

# ATHEISM AND THE NEW CRUSADE

TMW VESPERS

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ELDER TESS LAMBERT

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szw-IPR3d0Y&list=PL6-Mv8H520RncgAIBdn\\_u3bAlt\\_kGZZhH&index=11](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szw-IPR3d0Y&list=PL6-Mv8H520RncgAIBdn_u3bAlt_kGZZhH&index=11)

Dear Lord, thank you for how you have led and guided this movement. We see an almighty hand behind every step that we have taken. We are in awe at times, when we think back of how you have led us to understand external events in all their complexities, so much that we expected so much that might not have been predicted but makes perfect sense that we know how to relate to. We know what positions to take on issues because you have taught us. You have led and guided us just as you led guided ancient Israel towards the Promised Land. It is as real as the pillar of fire. I pray Lord as we continue to study together that we will only see with greater clarity, how wise your guiding really has been. Please deepen our understanding and help our minds to understand and absorb what you wish to teach us in these classes. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

We are studying the Midnight Cry (MC). That surprises me. You know that it's been 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. It's been a while, and we are studying the MC. We are studying two streams of information. 2018 was the beginning of kind of an incredible journey; and when I look at what 2018 was, and the light that we're walking into today, as we see it kind of flicker off into the future, just those glimpses of the greater understanding God wants to give us, I think it is perhaps some might think it's not rational because I can't break it down into and show them the pieces of data, but it is just as real, just as true. It's impossible to not feel inspired, I believe, by that journey.

We are studying two streams of information. This was meant to be a bit of a critique into the left-wing, how we break apart the left-wing, and understand how to sift information, how to sift sources that we read online, and in newspapers. In the information age, how do we sort information even from trustworthy sources, because we don't accept 100% of what a trustworthy source has to say?

So, we lost our board-work because of our last week's camp-meeting. I just want to redraw a couple of things. By the way, I might ask, Katherine, did you read the media broadcast article on Elon Musk and his take-over bid for Twitter? [Referring to the article by *The Washington Post* titled "Elon Musk wants a free speech utopia. Technologist clap back."]

Katherine – Yes.

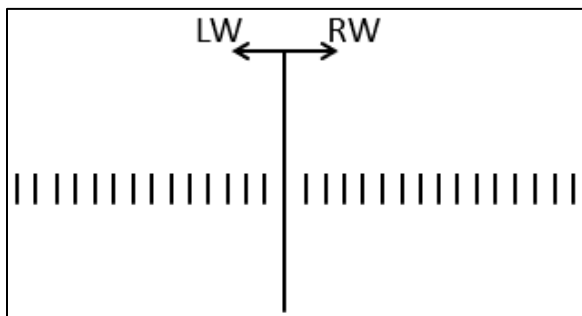
Elder Tess – How did that make you think about what we've been saying about freedom and equality? Did that gel at all? Did that connect?

Katherine – Yeah, it did. It seemed to be really closely connected with what we’re learning right now. I thought the timing was really interesting. He seems to prioritize freedom of speech over other things. That’s like a core value that he holds, that the internet should provide a forum where people can just speak and say whatever they like. There should be no censorship. And I think the article was pointing out that’s sort of a bit of an old outdated mindset in some ways. Some of these social media platforms have moved on from them. Elon Musk is a little bit behind the times.

Elder Tess – I find that concept of it being outdated interesting, because it is where Jack Dorsey, the founder of Twitter, where these people who are the young entrepreneurs of the tech age, it was that idolization of freedom that so often happens. And then they started their platforms, they let them rip, and then they watched years of what happened when you give that type of freedom and that type of free speech. And it’s through harming society we see the consequences of some of that that they have learned the hard way that freedom needs to come under something, whatever they think that thing is. Freedom has to be ruled by another principle, and we would call that equality. I think it’s reasonable even externally to call that equality. But how the tech platforms have learnt that the hard way, and many have not learned, and that how that is creating a key part of this culture war. Did you have anything else you want to say on that?

Katherine – No, that’s all, I think.

Elder Tess – So, this is the left-wing. Left-wing and the right-wing. And, we know that the MC was to move us from being right-wing to being left-wing. And, we know that’s important, because both sides of this curtain of the great controversy, whether we’re dealing with the behind the scenes spiritual of Christ and Satan or we’re dealing with the world you see around us, the politics, the elections in Australia where we seem to have a centrist party, a right-wing party, and far-right wing party. It’s a bit of a mess. Whether we’re looking at that externally, both sides of that political spectrum centers on election, centers on a choice between two political ideologies: Christ and Satan; left-wing/right-wing. Perhaps that might be overly simplistic and scare some people, but we have been arguing that the tree in the Garden of Eden that Adam and Eve had to, both of them, when they made that choice, what happened was just an election campaign.



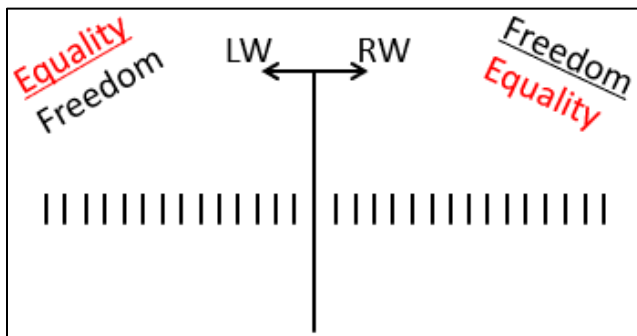
God said, don’t eat it. Choose my government. Choose the principles of my government. And, when Satan came down, all he did was, he was just campaigning. It’s a classic political campaign

where Satan is saying to Eve, look what my government can offer you. My government can offer you so much more. My government can offer you freedom; unrestrained freedom. God is trying to restrain you. He's causing you harm by restricting your freedom. If you want to come up higher, to a higher state of being, to a higher state of power, freedom, vote for me. She votes for Lucifer. It was a campaign, and Satan won.

So, Satan claimed this earth. He claimed this earth because they voted for him, and God respecting people's freedom to vote, freedom is still important, said, you with your free will, your freedom, voted for Satan's political party. So, I, God, cannot step in now. Your free will allows you to choose your political party, and everything that has happened since then is because earth voted for a political system that Satan offered in Eden. And, what God has been doing since then is a political campaign to say, ok, some people have voted for Satan, but every single person in their lifetime gets to vote. We all get to vote whether we want Lucifer's government or God's government.

So, both sides of the great controversy curtain are centered on politics, and therefore we need to understand them. The MC was God, as part of his political campaign for humanity saying, you think that it's right to be in this spectrum (pointing to the right-wing), but I need to move you [to the left-wing spectrum] because what we believe externally, politically, is directly connected to this election campaign between Christ and Satan.

So, we were here (right), and what we have been discussing as a group is first of all, what principle governs the left-wing, and we saw that it was equality governing freedom. And, just as one example, we shared that media broadcast article that Katherine and I just discussed on Elon Musk and Twitter. This is the underlying issue that is driving the culture war, not just in America, not just in the West. You can see it in South Korea, in Ghana, in Russia, etc. It is driving that culture war of many countries, including Russia which don't have freedom anyway. So, it becomes a little more complicated. I can see that. [The left] freedom coming underneath equality.



Right-wing says, freedom above all else. Still believing in equality, but not willing to restrict someone's freedom, to provide equality. So, not willing to restrict freedom of speech on Twitter when that let loose ultimate freedom of speech is a driving force behind growing misogyny, far-right racism, militia groups, Donald Trump, and everything surrounding that

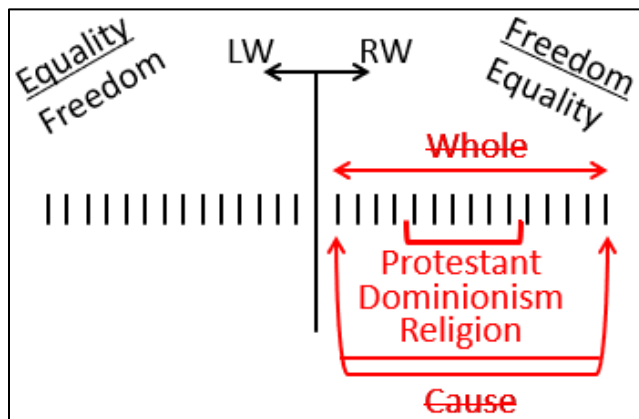
ideology. So, (pointing to the left) equality over freedom; (pointing to the right) freedom over equality.

We defined the beating heart at the center of right-wing politics and the left-wing politics. Then, I shared with you a VOX news article. I'm not sure if people have had a chance to re-read that before tonight. If you have had a chance to re-read it today, this afternoon, could you please put your hand in the chat? If you read the VOX article. Just to know if people were able to do that, and who was able to do that. Three quarters of it. That was probably the majority of the useful of what I wanted to see. A quarter of it that might have missed some of the quotes. It is long. Moli, you read it. Moli, did you see anything more in that article because of what we've been discussing the last few weeks or did it just kind of refresh your memory?

Moli – Yeah, I was just refreshing my memory on what we've been talking about. I only read this probably half of it. I'm not even finished on that one.

Elder Tess – Sure. I know that asking people to do that on an afternoon, on a Friday afternoon, and the length of it was not necessarily going to happen. I was just curious if people got more out of it, having read it after what we discussed last week, because I know that I did. It refreshed somethings, and we are going to quote some portions of it tonight. So, that might help.

Partly based on that article, without necessarily proving it, I said Christianity is here (marking about the 1/3 to 1/2 from the center to the right), Protestantism. Protestantism would have called that dominionism. And, just to, I suppose, get to the point, I'm saying that Protestantism, Christian religion, is not the whole of the problem. I'm saying that it's not the whole of the problem. I'm also saying that it is not the cause of the problem.



So, we have spent most of the time from 2018 targeting religion, Protestantism specifically, Protestantism because isn't it Protestantism that brings about the Sunday Law (SL)? So, seeing Protestantism and dominionism, how they have impacted the Republican Party, this portion of the political spectrum, targeting dominionism specifically, I'm talking about Ted Cruz and other Dominionist, but what I want us to see and what we started to pull out after that VOX news article was, it was not the whole of the problem, and it is not the cause of the problem. We

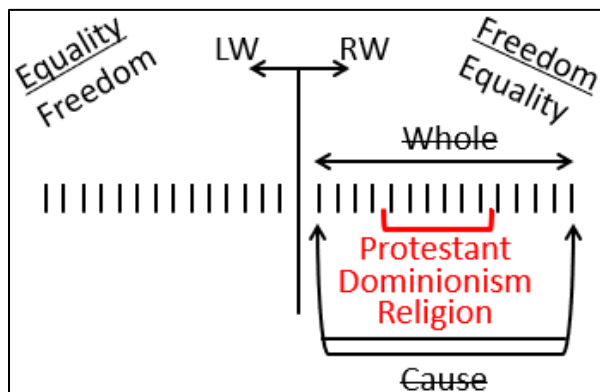
want to see the whole, the other portions (the rest of the right-wing spectrum) of it; and we want to get to the point, which is the underlying cause.

I want to quote here. This is an article, an interview. The interviewer is Sarah Henry, and this is the Humanist. So, the website is the Humanist. And so, it's an atheistic based publication. Sarah Henry is herself an atheist, and Sarah Henry is interviewing a woman, Alex DiBranco; and Alex DiBranco, she is also an atheist. So, this is an atheist interviewing an atheist on the Humanist website publication. It's titled, "Exposing and Challenging Male Supremacism."

So, Alex DiBranco is the woman being interviewed. Just to give a little background, she is a sociologist, a journalist, and a researcher, studying the founding and development of the conservative movement in the U.S. She is the executive director and co-founder of the institute for research on male supremacism. Her work includes a focus on male supremacist terrorism and violence, including Incel mass violence and anti-feminist conspiracies and the alt-right as an umbrella for white supremacism, male supremacism, and anti-Semitic mobilizations. She provides training for social justice organizers on countering supremacist mobilization and ideology.

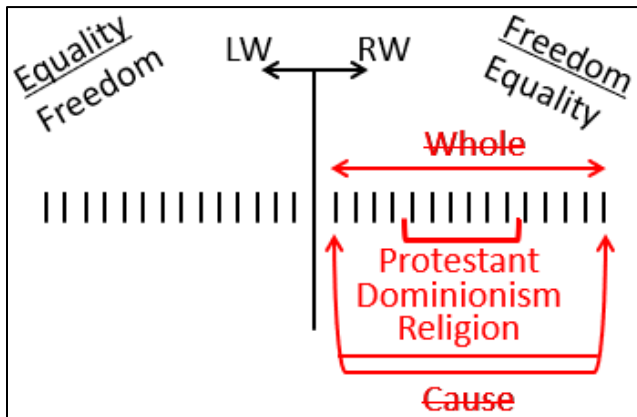
That's just a little bit of the background into the woman being interviewed. I only have a couple of points to make from this interview. Really one point. Sarah Henry says, *"tell me a little bit about yourself. What in your background inspired you to found the Institute for Research on Male Supremacism?"* Alex DiBranco answers, *"While my original research focused on the Christian right and anti-abortion movements, I also worked as an activist on sexual violence issues, and starting in the early 2010s I was watching men's rights activists (MRAs) like Paul Elam and their victim-blaming rhetoric."* We're going to actually quote Paul Elam. He's going to come up down the road, so I just mentioned him. *"Over time, I became more concerned with the growth of secular misogynist movements."*

Sarah Henry says, *"It seems to me that, more often than not, religious dominionism, white nationalism, and male supremacy are inextricably intertwined. Is that something you've found in your work?"* So, the interviewer is going to ask Alex DiBranco, that it seems to her, more often than not (so, most of the time), it is religious dominionism intertwined with white nationalism, racism, and male supremacy, sexism. So, Sarah Henry is saying that it seems to her that you find racism and sexism intertwined with Christian dominionism.



Alex DiBranco answers, "I would actually have to say that contemporary white supremacist and male supremacist communities demonstrate more of what I term secular misogyny, which includes what appears to be an overrepresentation of atheists with regards to their small percentage of the population." So, the interviewer (again, these are atheists being interviewed) is saying, isn't it religious dominionism that intertwines around racism and misogyny; and Alex DiBranco counters that and says, contemporarily, no. Contemporarily, what you find is secular movements and atheism intertwined around white supremacy and male supremacist movements.

I wanted to get that, so to speak, from the horse's mouth. That's the same point we made last week. And remember the VOX news article that said, there is a pipeline between libertarianism and the alt-right. And we are going to go back into discussing libertarianism. But there is also a pipeline, an over-representation of atheists in the alt-right as well in regards to their percentage in the actual population. So, when we talk about the far-right trinity, the alt-right trinity, it is not Protestant dominionism that takes the lion's share of the issue. So, what she had just said is, from her research, Protestantism isn't the whole of the problem. It isn't even half, religion, not just Protestantism, religion, dominionism, is not even half of the problem. And, that's kind of what we've been exploring.



Going back to that VOX news article, it spoke about that trinity, that far-right, right-wing trinity. Who remembers that? Marie. What was the trinity?

Marie – I have to look at my notes. I'm sorry.

Elder Tess – That's fine. Notes are fine.

Marie – Ok. Men's rights, atheism, and libertarianism theology.

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| <p><u>Trinity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Men's Rights</li> <li>• Atheism</li> <li>• Libertartarianism</li> </ul> |
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Elder Tess – Men’s rights, atheism, and libertarianism. It’s not dominionism that forms the bulk of the right-wing problem. It is there; and we’ve targeted it, because it’s there that we find Adventism; and Adventism is a very small group of people in reality. I think we’ve all said Adventism is a small world. Everyone knows that once they have a piece of news that they don’t want too many people in the church to know about. It’s a small community, and we’re speaking to a small community because we care about Adventism. We care about the church, and we care about the people in it. It’s our target audience.

We’re going to target the issues that relate to Adventism. But if we step back from that we still need to see it in its context. We still need to see the subjects of racism as a prophetic subject, and sexism as a prophetic subject as the Sunday Law issue. We have to see it in its correct external context; and when we put it in its correct external context it is a combination of atheism, libertarianism, and misogyny summarized in men’s rights movements, but misogyny in general that are the foundational principles of much of the far-right.

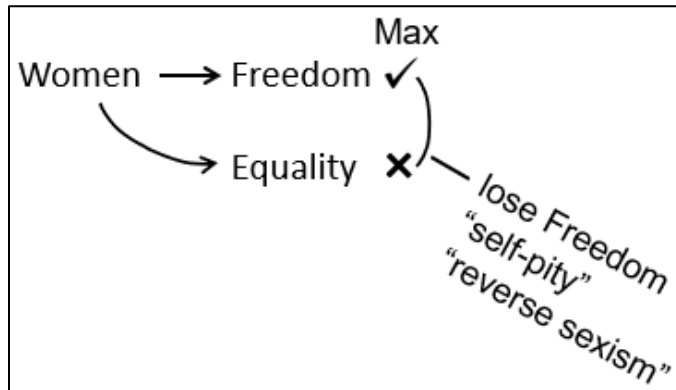
In that VOX article, just a couple of points that I wanted us to take from it. It says that he went to college in 2006, and he was 18 when he went to college. So, if my math is correct, then when this article was written which was 2015, Max is about 27. We’re talking about a younger segment of the society. All of the context of what they’re discussing in the shadow of Gamergate is a younger segment of society, and that is one of the reasons that looking at this secular trinity, it is more symbolic of America’s future than its past, and because of that we can see the danger that the U.S. is in, that the lamb-like beast is in.

Max would be about 27. It’s not aging Protestants who are losing their dominionism and trying to desperately to protect it. We’re talking about a younger segment. Max, quoting, “[Max] doesn't think much of feminism in general, or at least of what he says feminism became once the voting and the jobs and the abortion rights were sorted and the word became a dog whistle for "self-pity and sexism toward men.” Couple of points from that paragraph. Max sees that women now have the right to vote. They can get a job, and they’re allowed to be in the work force, and abortion rights are sorted, which feels like an awfully premature thing to say in the context of 2022.

It’s like the victories were won. And I just like to make the point that these men are not opposing that women, or at least, the less radical of men’s rights activists, whether they accept that acronym or not, I’m not proposing that women lose their freedom. They’re fine for women to have freedom just the same as they’re fine for gay marriage. They’re ok with that. What they’re not ok with is equality. I hope we can see that in these statements. Max is saying women were given their freedom. They can vote now. They’ve got nothing else to ask for. Well, they do. Women have equality to ask for. The issue is not about freedom; it’s about equality. Once, women could vote. Once, women could enter the work force, what else do they have to ask for except equality. But again, equality is going to cost men some freedom, and he of course, using the language of the paragraph, that becomes sexism towards men.

So, women have freedom. And Max says, great. They should be allowed to have their freedom, but women say, no, we want equality. And, when Max sees that women want equality, he can’t

support that, because for women to have equality, it's going to cause him to lose some of his own freedom; and we discussed that when we showed that court case (that we had on the board, which needs to go back on the board), when we discussed Title II and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.



They're all about equality and not about freedom, and that is where libertarianism, this trinity, opposed portions of the Civil Rights Act. This is where they oppose feminism, because they see that feminism is not fighting for certain freedoms, like women can vote. They have their freedoms, to an extent. They are fighting for equality. And, when women fight for equality, men start to lose some freedom, and that causes self-pity and a feeling of reverse sexism that they are being discriminated against because they are losing some freedom.

You have to pull the thinking apart to see that, but it is still all this inter-tangled argument about freedom and equality. With men's rights activists saying, you have freedom, you have the right to vote; and women saying, we want more than that. And then men feeling that they are the ones being harmed, they are the ones being discriminated against; and pointing the finger back and saying, you are sexist, women are sexist; feminists are sexist, because we are losing our freedoms. We can no longer in good society make sexist, misogynistic comments without it harming our careers. We can no longer show prejudice towards women in the workforce. We feel this restriction, this pressure by appropriate parts of the left-wing society to treat women with equality, and that impacts their freedom.

I hope that all makes sense to us. It's building upon what we did when we discussed libertarianism. Josephine.

Josephine – I was just going to say, that makes them feel oppressed, doesn't it? They feel like a victim, like they're being oppressed.

Elder Tess – Yes. They see it as reverse sexism. Being sexist is one of the things I'm currently being accused for, particularly in Brazil; but there is that accusation coming from men who have been in that self-pity, because this movement is insisting on equality, not freedom but equality, and that causes a feeling of oppression with some men who have benefited for a very long time, felt the benefit of their status and finding that taken away from them. So, yes. It is a feeling of being oppressed. I've faced that in 2020 extensively. One of the arguments that some



men who have now left the movement were making in Uganda and South Sudan was a fight against women, even just giving women freedom, because they were so terrified that to relinquish the hold on women; which I cannot in words describe the horrific extent of the control over women there, both freedom and equality.

They felt that if their hold was loosened on women their greatest fear was that men might be oppressed. It is a very deep fear. It is also the fear behind white supremacy, behind losing a white majority America, that fear that white people will suddenly be suppressed by a multi-cultural country. It is that fear, and we have spoken about that fear in a Christian context. It is the fear behind dominionism, but you do not have to approach it from a religious perspective to have that fear or belief that you are being oppressed, because of someone else's fight for equality. It exists in religious context for sure. That is dominionism. That is church and state at its core. That is 1888 at its core.

The Sunday keepers in 1888 were so afraid that if it wasn't enshrined in the very constitution that Sunday was to be a day of rest, they were so afraid that all these Catholics coming in, all of these Jews coming in, and to a small extent, those small Seventh Day Adventists, especially Catholics, and Jewish immigrants, the Irish immigrants, they were so afraid in 1888 that they would lose supremacy, and with that, they would be oppressed.

And, if you go and read AT Jones, all he wrote about that history, it is so clear, Protestantism was being driven in 1888 by a firm belief that they were the oppressed. Not just that they would be oppressed in the future, but they were being oppressed right then and there, often because of immigrants, Irish immigrants, Catholic Irish immigrants, and Jewish immigrants. They were sure that they were not just future being oppressed, but they were being oppressed currently, and the only way to stop that would be was to change the U.S. constitution and enshrine Sunday as the Sabbath day, and just make everyone keep it.

So, that feeling of being oppressed is very important. If it is an oppression, because there was oppression. Were there oppressions in 1888? Yes. Irish Catholics were being oppressed; Jews were being oppressed; Seventh Day Adventists were being oppressed; secular humanists, atheists were being oppressed in 1888, because it was a dominant Protestant church-led church and state movement. There was oppression. There is oppression today. There is an oppression of people of a different race, of immigrants, of Jews. Often now, there is a hostility towards people from Asia. There is oppression, and the SL context, the most fundamental and deepest set and wide spread and most generally worse suppression in human society is misogyny. There is oppression.

There was oppression in 1888. There was oppression in 1850; slavery. But it was the south that said, we are oppressed; we are oppressed by Abraham Lincoln and this over-enlarged northern government. So, there was oppression, but it is the people who are not being oppressed, who feel that they are the victims, who feel the self-pity; the southern states in the civil war who feel the self-pity; Protestantism in 1888; men's rights groups today, and all the people who would say they are not men's rights activists, but still come under the same ideology. Josephine. Did you have something else to say or were you finished?

Josephine – I’m finished. I think I’ll write to you about my story.

Elder Tess – Sure. Thank you for sharing. It’s an important point to draw out. There is harm being done to a segment of society, but in Florida, it’s not school children who are being suppressed and harmed by Florida’s culture. It is not cisgender heterosexual people. It is the LGBT community. But you can see which side is trying to use the government to “protect themselves.” It’s been this way. It was this way in 1850. It was this way in 1888. So, it will be this way today.

Continuing to quote. *“But these vagaries — the specific grievances of Gamergate, the sort of person who self-applies ‘MRA’ (men’s rights activist) versus the sort who prefers some other acronym — are merely symptoms of a broader male sense of victimhood. It is this victim complex I intend to tell you about.”* So, this article is acknowledging that someone might not want to be called a men’s rights activist. Some people were involved in Gamergate. Some people weren’t, but it’s a broad segment of men of society and of women also defending this mindset who have that sense of victimhood and the victim complex. Max, himself, would prefer not to be called men’s rights activist. He prefers the term humanist, which is another way of saying rational atheist. And, we are coming back to atheism.

*“He orders us another round and continues on with what has become a familiar line from men's rights activists (or "new atheists" or libertarians).”* This article repeats, doubles down on the trinity. It says that these words are interchangeable. He’s going to continue a common phrase, a phrase common to all three groups of people; for MRAs, new atheism which is really just militant 21<sup>st</sup> century atheism, and libertarians. So, this is the second time that this article mentions this trinity. It’s not by accident. They’re adding weight to that point. For Max, it is all a crusade, the struggle against the church. Atheism. It’s a crusade against the church, the state. Libertarianism. And women. *“For Max, it is all a crusade. The struggle against the church, the state, the women.”* Church-atheism. State-libertarianism. Women-feminism.

#### Trinity

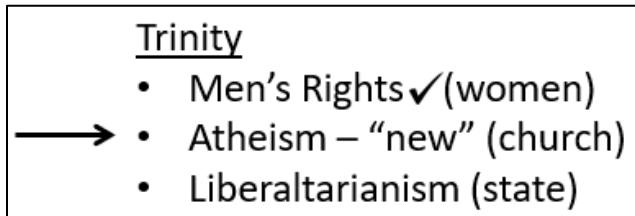
- Men’s Rights ✓ (women)
- Atheism – “new” (church)
- Liberalitarianism (state)

What is the common phrase you find behind each one of these segments of the trinity? It’s the explicit claim that they are the last remaining purveyors of reason. Quoting the type of phrase that they will use, “they (feminist, religious people, anyone not libertarian, anyone preferencing equality over freedom), just won’t use logic.” “I am just arguing logically.” “I am only interested in evidence.” You can’t scroll down a comment section without flashing past a few of these, and they are tribal markers; not real claims. They’re tribal markers marking someone generally as MRAs, an atheist, or a libertarian.

When we start discussing new atheism and people like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, you’re going to see these phrases; but you’re seeing these phrases in a large segment

of secular society, and even non-secular society, and even religious society that will tune in to listen to someone like, I think it was Simmons, (I think probably the most dangerous of all them); no, it was Sam Harris. They'll tune into Sam Harris the same way they'll tune into Ben Shapiro, because Ben Shapiro will use the phrasing that he's only interested in evidence, that he is arguing logically, that they, others who are against him, just won't use logic. And, as the document says, these are more tribal markers than anything else.

So, they are fighting the church, the state, and women. If we consider that the Sunday Law is a combination of church and state, shouldn't these people be on our side? If they're fighting against the influence of the church, wouldn't you think that this entire spectrum that we've been discussing for a few weeks now, would be on our side at the SL? That would be the rational expectation, wouldn't it? But remember, I'm irrational. So, there you go. We're irrational apparently.



We started to investigate new atheism. We zoned in on here (new atheism) last week. We had been discussing libertarianism, and we'll go back to libertarianism. But we wanted to look at the militant atheism of the post September 11 world, and that led us to the four horsemen of modern atheism; the most influential people, of course men, but the most influential people of modern atheism, and that was Sam Harris, who I consider today, perhaps is one of the most currently still influential. And, I find him deeply troubling. Richard Dawkins which is perhaps the most well-known to us because his book is just so famous. And Christopher Hitchens.



It was said, by another prominent leading atheist, that if there was a Mount Rushmore of atheistic leaders, you would find Sam Harris, Richard Dawkins, and Christopher Hitchens. He seemed to leave off Daniel Bennet. I'm not sure why. He seems to perhaps be a, even from what I was looking through, I didn't find him come up as much. Perhaps they considered him less influential than the other three. But these are the four horsemen, the name they kind of gave themselves, of modern atheism. And we wanted to see the positions that they would take

on politics, on that political spectrum, on equality and freedom, and on gender equality, as we understand it, as people who believe in Eden to Eden.

We discussed Sam Harris first. There is more to say about him, but we illustrated some of the problems with Sam Harris. We spoke about Richard Dawkins. There is more to say about him, but we covered his response to feminism. We discussed Christopher Hitchens, his 2007 article for Vanity Fair, "Why Women aren't Funny." Which has quite a few sources that said, was one of his favorite topics to talk about. Christopher Hitchens has passed away; I think he is the only one who has. But this wasn't so long ago, the comments that he made that we went into last week, and there were only few of them. I want to reference what he said in 2010. I believe he was at the 2010 White House correspondent dinner.

If we're familiar with the White House Correspondent's dinner when a lot of people across the media and the art world, popular people today gather at the White House and they have an evening where the president is pretty much always in an attendance until Donald Trump. He didn't appreciate the way that they were talking about him and he cancelled them. But, the White House correspondent dinner in 2010, Obama is now the president. And, one of the comedians who spoke there, because they often have a comedian to speak to the crowd, and Christopher Hitchens is in that crowd. Wanda Sykes, I don't know whether we are familiar with her, but she was one of the comedians who spoke. At the end of the evening entertainment, Christopher made a comment about Wanda Sykes comedy she presented at the White House Correspondents dinner.

He said, "*The president should be squirming in his seat, not smiling.*" He doesn't call her Wanda Sykes. (Elder Tess said, "I can't read it. I won't read it," as she is writing "black dyke" on the board). He said, "*The (blank) got it wrong. No one told her the rules.*" I will erase that soon, because it is a deeply troubling comment to make. But what he did, when he didn't like Wanda Sykes comedy, was both racist, what point, what relevance does the color of her skin have on her comedy? Then he references her gender, because you don't say about (pointing to "dyke") anyone not female; and this is also a slur made against lesbian women (because she is a lesbian as well), but it also has the insinuation that she isn't very feminism in her appearance. It's a lesbian that might wear more masculine clothing and have short hair, etc.

So, he attacks her on the color of her skin, on her gender, and on her sexual orientation. All just to say that he didn't like her comedy. Such was the man who was Christopher Hitchens. Such was the man who used reason and logic, social evolution, to explain why women aren't funny. Such is one of the foremost influential men of the modern atheism. I don't really want to speak more about Christopher Hitchens; because other than an example of why 27-year-olds like Max in 2017 has the attitude that they do, I don't think there is much more he can contribute to making the point that we want to make. I could justify having his face on a secular Mount Rushmore if that was 250 years ago, but 50 years ago was too soon to consider why that would be at all tolerated.

I have a few quotes to read. So, you remember above. We spoke about two women, Sarah Henry was interviewing Alex DiBranco, and Alex made the comment that in her early research,

watching MRAs such as Paul Elam. So, I want to quote, actually, Paul Elam. Paul Elam is a founder of the International Conference on Men's Issues, and formerly the publisher of *A Voice for Men*. *A Voice for Men* is a publication that is considered to be the online flagship of men's rights movements. So, I want to quote directly from an article on *A Voice for Men*. We'll go to the source.

Quoting him. *"I have often wondered if my state of mind as an atheist has also played a role in becoming a men's rights activist. I like to think I view things objectively; that I rely on available science rather than faith or folklore to shape my beliefs. That attitude has certainly helped me to understand issues like domestic violence and alleged wage gaps as much as it has evolution."*

So, what Paul Elam (the founder of the online flagship of the men's rights movement) is saying, is that he has wondered, and he'll go on to say yes, that his state of mind as an atheist played a direct role in him becoming a men's rights activist, in other words, in his fight against feminism. Because he is able, as an atheist, to look at things objectively. He doesn't need faith, like feminists and religious people, Christians. He doesn't need faith or folk lore to shape his beliefs. Looking at just rationality, he can understand domestic violence, and fight feminism on domestic violence, and fight feminism on, what he calls the alleged wage gap, just as easily as he can fight a creationist, because his underlying thinking behind both is the same.

And, this is why there is a pipeline between the two of them, and he just said there is a pipeline. It's because of the fundamental thinking of both is the same. Did anyone go and read the full article by Christopher Hitchens, after I quoted it so much last week? Katherine.

Kathrine – Yes. I put myself through the pain. And, I went further than that, because I found some things that female comedians have written a response to him in *Vanity Fair*. Did you know that as well? And he was interviewed on, there is a video clip of him on the You Tube responding to their response to him. So, he has another shot at them, and it's just nasty stuff. It's so sexist. It's just awful.

Elder Tess – I don't know why laughter is a response, but somehow laughter kind of manages to soften that throbbing ball of pain that you get when you watch and read these things. It is ...

Katherine – It would be funny if it wasn't supposed to be serious. I know. It's just sad that... It is horrible. I guess it is a way of coping.

Elder Tess – Thank you for the added context. Often when they double down on their thoughts, it only gets worse and worse. It gets hard to follow. I was in a book store yesterday, and I saw a book written by a woman explaining the history of female politicians in Australia, and how the media treats them. I took a photo of it, so I'll just... I haven't read it, and perhaps it's full of, it might have quite a few things that I don't agree with, but I'm sure it has a lot, it's just accurate history. It's titled, *Media Tarts: Female Politicians and the Press*. It shows how the media has treated, has framed female politicians. I think that many of us have seen enough to be familiar with the extent of misogyny in Australian politics. I think it goes beyond or maybe it's just my

distance, but it goes beyond what I see in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. I'm not going to read it, because I don't want to. There is enough, I think.

The author of the article interviewing Max, and showing this trinity that they can see in 2015 and certainly it has only grown, he does make that point, that it's seeing inequality, is something you have to have your eyes open to. You have to read a book like *The New Jim Crow* to understand the extent of racism, and in policing, and in the courts in the U.S. You have to read a book like that to see the institutional racism, and if you won't educate yourself then you won't see it, but once you do see it, you cannot un-see it. That is one thing education will teach.

The other thing that education teaches is experience. It's partly experiential. It's a combination of education and experience that can help to see the vast need for equality. If I could quote a friend of mine. Religion is similar; there is evidence. A human being could not have constructed the Eden-to-Eden model; could not have constructed what this movement taught prior to 2018 and since 2018, a human being is not capable of it. There is evidence that human beings themselves could not have predicted what would happen between Russia and the U.S. at the end of 2021. There is evidence, and there is also the experiential. But the thinking behind atheism and behind MRAs, they acknowledge themselves that there is that pipeline, because there is that same methodology.

I want to quote from Phil Torres. Phil Torres isn't a firm atheist, and there is a lot he says that I don't agree with; but one point I will make. He is a biologist, a science communicator, a photographer, and a television host based in New York City who works projects all over the globe. Phil Torres wrote an article for Salon in 2017. And, he goes into the history of new atheism. Richard Dawkins kind of objects to being called new atheism, because it's really just modern-day atheism, and that's the point that Richard Dawkins makes. It's not new. It's just a continuation of an atheistic movement, and people tend to acknowledge that is the truth. It's not just a segment of atheism. It is modern atheism.

Quoting from this article by Phil Torres, *"The 'new atheist' movement emerged shortly after the 9/11 attacks with a best-selling book by Sam Harris called 'The End of Faith.'" We mentioned that last week. "This was followed by engaging tomes authored by Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett and the late Christopher Hitchens (the four-horsemen), among others." "For many years I (Phil Torres) was among the new atheism movement's greatest allies." So, he was one of the greatest allies of the new atheism movement. Then he goes into all the problems of new atheism, which is just a description of what we have already said, the rampant misogyny, and we haven't discussed the racism yet, but we will. I'm skipping a lot. He gets lower down in his explanation of what is wrong with the new atheism.*

- "4 Horsemen"
- Sam Harris
  - Richard Dawkins
  - Christopher Hitchens
  - Daniel Dennett

He says, *"Subsequent statements about profiling at airports, serious allegations of rape at atheist conferences, and tweets from major leaders that linked to white supremacist websites further alienated women, people of color and folks that one could perhaps describe as 'morally*

*normal.” I could be wrong, but I think it was Sam Harris that tweeted a link that ended up at a white supremacist website. “Yet some of us — mostly white men like myself (like Phil Torres) — persisted in our conviction that, overall, the new atheist movement was still a force for good in the world. It is an extraordinary personal embarrassment that I maintained this view until the present year.” That year was 2017.*

So, he said that he was one of the greatest allies of these men of new atheism. And, he says that it is a great personal embarrassment to himself that he continued to think that this movement, despite some problem, was any force for good in the world until the year 2017. *“For me, it was a series of recent events that pushed me over the edge.”* And then, he is going to quote some people who we haven’t mentioned, people who aren’t on their Mount Rushmore, but still leading atheists. *“Just consider a recent tweet from one of the most prominent new atheist luminaries, Peter Boghossian (the tweet): ‘Why is it that nearly every male who’s a 3rd wave intersectional feminist is physically feeble & has terrible body habitus?’”*

Another tweet from the same fellow: *“I’ve never understood how someone could be proud of being gay. How can one be proud of something one didn’t work for?”* So, he is quoting, maybe not Mount Rushmore, but other leading atheist voices in the world today. And, it’s not good reading. *“Many leading figures have recently allied themselves with small-time television personality Dave Rubin, a guy who has repeatedly given Milo Yiannopoulos — the professional right-wing troll who once said that little boys would stop complaining about being raped by Catholic priests if the priests were as good-looking as he is — a platform on his show. In a tweet from last May, Rubin said ‘I’d like a signed copy, please’ in response to a picture that reads: ‘Ah. Peace and quiet. #ADayWithoutAWoman.’ If, say, Paul Ryan were asked, he’d describe this as ‘sort of like the textbook definition of a misogynistic comment.’ Did any new atheist leaders complain about this tweet? Of course not.”*

So, he’s identifying the problem with new atheism. He also says that the magazine skeptic recently, recent to 2017, published a glowing review of Milo Yiannopoulos’s recent book, “Dangerous.” So, he sees... Look into Milo Yiannopoulos if you haven’t; it’s not healthy. But this is the ugliness of the alt-right and the pipeline back to new atheism, back to, not just Mount Rushmore but the men who have swelled up underneath them; and when we talk about Max, he’s low level. He’s that common, broad segment of mainstream society that are impacted by this thinking.

So, this fellow, Phil Torres, he says that he is deeply ashamed that he still stayed allied with this modern atheistic movement until 2017, and he’s now separated himself from it. He’s still atheist, but he doesn’t want anything to do with them. I have a bit of a problem with him though because if he is truly ashamed of it, and he should be, this is ten years after Hitchens wrote his article. The title of Phil Torres article that I just quoted from is, “How New Atheism Slid into the Far-Right.” And, I believe that to be a kind of justification of the fact that he stayed with atheism for so long. This is ten years after that article, and many of their quotes... That article was written the same year that these four men first met, first titled themselves the four horsemen. It’s going back to the inception of that core group of men as leaders of new atheism.

When he says that he's deeply ashamed, that it took him until 2017 to see the problems with it and start to sever from it, and then titles the article, "How New Atheism Slid into the Alt-Right," it's suggesting that it was ok to begin with, and therefore that his alliance with modern atheism was justified in its early days; because it's suggesting that, in its early days, it wasn't that big of a problem and has over time, quoting him, slid into the alt-right.

Most of the quotes and comments we made, those particularly of last week, go back to 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2014. I'm not sure if we read any quotes that were after 2014. So, I find the titling of his article a subtle defense of his own alliance with that community, and the fact he can see it now is positive. Obviously, he is atheistic, so I don't agree with many points, but I don't think that it's his justifications. I don't think that the titling of his article is intellectually honest, if his apology or recognition of his mistake is a genuine one. It seems more like an excuse. They have only manifested a few more times what they were manifesting at the very beginning, the very inception of these men as leaders of 21<sup>st</sup> century atheism.

Do we have any hands up? Brodie.

Brodie – In 2017, he's publicly distanced himself from modern atheism, and also in 2017, he proposed to his wife. I think that's kind of neat. He's had to in a way, potentially.

Elder Tess – This movement considers themselves to be the modern enlightenment. Perhaps, his wife enlightened him. We can hope so. We can hope she's continuing to. I just want to mention race, just an example of a number that illustrate the racism that has also been seen within this community. In 1994, a book was published by Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray called, "The Bell Curve." What this book, "The Bell Curve" argued was that black people are genetically inferior in intelligence to white people. So, it's a 1994 book arguing about a genetical inferiority by people of color compared to white people.

In a discussion between Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens, this book comes up that argues that black people are genetically inferior in intelligence to white people. And Hitchens says to Sam Harris, ok, but, if this, what they're alleging in this book is true, if black people are genetically inferior in intelligence to white people, we shouldn't ignore it. What he is saying is we shouldn't let political correctness impact rational thinking. We should think rationally even about things that are confronting on some subjects such as genetic inferiority and intelligence between different races of people.

So, Hitchens says, if this book is true, "if" it is true, (it's very much a Garden of Eden type of leading), it should not be ignored. We should have a rational discussion about it. Hitchens hastily adds on to that, it's not viable. Obviously, it's not true. If it was true, we should have a rational discussion about it, but it's not viable. I'm sure it's not true. Later on, Harris brings up the discussion again. Harris says, if there were reliable differences in intelligence between races or genders... and then, Hitchens cuts him off again and says, but I don't think any of us here do think that that's the case.



So, Harris kind of comes back. It's a bit of a convoluted discussion, that they bring it up with that "if." "If" there is a genetic difference between, over the subject of race, "if" there is, we should talk about it, but there probably isn't. Sam Harris says, but if there is a reliable difference in intelligence, not just between races but between genders, and then Hitchens shuts it down and says, but I don't think any of us think that. This is part of what they've got in trouble before. They constantly dog whistle on issues of gender but also of race, and then they clarify that by saying, no, it's not just freedom of speech; it's rational thinking. We need to be rational thinkers. We're the only ones thinking rationally, and it is left-wing culture that is just trying to cancel people just wanting rational discussions.

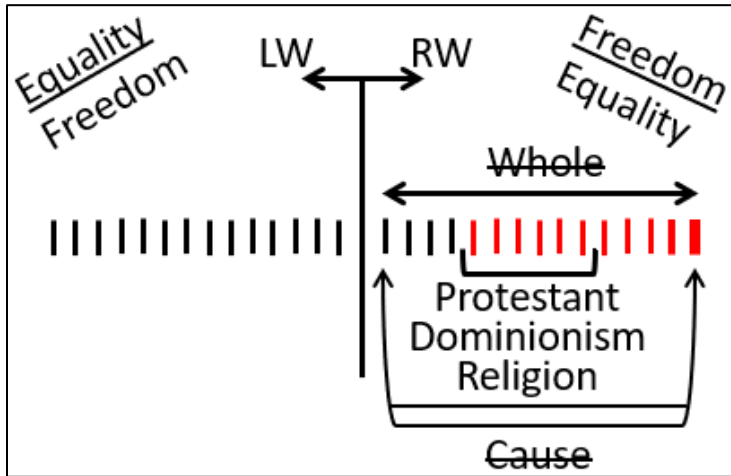
In 2018, now we're going modern day, Sam Harris on his podcast, interviews Charles Murray. Charles Murray is one of the two authors of that 1994 book, "The Bell Curve." So, Harris in 2018, many years after that discussion, goes on to bring one of the authors onto his podcast and interview him. Harris gave him a weirdly uncritical two-hour conversation. So, he is not critical of the racist arguments that Charles Murray was making. Instead, Harris claims that Murray, one of the authors, *"had been the victim of a terrible 'academic injustice' for the way in which his notions about the inherent cognitive inferiority of some 'races' had been rejected by the scientific establishment."*

So, he is going to blame left-wing establishment cancel culture for silencing and doing academic injustice of not giving proper attention to a book that argued that there is an inherent cognitive inferiority between races. *"This is where the preeningly fearless insistence on entertaining uncomfortable questions (they'll say, we're just having rational thought on uncomfortable questions) can so easily lead. Harris ended up in the company of the 'alt-right' and the so-called 'intellectual dark web, populated by people who portray themselves as valiant enough (brave enough) to say what you're not allowed to say any more, and are constantly invited on rightwing talk shows to say it."*

So, there is a lot of people who have divorced themselves from new atheism today, a little bit like they're scandals around some of the leading [new atheist], like the fellow in Australia who just got fired by that Sydney church. I've had a complete mind blank on names and titles. Jerry Falwell in the U.S. There is scandal, but the impact that they're thinking and philosophy has had on millions of Maxes is really what we're talking about. It's not even the few in the far-right. The head of Hill Song, Brian Houston, who just got fired. There is scandal, but to be honest, the things that these men have said, what Jerry Falwell Jr. has said (I think his father was more problematic), pale in comparison with the comments, the ideology, supported by new atheism.

At its most extreme, but also as that VOX article illustrates, by the large segment of society who don't call themselves MRAs, who don't like titles like that, who might not call themselves new atheists, but they will listen to Ben Shapiro, Jordan Peterson, Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and their entire world view is molded by it. The point I want to make is, when we look at the problem that is in this (pointing to the far-right), especially the problem that is this (pointing to the extreme far-right), Protestantism, Christianity, it can't be the root of the problem. If it was the root of the problem, as America becomes more secular, it would improve. It's not the root

of the problem in South Korea, and we've shared articles on what men's rights movements are doing in South Korea. It's not the root of the problem in Australia. It's not the root of the problem in Romania. It's not the root of the problem in Brazil.



The root of the problem is not Protestantism. Go so far as saying it is not the core, it's not religion, and it's definitely not Protestantism. It's not the root of the problem, and it's not the whole of the problem. And, most of what we've done these last two, last week-end and today is try and demonstrate that by looking at the trinity, by looking at MRAs as they fight women feminism, gender equality, atheism as new atheism, as it fights against religion, but also as it fights against gender equality. And then, look at libertarianism fighting the state, but also fighting against gender equality.

- Trinity
- Men's Rights ✓ (women)
  - Atheism – "new" (church)
  - Libertarianism (state)

There is a disproportionate amount of people in the far-right who are atheist and libertarian, disproportionately compared to their numbers in society. There is that pipeline when it comes to atheism and when it comes to libertarianism, and we need to understand why. Why is that?

There was an article talking about the brazen sexism in these movements, and it gave two reasons as to why this sexism exists in the atheism movement. The first reason they give, I think is the main reason, and they list it first, is Social Darwinism. *"In social Darwinism, Philip Kitcher, a professor of philosophy at Columbia University wrote in the New York Times in 2012, that the first tenet of social Darwinism is the belief that 'people have intrinsic abilities and talents (and, correspondingly, intrinsic weaknesses).'"*

So, if you have intrinsic talents and intrinsic weaknesses, Social Darwinism teaches that that has developed through evolution. So, perhaps rational thought possible, perhaps they did develop

intrinsically over millions of years and intrinsic weakness of black people in regards to intelligence; and white people developed an intrinsic talent for intelligence, rational thought, which will be expressed in their actions and achievements independently of the social economic and cultural environments in which they develop. Maybe women, over millions of years developed an intrinsic ability to be cunning minxes (burnt into the back of my brain, thank you Hitchens). Cunning minxes manipulate men; therefore, they are the dominant force even in a patriarchal society, suppressing men even in a patriarchal society. They developed an intrinsic weakness for a sense of humor and intrinsic ability to be able to nurture and raise children (thank you Sam Harris). They have an intrinsic ability to be nurturing, and therefore they have an intrinsic weakness when it comes to conflict and rational thought (thank you, Sam Harris).

All of this is the first tenet of social Darwinism. You do not need religion. Darwinism teaches this. *“A concept such as ‘men are from Mars and women are from Venus’ is one version of such gender-essentialist, social Darwinist ideas.” “In the atheist movement, social Darwinism has played out as the justifiable assault of women by (naturally) aggressive men.”* So, assaults on women are justified, because men are naturally aggressive (thank you, Richard Dawkins); because if you get in a car drunk and drunk drive, what do you expect to happen? If you get drunk around a man, what do you expect? He might rape you, because he has developed a natural aggression. Aggression is an intrinsic strength or weakness that men have; so, it’s a woman’s fault if she causes him to rape her. Some women say, *“Buzzfeed’s Mark Oppenheimer detailed many accounts of alleged sexism, sexual assault and coercion in his excellent exposé on the atheism movement.”*

*“Some women say they are now harassed or mocked at (atheist) conventions, and the online attacks—which include Jew-baiting, threats of anal rape, and other pleasantries—are so vicious that two activists I spoke with have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).” “Oppenheimer also writes that James Randi, chair of annual atheist gathering The Amazing Meeting (TAM), used biological essentialism to rationalize alleged sex crimes and sexual harassment.”* Why wouldn’t he? The four horsemen do it. The Mount Rushmore justifies sex crimes and sexual harassment. That filters down; filters down all the way down to the level of a Max.

*“Randi’s comments were in response to accusations made by multiple women against Michael Shermer, founder of Skeptic magazine. ‘[Shermer] had a bit too much to drink and he doesn’t remember. I don’t know,’ Randi muses. ‘I’ve just heard that he misbehaved himself with the women, which I guess is what men do when they are drunk.’”*

*“The idea that sexual harassment and violence is just ‘what men do’ is the 21st-century atheist’s interpretation of the laddist maxim that ‘Boys will be boys.’”* Why will boys be boys? Not because God created boys to be boys, not because there was creation that put those qualities in men; but because of millions of years of biological essentialism that created intrinsic strength and intrinsic weaknesses. *“The same logic is manifest in statements that justify sexual violence on a woman’s behavior or style of dress.”* The underlying maxim of Darwinism leads you down that pathway.”

*“The second explanation for why the atheism movement foments sexism,”* they say is related to Darwinism, atheism becoming much more militant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They’re not just content to renounce religion individually. They are on a crusade to weed religion out of society. Again, how would these people, not just misogynistic but often racist, how would they approach church and state if church and state is what brings about the SL; and the SL is as we as a movement have understood it in 2019, then how do these people, the atheist community led by social Darwinism that teaches intrinsic strengths and weaknesses? The racism and sexism that foments, how would they approach a combination of church and state? Of morality?

So, we’ve said something about atheism. Again, libertarianism. How is libertarianism going to support a union of church and state? They’re not because the SL is not a union of church and state, and we will discuss that next week. Lynne, would you mind closing for us?

### Trinity

- Men’s Rights ✓ (women)
- Atheism – “new” (church)
- Liberalitarianism (state)

### *Closing Prayer*

Lynne – Loving Creator, God, we come before you; we give you thanks and praise. We thank you for the privileges that we are given, with the messages that we’ve been given, with the opportunity to be able to come together and to hear these things that have been able to bring about changes in those who are willing to listen and apply the knowledge. We just thank you for the outpouring of your Holy Spirit to your people. We ask that you’ll please work in each one of our hearts that we may be able to understand all of these things better as we go along, because we know that there is still more to understand. We ask that you will open our eyes and our ears and our hearts and minds to be able to follow the lamb wherever he goes. And we just thank you again for the wonderful privilege it is to be able to be within this movement at this time in history. I pray for all of those who are with us this evening. We thank you for the Sabbath Day, and we just ask for blessing on all those here, but also all of those who haven’t been able to be in the meeting as well. We thank you again for your blessings and your mercy, and we pray all this in Jesus’ name. Amen.