



CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY

LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD

CULTURE WARS: THE BATTLE OVER SOCIAL DISCOURSE

THE STRATEGY

MARGINALIZATION

- Categorize people who speak using terms and language that are being deconstructed as uneducated or socially/psychologically maladjusted, or both.
- Examples – Bigots, racists, uneducated, unscientific, haters, binary sexists, religious zealots, deniers, etc.

IDENTIFICATION

- Classifying people, positively or negatively according to the language they use.
- Marginalized people must pay a price when they misspeak and offend.
- Argumentation is avoided. The marginalized are not worthy or capable of being persuaded.



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OUR CHALLENGES

- Contemporary culture is increasingly marginalizing Christians who talk and think according to a Christian worldview. Examples?
- The Church must mold and shape how to talk and think according to the Christian worldview . . . or our secular culture will shape how the baptized will talk and think - especially our children.
- Historically the Church has taught the language of confession of sin, confession of faith, prayer, and worship.
- The Church must now consider the task of teaching and nurturing our children in the language of everyday social discourse. Or . . . our surrounding secular culture will.



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OUR CHALLENGES

- We need to raise up young Christians to be counter-cultural: using language shaped by the assumptions and values of the Christian world view.
- We need to teach our children why it is important *to talk it as they walk it*. . . .
- Cass Sunstein – *Office of Information and Regulative Affairs* (2009-12)
- Strategy: a nudge, a push, a shove . . . to achieve conformity in speaking and acting
- What should we teach our children about why it worth being marginalized for talking and acting Christian? Lets talk
- For parents: the goal is to silence or neutralize your voice!



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EXCURSUS ON GIVING AND TAKING OFFENSE

Giving Offense: to encourage another to violate their conscience or entice them to stumble.

- Christians have a responsibility not to give offense.
- Examples: to offer pork to an Orthodox Jew or Muslim (knowingly).
- To offer alcoholic beverages to a recovering alcoholic (knowingly)

Taking Offense: offense by our life and language that reflects Christ and our life of faith.

- We may *regret* when others take offense but must never apologize.
- May have to suffer recrimination when others take offense.
- Must teach our children that such recrimination is worth it.



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CULTURE WARS 2022: THE BATTLE IS OVER!

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