

ACCESS, 9/22 - The Alt-Right, Antifa, and Political Extremism

Read:

Genesis 1:26a // ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Romans 8:29 // ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Colossians 3:10-11 // ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

1 Peter 2:9 // ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Revelations 7:9 // ⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Big Questions:

- What is the alt-right? Antifa? What do they stand for?
- How do we as Christians respond to groups like white supremacists, neo-Nazis, or Antifa? How do we react to political and social activism?

Teaching Points:

- Mankind is uniquely created in the image of God, giving natural, intrinsic, special value
- Our old identity is gone and replaced with one founded on Christ, adopted as brothers and sisters into a family that overshadows race, social status, or background
- We are saved by grace by no work or attribute of ourselves; so too should we extend grace, and love to all, regardless of race, creed, political affiliation, or worldview

Discussion Questions:

- What would be a good reason why someone would support nationalism?
- What could be the perceived good in all of this?
- What is your personal reaction and attitude towards these groups?
- Do you believe that all humans are truly created with equal worth and dignity in the image of God? Where do we succeed in showing that and where do we fail?
- What things make up my identity? Race, social status, personal achievement, etc? Is my identity found in Christ alone, or elsewhere? How does my background affect the way I view myself and/or others?

Further Resources:

- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-faqs-what-christians-should-know-about-the-alt-right>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-faqs-what-christians-should-know-about-antifa>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-non-partisan-politics-of-jesus>