the West have lost our faith in the very existence of objective truth. In so doing, we have discarded our only coherent ground for human dignity and respect for fundamental freedoms: the idea that we are creatures made in the image of God, entailing an objective truth and moral code to which all human beings are subject. With every person now claiming the right to re-create himself in his own freely chosen image—to decide for himself what is true—we are losing the basis for social cohesion, for the free exchange of ideas in pursuit of the common good. Christians are called to resist--to speak the truth in love--in a way that directly confronts postmodernism's dominance among media, academic, and governing elites, and its resulting power over people’s hearts and minds.

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I. Introduction: Identity Politics as an Outgrowth of the Postmodernist Denial of Truth

II. The Heart of Identity Politics

A. What is identity politics?

B. Identity politics and political correctness elevates feelings above truth

C. Identity Politics arises out of a comprehensive world and life view

D. Identity politics categorizes and separates people from each other according to race,

sex or sexual orientation

III. What Gave Rise to Identity Politics and How Does it Affect Liberty?

A. The loneliness resulting from every individual's "right to choose" gave rise to the

group rights of identity politics

B. Identity politics sacrifices freedom to group identity

IV. The Postmodernist Denial of Truth and the Loss of Human Dignity

A. Postmodernism's radical redefinition of human dignity

B. The destructiveness of postmodernism's new human dignity

i. Postmodern idea of human dignity gives no grounds for the idea of the equal

dignity of all people

ii. Postmodern idea of human dignity is arbitrary and divisive, like identity

politics

iii. Postmodern idea of human dignity does not account for human fallibility

V. Restoring Human Dignity and Liberty in the Postmodern Age

A. Martin Luther and the Judeo-Christian concept of human dignity

B. Dignity grounded in the equal status of all human beings before God

VI. Recovering the Genius of Democracy in the West

A. Democracy in the West is based on the truth about human nature and human dignity

B. Defending the truth in the postmodern age

C. Generosity toward others and humility about ourselves