

NEW ATHEISM: REPEAT AND ENLARGE

TMW VESPERS

05-06-2022

ELDER TESS LAMBERT

Our holy and heavenly God, we thank you for the opportunity of being able to come together through zoom meetings and through the internet that you've provided. We pray that you'll give us your Holy Spirit, that you'll open our hearts and minds that we may hear your words and be able to have them stay in our hearts and minds so that we can retain them to use to glorify you. We thank you for the opportunity also that we may be able to share with other brethren all around Australia. We pray that you will be with each and every one of us, and for those who can't make it, we pray a special prayer for them too that you will watch and care for them over this Sabbath. We thank you and ask for the blessing upon Elder Tess as she presents and all those who are participating that hers words might be your words. We thank you for these things and pray in Jesus' holy and heavenly name. Amen.

I thought that we would start with a review, but we're going to review and repeat and enlarge. I don't want to get bogged down in just all the quotes that we could use from these men that they certainly give us plenty to choose from. I want us to just to hone in on a few points. Just to revise we were starting an investigation of 1888, and you, Brendon, asked, How do we tell truth from error when it's a left-wing source? What are some of the warning bells that should be ringing for us when we are reading external sources that are from a generally reliable stream of information? What are some of the warning bells that would help us see in any particular source that certain views in that source are going to be wrong or problematic?

So, before we investigated the warning bells of the left-wing, we know that there's a massive tolling bells with the right-wing sources, and we wanted to see what those were. What's wrong with the right-wing that makes us turn to the left-wing sources in the first place? What makes us prefer the Washington Post (WP) to, say the Independent? What makes us choose one over another? What's the problem with the right-wing? I believe that the warning bells that should ring for us with the left-wing sources are directly connected to the problem with the right-wing.

So, if we don't understand what's wrong with the right-wing, we won't be able to sift the left-wing. So, we went back and asked, why are we left-wing in the first place? Then we looked at 2018, the Midnight Cry (MC), two streams of information. We looked at, the points that were within that message that told us we needed to change our political perspectives, and then we started to hone in on the right wing. Why? Why did we have to change? Now, when we started looking at the right-wing we could have just repeated what we have done in the past, just do a

simple investigation of dominionism, Protestantism, seven mountains theology, church and state. It's all there. We've all covered it.

But, it's been nearly four years since 2018, and we are mature now, technically speaking, in one reform line, we're mature now. We're meant to have grown from there, and we wanted to see, what is the really underlying difference between the right-wing and the left-wing? There are many, many atheists on the right-wing, and there are many, many Protestants on the left-wing. So, what is the real core, the beating heart of the left-wing that differentiates it from the right-wing? When we did that we saw it was how they approach freedom and equality.

The Covid pandemic has been a very good case study in this. We're able to see with just that one case study, how the left-wing and the right-wing approach and equality and freedom differently. There are also a number of court cases, Supreme Court cases, over civil rights that also help us to see how the left-wing verses the right-wing, and how they approach freedom and equality. And, what we identified was that the left-wing prioritizes equality over freedom, even though it treasures both. The right-wing prioritizes freedom over equality, though many of them treasure both; freedom has to win.

So, when these two principles collide, freedom and equality, whether it's in the context of a global pandemic or in the context of LGBT rights in, at the Supreme Court level, you're going to see the difference between the left-wing and the right-wing, based on which one of those two they will prioritize, which takes pre-eminence when they come into conflict. For the Democrats generally, it's equality. For the Republicans generally, it's freedom.

We could have left it there, but we wanted to look at the third political party in the U.S. And, while it is a political party, the third largest, it's more than a political party. It's a philosophy, and that's libertarianism. We're going back to libertarianism. We left it once Goldwater came up. Goldwater is the politician who many blamed for introducing libertarian philosophy to the Republican Party. It is why the Republican Party is so heavily libertarian in their philosophy. We're going to go back to Goldwater and libertarianism and militia groups, but we wanted to bring in libertarianism because libertarianism is a little bit different to that right-wing dominionist, Protestant, package that we have been looking at the last few years.

Libertarianism support gay marriage. Libertarianism opposes church and state. Libertarianism is, generally speaking, wanting to defund the police, and end the war on drugs. So, we need to understand right-wing libertarianism. And, the reasons I wanted us to investigate that, really without having to planned to, we started heading down that road, and I do believe it's providential, because so much of libertarian philosophy entered this movement in 2019 when people who were in the dominionist section of the right-wing, moved from the dominionist portion of the right-wing just into the secular libertarian portion of the right-wing, and that has had and continues to have an impact on this movement.

So, I want people to see a little more clearly some of the issues and arguments happening within this movement currently, historically and currently, that are still all about two streams of

information and right-wing versus left-wing, still about the MC. So, we're going back to libertarianism, but once we looked at libertarianism, we went to the VOX article. Now, I am going to keep coming back to the chat to make sure I'm not missing the hands-up. So, this is at the beginning, a review, and at some points are repeat and enlarge. But, I want to stop at periods of time because we may be wrapping up our discussion on atheism today.

So, we went to the VOX article that is happening, is written because of what happened the year prior, 2014, Gamergate. That is the historical context of the article. And the subject, the fellow being investigated in the article, the case study, is Max. So, I just want to draw out what we've done the last three weeks. We looked at Max. But, he's just a symbol of millions of, predominantly men, with the same world view. We'll just refer to him as Max, standing for a much larger group of people. And, we saw, within that article, made a number of times, I counted three times, that they name a type of trinity, something they've identified as existing within, not just the right-wing but the far-right in America today, and that is a world view that is built upon three key ideological positions: First one, men's rights; second, atheism; and third, libertarian.

The third time the article lists these trinity, it doesn't actually list these three. It lists the crusades against what these three positions are fighting, and that was, men's right is fighting gender equality, crusade against feminism, atheism is a crusade against religion, and libertarianism is a crusade against big government, not all government but big government, left-wing big government; any government that prioritizes equality over freedom; any government that restricts freedom. So, it lists, the third time the article references this trinity, it's listing this (the crusades against) as a type of crusade against which these ideological positions are fighting.

Max

- 1) Men's Rights - Feminism**
- 2) Atheism - Religion**
- 3) Libertarian – Big Government**

So, we put aside libertarianism for the moment, but it's going to come up today, and we've been looking at atheism. So, Max stands for a much broader segment of the U.S. population. I wanted to ask a question, why does Max have this position? Why is this his world view? Why is he here? (trinity and their crusades) Because these types of men, this group within society, they are likely to, they do say that they are not following an individual. They are, they have moved beyond the foolishness of following religions which they all see as cults, they moved beyond that. Brodie.

Brodie – He has been influenced, and he has chosen to surround himself with people and read and absorb information that supports this world view, and something in it, at some stage has resonated with him, and he has some, he has chosen to follow that stream. Was that the answer that you were looking at?

Elder Tess – Yes, because that is not what he would want to hear. That's not what he would want to see. They are, they have moved beyond a society where you follow someone, where you listen to someone, where you go to church and hear a sermon and be influenced by someone. It's very much an individualistic position where they believe that they are following their own reason and their own rationality. And, I don't agree with that. We all absorb information from somewhere. You're here because you think that this movement, like I think this movement, makes sense. You're hearing things and thinking, I agree with that. That has a foundation that can be supported.

He's there for the exact same reason that you're here. He's heard things that he thinks makes sense, that appeals to him for one reason or another. So, where did he hear these things? What is he listening to? And, we could speak about, as we have in the past, Jordan Peterson, Ben Shapiro, depending on the faction within the right-wing, maybe even Tucker Carlson. And, they might weave religion into what they say, although I don't think what they say needs religion, but they might do that. They do, do that. Instead, because we see atheism as a component of this, we wanted to see where they get, where he gets his world view from.

Before we do that, three points stood out relative to gender in that VOX article that have been repeating themes. So, I just want to list, I'd like us to consider, if anyone wants to contribute any, some key points about gender, about how he and that faction views gender. Katherine.

Katherine – One thing I remember from the article was that Max's point of view, was that some of those gender issues have already been dealt with. They're sort of, voting rights and things like that have already been given. So, problems been solved and case closed.

Elder Tess – I agree, but I'm just trying to think of how to put that on the board. I don't know if he explicitly stated that in the article.

Katherine – He said that his mother, I think he said...

Elder Tess – I agree with you. I'm sorry. What I was saying was I'm not sure if he explicitly stated the year that he thinks it was, did he do that?

Katherine – I don't think so. I don't think he said the year. I just think that he, however he expressed in the article, it sounded like, depending on how you define feminism, he would consider himself a feminist in one sense, but not the way feminists are today because they're going on about, you know, they're going, basically going, even further than what the feminists have all, perhaps wanted.

Elder Tess – That’s a good point. Is it ok if I write civil rights in relation to gender has been accomplished?

Katherine – Yeah. That sounds, yep.

Elder Tess – Josephine.

Josephine – I may be wrong because I’m trying to get from memory, but he thinks that women have their voting rights already, they got jobs like equal pay, abortion rights, something about a dog whistle? I’m not sure.

Elder Tess – I think that’s a similar point to what Katherine was making. You’ve expounded upon this point here (civil rights). But, yes. You’re right. It’s that idea that women can vote now. Women can work in pretty much in any profession they like now. There’s nothing left for women to fight for. So, can you see how, is it ok if I just tie that into this point here (pointing to civil rights)?

Josephine – Yeah. That’s great.

Elder Tess – Thank you for expounding on that for us. One point, I’ll add one. You can still think, if you like, of another. I have three. The other one was that he associated feminism with religion. That it is a religion. We remembered that he pretty much said that feminism is a religion. Marie.

Marie – Just to follow on thought from the civil rights, gender is now done, that now it’s infringing on men’s rights.

Elder Tess – We’re going to put that under here (civil rights) because it’s directly connected, and yes, I think that is another key point. There is now a reverse discrimination, and women oppress men in society. He doesn’t quite put it that way but that’s the conclusion that you have to see in your thoughts because like you said, now that women have their freedoms, then in asking more of that, more from that, then their taking away from men’s freedoms, and it’s turned into a reverse discrimination. I’m writing it this way for a reason that women over men, women oppress men in society. Is there any more, Marie or were you done?

Marie – I’m done. Thank you.

Elder Tess – Then I’ll put it under here (the third point after civil rights and women oppressing men), what did I have up, feminism equals religion which is built upon the idea that there is no rational thought in gender equality. It’s, we’ll come back to that. So, civil rights, gender equality has been accomplished, gender rights have been accomplished, women now oppressing men in society, feminism is a religion that lacks rational thought, and I had one more, and I’m not sure if he explicitly states that in the article or not. I didn’t have time to go back through that article today. But, I’m positive that he believes this whether or not it was actually stated explicitly, and that is the intrinsic differences between men and women. Intrinsic strengths and weaknesses. What are intrinsic strengths that men would consider to have? Josephine.

Josephine – Their ability to think rationally, biologically, well it goes back to...

Elder Tess – Rational thought. That's a good one. You could stop there or did you have more to contribute?

Josephine – Well, he didn't say this, but I think as I'm remembering what was said in the last lesson, what's this Daniel Bennet, talking about biological issues. It's not mention in that article, but it's sort of connected to in my mind because of the, that's the way biology is. Men have that ability and women don't necessarily have that ability.

Elder Tess – I looked up the definition this week of intrinsic. I think it's helpful for us to read. Intrinsic means it belongs to the real nature of a thing. This is the Columns Dictionary. Intrinsic – Belonging to the real nature of a thing; not dependent on external circumstances; it's essential; it's inherent. So, if I'm intrinsically something, then that didn't come to me through my external circumstances, my upbringing, or anything that surrounded my birth, upbringing, society. It's intrinsic. It's inherent within me. Not dependent on externals around me. Inherent means existing in someone or something as a natural and inseparable quality, characteristic or right. It's innate, basic, inborn.

So, when it's seen as intrinsic, it's not something that affects you as from a prenatal or postnatal. It's something that is, and the word you used, Josephine, is biological. I think that is connected to this word, intrinsic. They're talking about biological strengths and weaknesses, and that's important for us to see once we start getting, we come back to the subject of evolution. Marie. I see two hands. Did I miss you?

Marie – I was going to say aggression for one of their weaknesses, or one of their main weaknesses that they tend to focus on.

Elder Tess – I agree, but I would suggest they might not necessarily see that as a weakness because if you're a caveman, and you're out there protecting your feeble wife who stays behind in the cave and pounds down grass or something for dinner, and you're out there hunting beasts, then evolution is going to develop aggression as a positive trait. So, I'm not really wanting to put these into strengths and weaknesses because it might depend on the context, but yes. Rational thought, aggression, I'm just not sure if they would always see that as a negative. Brodie.

Brodie – Leadership which I suppose is rational thought, isn't it? But, perhaps physical strengths is tied into that. And also, humor of course. Not forgetting Hitchens.

Elder Tess – I thought of humor, but the reason that he said men had the intrinsic strength for a sense of humor was connected to the fact that he believed men think rationally. So, women walk through life with, kind of like you know, in the movie where you see someone, and in their mind they're in this field of daisies or something. They're just completely not in reality. He painted the picture that women kind of walk through a world of their own imagination, not the world as it is, and because men walk through this cold, dark, awful world as it is. Therefore, he

actually contradicted himself because he put women on both sides of that, that women live in that fairy tale world, but also that women see the fear of losing their children, and therefore they exist in a dark world but not the real world. It was a lesson in contradictions, that article.

But, the point was that women don't have that rationality to see the world as it is combined with their fear of losing a child. So, yes; humor. I wondered whether or not I'd put that on, but I think it's still connected to rationality. I'll put it on anyway. We can contribute to the intrinsic strengths of women. What did they say the intrinsic strengths of women are? Greg, you can put for either, if you like.

Greg – Not related to the article, but I was thinking for the men, they think they have a larger brain so therefore they are more rational, and they have all the things you've written there basically because they have a larger brain, so therefore they got more neurons, and they can speak better, but that's just, like I said, not related to the article. For women, nature versus nurture, so women are more nurture than nature related.

Elder Tess – Nurture. I think they probably wouldn't use the brain size argument now, but it certainly has been a historically, it's been one of their ways to prove their point about women. Nurture is an important one. James.

James – For men, I was thinking about leadership, but for women, I was going to say the same thing that Greg said; so just kindness, empathy, and making babies and that sort of thing basically.

Elder Tess – Reproduction, nurturing. I agree. Just for space, I might just leave that for nurture for the moment because I dug myself into a corner there, but good point. Katherine.

Katherine – Women have cunning, the ability to be cunning minxes. And, they have their looks and appearances, that kind of things; beauty.

Elder Tess – Beauty. Can I put sex appeal for that?

Katherine – Yes.

Elder Tess – I'm thinking that is what they're kind of getting at, and connected to that, the other point that you gave us is manipulation.

Katherine – Yeah. There's this bit in that article where Max is talking about how the waitress is wearing a certain outfit, and she's got this big sort of plan, you know, and then if it's not at work then it's going to be at the night club later and this is all a big strategy, and this is for reproductive purposes, biological role. So, she is using her beauty and her cunning and whatever skills she's got in her repertoire to do what she's got to do.

Elder Tess – So, he does say it. That's good to know. He's making the same points. Josephine.

Josephine – Ok. Katherine said it. I was just thinking about the waitress and her dress code for the night, and how he looks at it. What's the interviewer, she looks at it as just a normal uniform you wear to work, but Max had a totally different idea about the dress code, and to appeal to kind of half trying to, you know, do the job and have appealing to the male. That's it.

Elder Tess – You all have a better memory than I do because I've completely forgotten about that part, but yes, he is seeing it that way, that women are manipulating him, that women do that within society, that's evolutionary and biological. It's sort of their intrinsic strengths that men apparently don't have because women aren't attracted to bodies apparently. Brendon. And, that's assuming that loved ones don't exist.

Brendon – I was just going to say what Katherine just said as well about the waitress, and it's interesting that he made the note that she is wearing those clothes to get money out of people or tips. So, it's, you know, it's not just about picking up someone at a nightclub later on because of those dresses to get money out of people.

Elder Tess – So, it is about getting higher up in society. It's not just about a nightclub. It's about climbing the ladder in society and using your intrinsic strength to do that. That was your point?

Brendon – Yeah, getting tips out of people, so she would dress a certain way. Well, that's what he's interpreting. She is dressing a certain way to get tips out of men, whereas the interviewer was just seeing a perfectly appropriate set of clothes for a waitress.

Elder Tess – I want to remind us that the interviewer was a male. Otherwise, those people wouldn't have spoken to him. So, his perspective isn't even just that of a women's. It isn't another man who, in his own words, believes that he has his eyes opened to gender inequality. But, yes. Thank you everyone for reminding of that important point because I want us to see that these views are Max's views before we start speaking about where he got those views from. Brodie.

Brodie – It's just a side point that observation is actually real, that sexism in society is such that a women's dress directly relates to her success economically.

Elder Tess – Yes. A woman made a point one day that society gets angry at women who are considered gold-diggers, and she said the only reason that women are gold-diggers is because the men were the original gold-diggers who went out and dug the gold literally while the women stayed home. So, do women become gold-diggers because they have this intrinsic, biological strength for sexual appeal and manipulation to climb the societal ladder or are women doing that because every other alternative seems to be a closed door or a glass ceiling? This is the fight between cultures versus biology as a root cause. So, yes. It does exist. Maybe she was trying to get more tips, but is that due to her biology or is that due to society and culture?

So, those were, I think, all the main points, done brought out really well, I think, as a class to kind of expand on Max's world view, men's rights as in about opposition to feminism, atheism

in opposition religion, libertarianism in opposition to left-wing, big government. Gender, these all relate to gender, some perspective of gender in society, is that gender, civil rights have been done and dusted. If I was to put a date in it, 1960s, done, that women oppress men in society. Any thought otherwise is not rational. Feminism is a religion because it is not rational thought, and that men and women and intrinsic strengths and weaknesses, and we explained a little bit of what they mean by that. Josephine.

- 1) Civil Rights; Gender Rights – Done**
- 2) Women Oppressing Men in Society**
- 3) Feminism = Religion**
- 4) Intrinsic Strengths and Weakness**
 - Men – Rational Thinking, Aggression, Physical Strength, Humor**
 - Women – Nurturing, Sex Appeal, Manipulative, [Cunning Minxes]**

Josephine – Just going to add to cultured society, those two words. In America, I think you may not get a real good pay as a waitress because, or you’re not given a really good pay, because the clientele that come to the restaurant usually tip the waitresses really well, and you end up having a lot more money from the tips than you do have from your actual wage, and the people do tip the waitresses really, really well.

Elder Tess – So, it’s that issue between culture and biology. If they raised the minimum wage, if they brought in economic policies that might promote equality, what they currently consider to be a biological would probably disappear. Yes. So, I want to, now that we’ve investigated Max, I want to look at where does he, and remember, he’s just, they’re interviewing him because it’s post Gamergate, and he’s a symbol, someone who is willing to talk to them, of a much larger group of people. That’s the point behind the trinity.

So, pulling out the atheism, we then looked at the leaders of modern atheism known as the four horsemen, the famous before 9-11, but modern day evolutionary them: Sam Harris whom discussed Richard Christopher Hitchens; and And then, we spent a little actually have to say about gender.

- Sam Harris**
- Richard Dawkins**
- Christopher Hitchens**
- Daniel Bennet**

leaders in post 9-11. Some of them these have been the influences in thought and atheism. And, we listed we discussed first; second, we Dawkins; third, we discussed fourth, we discussed Daniel Bennet. bit of time listening to what these men

I just want to remind us, without going back through those same quotes, of a few points. Harris said that there are more women, or more men within atheism, leadership of the atheistic

community but also within atheism in general because men have intrinsic strengths that women don't have, primarily for rational thought, an openness to an aggressive, emotionless debate. And, that type of rational thought is an intrinsic weakness for women which leave them more susceptible to religion and more, less likely to join atheism. He also said intrinsic strengths women have are emotions, nurture, etc. So, Sam Harris really goes in hard on the fourth point, intrinsic strengths and weaknesses.

We looked at Dawkins. Dawkins said that to question trans-identity is considered by society to be heretical. I referred to that as dog whistling because they really are kind of, to simplify it, three levels. You have these leaders, you have all the Maxes who are feeding off their messaging, and then you also have middle management within the atheistic community, the people who do not have the status, power or voice that these four men have had but also are still influential and leaders. So, you have kind of a three tier systems and a lot of what happens here (the four horsemen) is dog whistling, and you find it more explicitly stated when it gets to this level (middle management) and when it gets to this level (Maxes).

MIDDLE MANGEMENT

So, while Dawkins, that I've seen, didn't necessarily call feminism a religion he claims that he is a feminist. He sees everyone should be a feminist, but he says that to question trans-identity is heretical, and I said that was dog whistling. It's connecting his taking an unpopular position on a gender issue and saying that you're faced like a religious persecution. Just one point while we're discussing Dawkins. What we're doing is seeing what people genuinely believe, but not necessarily just what they say they believe. They will show in these quotes, when they are put on the spot, they will show what they believe, and you'll also see what they believe by the position of their base. Trump doesn't say that he's a white supremacist. He dog whistles, and then you see white supremacists follow him.

So, you're not necessarily going to hear it at all explicitly stated here (four horsemen) but when you see the effects of it (Maxes) you see the effects of the dog whistling, and you know more clearly what the messaging is. We are doing all of this in the context of an information war where Putin is able to convince millions of people that Russia is not at war with Ukraine. If Putin can convince millions of people that Russia is not at war, then end time events get a lot more complicated. Dawkins says that he is a feminist. Dawkins says that everyone should be a feminist. Then, he goes on Twitter and says that, I'm paraphrasing but I'm not doing him any justice, that date rape is not as bad as stranger rape at knife point, and that any woman who says that it is needs to go away and learn how to think.

So, he says he's a feminist, and then on Twitter, to make a separate logical, scientific point, he starts stratifying different categories of rape by severity, and he got into trouble for that, but he

doubled down quite hard. I don't think that anyone should suggest that one form of rape, or being raped by a stranger with a weapon is more harmful than being raped by someone that you might have known or had an element of trust in. But, such is Dawkins, such is the feminism that Dawkins espouses. So, he says he's a feminist. Putin says he's not at war. I don't care what they say. Just making that point.

So, Dawkins hints that feminism is a religion. You see that in his base quite clearly. He talks about an intrinsic nature, men acting on attraction to women, and again, he doubles down. He said if women don't want to end up in a situation, if they don't want to be in a courtroom testifying against the man who raped them, women should never get drunk. Again, he will say that he's a feminist. It's not about what people say they were. It's not about people in the movement saying that they are left-wing and believe in equality if they're preaching libertarianism, freedom, and men's rights positions. It's not what they say are; it's what they live by; it's the effects of their messages.

So, Dawkins also references intrinsic strengths and weaknesses. Men are aggressive, sexually excited by women; women have sexual appeal and manipulation. You put a drunk woman with a man who can't, has this aggression, and a car crashes into a brick wall. What do you expect to happen? So, that is, I hope we can see in his comments about rape, this belief in intrinsic strength and weaknesses; his justification for rape. We're just going through what these men have contributed. These are Max's positions, so I want us to see them from Harris', Dawkins', Hitchens', and Bennet's.

Hitchens says women are the oppressors in society. Remember his article on a sense of humor. What does he say about women? He says that women are the ones who truly rule in society and the only reason that anything looks patriarchal or anything that looks like men are in control, the only reason that there has never been a female U.S. president, I'm putting words in his mouth, is because men and women engage in this carefully orchestrated act. Men pretend to be the ones in charge, and women pretend to be the ones oppressed. We can get hung up in his phrase, cunning minxes, but when he says that, it's about this act, that women are pretending, cunningly pretending to be oppressed. In reality, women dominate society, and they're the ones in control, and the ones oppressing.

So, Hitchens makes this point very clearly (pointing to civil rights and gender). And, of course, he makes the position very clearly about intrinsic strengths and weakness. So, women oppresses men in society. Points two (women oppressing men) and four (intrinsic strengths and weaknesses), he really lays into it.

I want us to look at Hitchens though in point one civil rights and gender) for a moment. Do we have any thoughts or questions so far? I want to give Hitchens just a moment longer. Katherine.

Katherine – It's something vaguely in my memory but I think there's a song and maybe it's based on an old poem that was the female of the species is more deadly than the males. They sort of, I don't know if you've heard of that, but they were using some, you know, animals from

the animal kingdom in China. I don't know whether they have that sort of an idea when they're talking about women, a bit like, I don't know, a female spider or something like that having to be more deadly for some reason.

Elder Tess – It's an interesting argument to try and defend. Marie.

Marie – The belief system that they have, and in particular, this intrinsic strengths and weaknesses that they have, this inbuilt strengths and weaknesses, because, It reminds me, it makes me think of Putin outplaying that, you know, in real life and if they just stood back and just looked at what the outcome of such, of the whole philosophy is, if they looked at someone like Putin and see what he's doing, it just makes you think, can't they just see where all this leads, and I just think that if they just step back a bit, and they saw that, you think that they have some common sense and that they'd actually think twice.

Elder Tess – Putin is using this (intrinsic strengths and weaknesses) to try and appeal to his base, world-wide base that he, Putin, has an intrinsic, masculine strength, aggression, that makes him a rational, wise, powerful leader instead of the West with all of their equality and wokism and LGBT is losing their way. That is becoming feminine. So, Putin is very much using this.

Again, it's about not really looking at what people say that they believe or what position they say they take. If you go to Dawkins twitter feed like I do, you'll find post after post condemning the war in Ukraine, condemning Putin, concerned about the civilians there. I want us to see this picture clearly, not just like an ugly manipulation of it because unless we can see it clearly we won't see how much danger we might be in to think the same way. It's that old adage, if you think Hitler has two horns and a snake or demon tail, then you're not going to expect a modern day Hitler to stand up and speak the way Trump speaks.

Hitchens, Hitchens, it was, he's passed away now, he was pro-gay marriage, against the war on drugs, he considered himself left-wing, voted for Barack Obama, and opposed church and state. So, if you were to investigate Hitchens' positions, I'll just repeat that; voted for Barack Obama, supported the decriminalization of sodomy and the legalization of gay marriage, supported the decriminalization of drugs and the end the war on drugs, opposes church and state, and considered himself to be left-wing. In that context, I want us to read a couple of statements of his. Also, just noting, while he was those five things, he was also a strong supporter of the invasion of Iraq, and very strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment gun right.

I'm going to quote him. He says, "As 1968 began to ebb into 1969, however, and as anti-climax began to become a real word in my lexicon, another term began to obtrude itself." So, just to kind of explain what he's saying, 1968 was a Civil Rights Act. So, we have the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, and then in 1968, you have the Fair Housing Act which is kind of built on to the Civil Rights Acts. So, Civil Rights Act in 1964, and Fair Housing Act in 1968. What he's saying is that for many people, they just completely missed the Civil Rights Acts, and it was a type of anti-climax for people, and for people who missed that year and felt like it was an anti-climax,

they started to introduce another term. That term, he says, is “the personal is political.” “At the instant I first heard this deadly expression, I knew as one does from the utterance of any sinister cow feces, not his term, that it was cliché is arguably forgivable here, very bad news.”

So, he says, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Fair Housing Act of 1968, done and dusted. People felt like it was an anti-climax. They started, he started to hear the words said that personal is political. And, the instant he heard the personal is political, he knew that it was a sinister cow feces, very bad news. So, for Hitchens, the fight for equality, any fight for equality after 1968, any concept of the personal is political, what was his position on it? When did he think that it was all done and dusted? Again, we’re looking at why Max has this position because I don’t believe Max. I don’t believe he was just born more rational and came to this position on his own. He has gone to listen to men preach just like some people go to church. He has taken this in from somewhere, and it had, for whatever reason, appealed to him.

We’ve looked and seen how these four horsemen, let alone middle management, because it’s much more obvious in the middle management, these four positions (civil rights and gender, women oppressing men, feminism is religion, and intrinsic values) are held in modern atheism. We’ve looked at these last three, but this first one, I want us to see it in Hitchens because he’s explicit. Quoting him again. “I remember very well the first time I heard this saying, the personal is political. It began as a sort of a reaction to defeats and downturns that followed 1968, a consolation prize as you might say for people who had missed 1968. I knew in my bones that a truly bad idea had entered the discourse nor was I wrong. People began to stand up at meetings and orate about how they felt, not about what or how they thought and about who they were rather than what, if anything, they had done or stood for.”

So, he says with the personal is political, people started talking about how they felt and who they were, and not what they thought and what they stood for. What does that remind you of? Marie, did you already, was your hand already up? Was that before?

Marie – Yeah. That was from before.

Elder Tess – Ok. Just didn’t want to miss. What does that remind you of? Katherine.

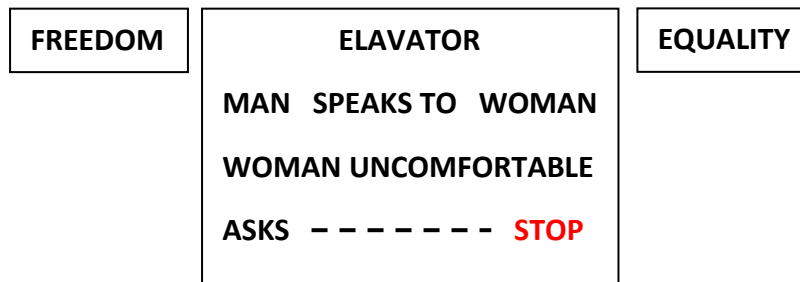
Katherine – It reminds me of this idea that if you can’t prove it like measure it, observe it, that it’s not really real. So, people talking about the way they feel, you can’t prove it. That’s what it reminded me of.

Elder Tess – We can bring a case study to that. Rebecca Watson. Now we spoke about Rebecca Watson, and what happened to her in the elevator. It’s actually 2011, and it’s actually called Elevatorgate. It was a major issue when it happened. It was quite a huge issue. It’s called Elevatorgate and kind of seen as a predecessor to Gamergate when Rebecca Watson spoke about being propositioned in this elevator. So, she enters an elevator. She’s spent all day talking to people about how she is sexualized within the atheistic community, of course, what do they think of women, but she is sexualized within that community. There’s sexism within that

community. She spends all day at the conference talking about it. She is in an elevator in the early hours of the morning, a man comes to her and really likes what she said and suggests that she comes back to talk about it more in his hotel room at 4 am. She felt very uncomfortable, and she said very few words: Please don't do that.

Dawkins responds and said, stop whining, will you. He's telling her to stop talking about how she felt. Dawkins and Hitchens, of all of these men, I would like to suggest that they are actually the closest in ideology but also personally. They had never got together, the four of them, just the four of them since that 2007 meeting where the term the four horsemen was originated from. That's the only time the four of them met privately like that. But, Dawkins and Hitchens had a very close connection, and you see that in lot of what they say. So, I think it's reasonable to take what Hitchens said about the personal is political and feelings, and see that as an example of that in his friend, Dawkins. When he responds to Rebecca Watson, he's telling her to stop talking about how she felt because this is what he sees happening.

There is an elevator, and there is a woman, and there is a man. He is going to speak to her that is going to make her uncomfortable, and she is going to ask him to stop. And, she is going to say how that speech made her feel. Dawkins point is that he (elevator man) did not physically hurt her. He didn't attack her; he didn't touch her; he didn't drag her out of the elevator. All he did was to speak to her. He compared that to him (Dawkins) getting into an elevator with someone chewing gum. It's temporarily uncomfortable; you get off at the next floor; no big deal. So, she should not be speaking about her feelings, and his response suggested that this was an attack on this man's free speech because he should be able to say what he wants.



So, who is the victim here? Again, freedom and equality. She's saying, this is not just one speech for here. This is, within the context of a massive amount of sexism, sexualization and physical abuse, even rape, that is happening within new atheism. Some of it is physical, but for Dawkins, all he sees is equality versus freedom. All he sees is her feelings harmed, and him saying that's just your feelings; that isn't harm. You want to know harm? Go experience female genital mutilation, which is what he said. Go experience the life of a Muslim woman in the Middle East. Then, tell me what harm feels like. Stop talking about your feelings.

Dawkins' perspective is the same as Hitchens. That's what I'm wanting to see from Hitchens quotes and Dawkins, one of his real life examples. What does this remind you of? Both of

them? So, Hitchens, supportive of gay marriage, supportive of separation of church and state, also supportive of gun rights, says that he's left-wing and not right-wing. What is the political ideology that he is espousing here? Both of them. Greg.

Greg – Is it libertarianism?

Elder Tess – Josephine. Is that what you were going to say? Josephine.

Josephine – Sort of left-wing if you're supporting gay marriages. He says he's left-wing. So, what's he doing? Striding both sides? Or, more towards the left? For both church and state.

Elder Tess – I might ask the other few people because they might answer your question. They might go into further if that's ok. Marie.

Marie – I was just going to say that they're both espousing right-wing when you've got someone that's for Obama. There's so much of what he stands for which is left-wing but there's aspects of him that are right-wing.

Elder Tess – Brendon.

Brendon – I was just going to repeat what Marie said. He's clearly on the right as we already know. The positions he takes, yeah, he's right-wing even though just by the sheer methodology he uses appears to align with some of the things that the left-wing agree as well. That's why you had one of the white supremacist or was it a libertarian white supremacist end up at a Black Lives Matter (BLM).

Elder Tess – He wasn't a white supremacist. Boogaloo movement. You're on the right track. I just want us to not say white supremacist unless it specifically fits for a reason, but I know exactly your point. Please continue.

Brendon – Sorry. Yeah. So, even though he is on the far-right, his methodology, his freedom, the prioritization of freedom, actually, I don't know how to say it. I don't know how to communicate it.

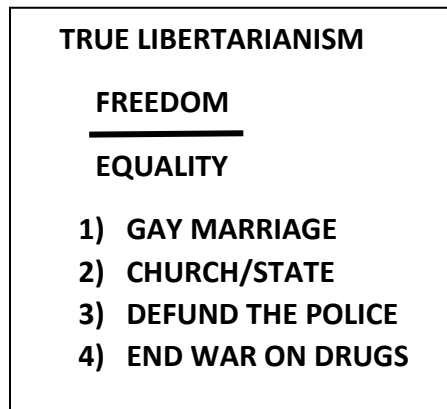
Elder Tess – You are saying it fine. It's not...

Brendon – I don't want to say it in a wrong way because it appears that they're agreeing with some of the positions of the left even though they're not because the perspective is totally different. The underlying intention is opposite, but they end up at the same place but not really. I don't know how to explain it.

Elder Tess – You did explain it. You all did. This is classic libertarian thinking. Can we kind of see that what we discussed, when we were talking about libertarianism with them? Remember libertarianism is the ultimate freedom over equality. Dominionists believe in freedom over equality when it suits them. It's interesting watching the right-wing constantly compromise on freedom over equality. They'll say freedom over equality, and then they'll say, yes, but animal

welfare. A very small percentage will say, yes, but the libertarian argument for combatting climate change. They constantly try and make a point that what they see as serious really should be prioritized. That's what we saw with that debate over the Civil Rights Act where a true-hearted libertarian said, Title II and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, a terrible violations of individual freedom. And then the other libertarians said, yes, but racism was so bad. It was kind of necessary.

So, they do compromise, but true libertarianism is absolute freedom over equality. And, it is absolutely right-wing. That is why there is a disproportionate pipeline between libertarianism and far-right militia groups. We're coming back to seeing that because we were meant to discuss the militia groups, but we got on another tangent called atheism. But, a true libertarian believes in gay marriage; believes in the separation of church and state; believes in defunding the police. That's why you have a far right in BLM protest; not all of them. The white supremacists didn't turn up, but there were some of them there. Decriminalizing or ending the war on drugs.



It's a classic libertarian position, but it is based on freedom and not equality, and that's what we were making the point within the movement. Every fight we've had since 2018 has been between freedom and equality. And, that's when we see people say, no, I'm left-wing; I'm all for equality; I believe in equality, but they are not preaching equality. They're preaching freedom. And, they're preaching men's rights, especially men's rights, and they're preaching libertarianism. That's what I was speaking about in Brazil in the last camp meeting. Greg. Did I miss you?

Greg – I was just going to expand on when I said libertarianism. When you actually speak to a libertarian, from my understanding is, you could sound like you're talking to a left-wing person until you get to a certain point, and they would show their true colors of them being a right-wing. So, for instance, libertarian will agree with you on gay marriage and, as you say, defunding the police, drugs, all this sort of stuff, church and state. So, a libertarian can be a confusing person to speak to initially because they would come with agreement, agreement,

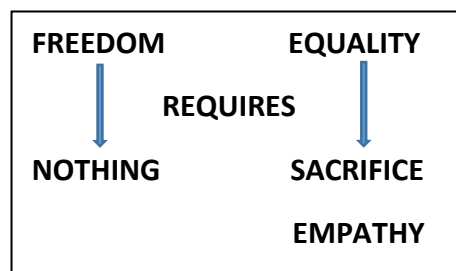
agreement, until it didn't suit them. And then, they would choose freedom over equality. So, that's why I'm saying, a left-wing, they can appear left-wing even though they're far-right or right-wing.

Elder Tess – Covid 19 has been a very good litmus test for that. Covid 19 and gender equality, not gender freedom but gender equality. Katherine. What is the difference? What does equality require of you that freedom doesn't?

Katherine – Equality requires you to make sacrifices for the sake of somebody else because if you have privileges or something like that, but they don't, then you have to maybe give up some of your privileges for their sake. So, it requires sort of like self-sacrificing nature or generosity apart, and it also requires somebody to be empathetic so to, it requires care and consideration. It requires, sort of like knowledge and understanding, not ignorance but information but also compassion. Freedom for everybody doesn't cost you so much, necessarily.

Elder Tess – I agree. Equality requires sacrifice that freedom doesn't require. I can say, I'm fine letting anyone marry whoever anyone wants to marry. If two men wants to marry, that's fine. I'm giving them freedom. But, if I want them to have equality, then if I have a cake shop, and I don't want to sell cakes to them, they have their freedom, and they can do what they want. However, equality demands I sacrifice some of my freedom to provide them equality. So, a society that runs on equality requires a sacrifice of a certain amount of freedom. Just believing in gay marriage isn't enough. Just believing in defunding the police isn't enough. That's why you have right-wing militia groups at BLM protests. They're not there for equality. They're there for freedom, and their freedom more than for the freedom for the person of color.

They're there for their own freedom because they want the police decriminalized, police defunded for everyone. So, just everyone has freedom. They're not there for equality. To understand the need for racial equality in the U.S., you need to have empathy. You don't need to have empathy to just give people freedom. This is the difference between the right-wing, freedom even when you see it in its most absolute terms under the banner of a libertarian or left-wing equality. That is why equality requires, I might not like wearing a mask; it might give a rash behind my ears; it might be uncomfortable; but, I'm going to sacrifice some of my freedom to wear on my face what I want to wear on my face, for someone else's equality. They might be immunocompromised; they might need more of a helping hand from society; so, society sacrifices.



Freedom does not require anything from me; from you; from anyone. It doesn't require anything from Hitchens. So, Hitchens and Dawkins is a classic libertarian position. So, they have interwoven libertarianism with men's rights, with atheism. What would you expect of their base? And, we haven't even gotten into middle management today. So, libertarianism, equality, and especially they oppose church and state. Why not gay marriage? Although you can say that and then try and get married to someone of the same sex in China, and it doesn't work that way. But, for them in the U.S., they don't mind, but then, don't take Hitchens guns off him either. He has freedom to own any firearms that he likes. It shows that his affiliation is libertarian philosophy. And, being libertarian then that same thing that libertarians say the same thing that Max said. It's all done and dusted. Now, it's just emotional people mostly women talking about feelings rather than beliefs; talking about the personal is political, and I find it very interesting that it's that phrase, that radical feminist phrase, that Hitchens calls a special kind of feces. Josephine. Did I miss you?

Josephine – Well, just referring to the comment I made at the beginning and everybody added to it, I was just going to say, what they say is not necessarily what they are in practice. Their practice is so different from what they say. It's just their so-called rational thinking, they try to explain their way away, but in practice they are, they uphold freedom. They don't really want to sacrifice anything.

Elder Tess – One of the things, one of these women, I can't remember if it was Rebecca Watson or another woman, I think it was Rebecca Watson, said about Dawkins is that while he considers himself left-wing, while he is against Donald Trump, she said that it's amazing how little these leaders have had to say to condemn Trump. Their silence in the midst of 2016, all that has been taking place has been telling, and one of the reasons for that is they have more sympathy with Trump and the right-wing than they're willing to acknowledge. And, they hold the left-wing, Dawkins certainly does, holds a left-wing at least partly responsible for Trump, thinking that left-wing woke-isms turned the society towards Trump.

So, they blame the left-wing and his fight for equality on the rise of Donald Trump, and they are less critical of him than many of their supporters who thought that they were genuinely left-wing. It left them many of them surprised except for a lot of women. But, middle management, I just want to read a quote. "Today, if there was a Mount Rushmore of celebrity atheist, Laurence Krauss' face would be chiseled somewhere in between Sam Harris, Richard Dawkins, and the late Christopher Hitchens." What that quote is saying is they removed Bennet, and they put Laurence Krauss in there, in the Mount Rushmore of celebrity atheists.

Laurence Krauss, we touched on. He, like many men who were impacted by the Me Too movement, quite able to make a comeback, but I just want to list four men who would particularly in this middle management arena who all found to have sexually aroused, sexually abused and in some cases raped women. Laurence Krauss. I will list Rebecca Watson, but she's within and fighting a community of other men in middle management. Laurence Krauss, David Silverman was the president of American Atheists, quoting the WP, "To the thousands of non-

believers who attend atheist humanist and secular events across the country, Silverman was a kind of rock star.” He had trouble with the concept of consent. Richard Carrier and Michael Sharma.

REBECCA WATSON

KRAUSS

SILVERMAN

CARRIER

SHARMA

So, those are the kind of four, particularly four key men who were leaders kind of in this [middle management] arena and often defended by men in this (four horsemen) arena. But, this is just some evidence that these women like Rebecca Watson, they’re not talking about feelings. The problem is this discomfort (pointing to he was “only” speaking) she’s feeling is occurring within an environment where there, in their own words, this is worse than dominionism; sexism worse than they find in organized religion including instances of physical abuse, and when they speak about it, they encounter death threats and rape threats to the point that some of them, many of them no longer attend conferences.

And, I’d like to also mention that the women here [at the middle management] facing rape threats, death threats, hate from men here (pointing to men’s rights who fight against feminism) many of the men when they’ve tried to find who these men are when they’re sending these violent threats to them, these are not teenage boys in basements who are just enjoying the freedom of saying inflammatory things on the internet and getting away with it. They found that these were the men they were actually attending conferences with. These were adult men within the atheistic community who were sending many of the rape and death threats, another reason why the women either stop attending or some would only attend if they made sure they were never alone.

Quoting from the WP in an article America’s leading atheist accused of sexual misconduct, ““The alleged misconduct of these leaders quoting Sikivu Hutchinson, “was tacitly co-signed by an atheist leadership that is largely hostile to social and gender justice and complicit in the marginalization of women’s issues.”” So, she who is an activist for gender equality within some of these movements, including the atheist movement, particularly the atheist movement, is saying the abuse that these men wrought on many women and other men was co-signed by this (four horsemen) atheist leadership. Hostile to social and gender justice because they believe it was already done (pointing to the civil and gender rights), because they believe that women so that through sexual appeal ask for it, and men can’t help it because they believe that

women actually oppress men in society, and feminism has gone too far, if they believe in feminism at all.

All I wanted to do with this exercise was show us how we went to Max as an example of this (men's rights, atheism, libertarianism). And, from here, we broke down his position on gender. Then, we wondered where he got that from, and we went to here, [the four horsemen]. And, we saw his world view here, [the four horsemen], and then the huge issue within the whole of the atheist (middle management) movement which they have helped, certainly haven't fixed. I did also want to make the point of libertarianism combined with their own atheism and MRAs. We could go further. Krauss re-tweeted and supported and, position that some French actors, famous French people took that was hostile to the Me Too movement that had said it had gone too far. Krauss spoke out in favor of them attacking the Me Too movement. There's a lot to package around that, but all it does is build up the points that we have already made, and I don't want to confuse the point by going into too much noise.

So, that's what we've tried to do. Does that make sense to everyone? We did that. We went to Max. We saw his world view, broke it down on gender. We went up and saw where that originated from (four horsemen), and then we also did last week is we then went and said, well why does this exist within atheism? And we went back to Darwin because that position isn't just about their rationality. It's about their atheism, and connected with their atheism, it's particularly point number four; this idea of biology. The first tenet of social Darwinism is point number four, the intrinsic strengths and weaknesses. For these men misogyny is not based in religion at all but in biology.

We might stop here for time but there's a whole article I wanted to share, and I'm going to send that out if we could read that before next week. It's kind of good because I wanted to read the whole article, and that probably wouldn't have been great. Do we have any thoughts or questions before we close? The article is by The Scientific American. The Scientific American is a popular science magazine. Many famous scientists, including Albert Einstein, have contributed articles to it. It's been in print since 1845. It's the oldest continuously published monthly magazine in the U.S.

So, it's an article by The Scientific American titled, "Darwin was Sexist and so are Many Modern Scientists." "For far too long Darwinian theory has justified sexist attitude and behavior." I was wrong. We're not wrapping it up next week. I guess we will next week, but it's been great to have contributions. I hope we can see how we've reviewed, but we've repeated and enlarged. I've tried to break down the steps: We took step one (Max – Men's rights v. feminism; atheism v. religion; and libertarianism v. big government). Step two (Civil rights and gender-done; women oppressing men; feminism = religion; and intrinsic strengths and weaknesses). Step three (the four horsemen). Step four (Darwin). Step five to see its ultimate conclusion with Roy Dan Hollander (Equality v. freedom).

Roy Dan Hollander who believed strongly that women oppressed men in society, that feminism was a religion which was why he tried to sue a university that had gender studies, for violating the first amendment, and believed that men's evolutionary physical strength should be able to be used to beat women if women were able to use their evolutionary strength, manipulation and sex appeal. So, we went one (Max), two (civil rights, women over men, feminism = religion, intrinsic strengths and weaknesses), three (the four horsemen), Darwin, and Roy Dan Hollander, which we can do next time. We'll repeat and enlarge and finish that. Brendon.

Brendon – I did my best. I got a question but I'm not sure if I remember why you phrased it about six or eight weeks ago. I tried to find it in one of the vesper's studies. I'm hoping you can remind me, but you said something like, Protestantism, in regards to sexism and the Sunday Law (SL), this is just as we were leading into this whole discussion on atheism, libertarianism. We were leading into that, and you said something at the end of one of the vesper's study that went along this line. It went, Protestantism isn't the whole of the problem, and it's not the cause of the problem in relation to sexism and the SL. And, it's not a church and state issue. So, is this, I guess, if Protestantism isn't the cause of the SL or is this, what we've been discussing here, is this the cause of the gender, so where we're heading into Darwinism and the intrinsic strengths and weaknesses which is, are we looking at the what's going to bring about, I just can't remember exactly how you phrased it. It's only part of the problem, but it's not the cause, Protestantism, and then we started going down this track here, and it was in relation to the SL, and you're saying that Protestantism isn't the cause, and I'm just wondering the SL is what we're looking at right here, right now, the cause. Because you got the trinity. It's only a part of it.

Elder Tess – So, Protestantism is not the whole, and it's not the cause.

Brendon – So, where does the cause come from? Because you didn't answer it, but we've been doing this ever since.

Elder Tess – I thought that is exactly what we would look at today, but I thought that we would complete our review today. So, I might not, I think that is, what we've gotten so far through, I really thought that we would go through all step one, step two, three, four, five, and then address that (Brendon's question regarding the SL) tonight. But, if you could hold on another week, I think that, I just like to get through, have one more look at Darwin, we don't really have much to say about Roy Dan Hollander except to see how he took this (pointing to feminism = religion) to its logical conclusion, and then, your point is exactly what we need to address. Otherwise, all this discussion is a little bit pointless if it's not going to teach us anything about the SL. Thank you for reminding us of that though because that is the point of this entire exercise.

Brendon – Yeah. That's fine. I just appreciate it because it's the last thing you basically said before heading from apostate Protestantism down this path here, and this appeared to be the

rest of the whole, and I'm just trying to find the cause, and it looks like there's a lot of causes but we haven't sort of, I haven't explicitly heard you mention it yet.

Elder Tess – I don't think one word answer will make sense. I think we need to do that together. I'm not just trying to hold off. I really thought we'd do that tonight. But, I think I would rather us draw that out. I'm quite sure we'll do that next week. Thank you for reminding us. If it's ok, we might close now because I know some people are really tired. If you have thoughts or questions, if you're worried you won't remember them till next week, just text them to Elder Terrie or myself and that way we will have your thought or questions that we can remind you that you had if it's documented. I don't want to miss them. Brendon, would you close for us then?

Brendon – Sure. Dear God in heaven. We are so grateful for the things we're learning. We pray for a blessing upon everyone who is listening to this, and who is going to listen to this. Help these things to change our minds so that we can be helpful, and provide better serviced to you. Help us to increase our empathy and our knowledge so we can help other people, those of our family and those we come in contact with. Bless your people, and we're just so grateful. Thank you. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.