

How Can We Understand the Self-Righteousness that Pervades Our Modern Culture?

We live in a culture in which forgiveness is increasingly out of fashion. In contrast, we hear voices that drip with self-righteous indignation. How can we as Christians understand and respond to this current cultural moment? This session looks at the need for truth, judgment and forgiveness in the Church, in law, and in society.

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I. Anger, Fear and Hope

A. *A Generation denied the opportunities their parents enjoyed*

II. A Clash of Moralities

A. *The Sexual Revolutions of the 1920s and 1960s celebrated immorality in the name of freedom*

B. *"Wokeness" is a new morality: patriarchy, fixed gender roles, racial inequality, climate change are repudiated as evil*

III.A Contrast of Worldviews

A. *We construct the world as we see it (Iain McGilchrist, *The Matter with Things* (2021))*

B. *We are all prone to confirmation bias: Social Media Algorithms provide a supercharged feedback loop*

IV. The Temptation of Tribalism

(Mt. 5:46) If you love only those who love you, what reward will you get?

A. *Identity Politics*

B. *The Equation of Actions with Essence*

V. The Attractions of Self-Righteousness

(Lk. 18:9-14) The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector

VI. The Disciplines of Listening, Discerning and Reflecting

A. *Listening, despite being offended*

B. *Discerning the grain of truth or the genuine concern*

C. *Reflecting – recognizing our own sinfulness* (Mt. 7:3-5; Lk. 6:41-42)