

## 9.16.19 - Dangerous Ideas

I have been told that naturism is a dangerous idea. I have been trying to understand why for a year or so. It clearly agrees with the Bible so you need to misinterpret Scripture to oppose it. No one gets hurt if I am naked. It is easier to look the other way to avoid naked people than close your ears to avoid loud music. It will not even hurt your eyes if you can not avoid looking, like loud music can hurt your ears. Recently I ask myself, "Are there any dangerous ideas?" I could not come up with one. We will try a few and look for the danger.

There was a movement in the mid 60's among theologians that claimed "God is Dead" started by a German philosopher in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. If that is true, our Christian beliefs are foolishness, but if it is not true the people who believe it will have a bad eternity. Obviously, each side feels sorry for the dumb people on the other side, but I can see no danger to either side apart from eternity being bad if one has not accepted God's gift of salvation.

What about Islam, isn't it a dangerous religion? Let's see; they have one god, prophets, a bible and some of the same prophets as Christianity. We have different gods, and in many places widely different beliefs, but that is true of groups who claim to be Christian. Did you hear that they are instructed to kill those who do not agree with them? Yes, that is why there is so much violence associated with Islam, but that is how the idea is defended, not the idea as I am seeing it. That is also the part that is used to justify world conquest. I believe the danger is in how the idea is defended or acted upon. It is the actions taken not the idea that causes harm.

If ideas are harmless why do they need defending? I believe that if error and truth are presented fairly, truth will win most if not all of the time. If the education system gave as much effort and time to

the creation or intelligent design position as to the evolution position, evolution would become a paragraph or two of what some people believe. Why do you think it is so hard to get either intelligent design or creation taught in the school system? Let me help you, “Evolution can not compete with the truth. If there is a designer, He might expect something from us.” We read an article about Jonah in which the author made the statement that the sailors were not gullible enough to believe evolution, they all had gods.

If you read the book by Gregory Wrightstone entitled Inconvenient Facts, you will stop worrying about climate change and become upset about all the money we are wasting on a hoax. To keep the money flowing in and gain the controls wanted by the political leaders, the truth is suppressed. Suppressing truth and promoting a falsehood can be a way to gain and hold control. Defense of the hoax must be done to keep control.

If you believe the textile version of the Bible, you do not think much about 1 Samuel 19 where the prophets and King Saul were naked. Or you have translators who found a “better text” that showed they were wearing undergarments which did not appear again till Roman times. You also do not have Isaiah 20 in your bible because it does not appear in the “better texts”. It is only a short chapter, who will miss it? When confronted with the truth you take a truth suppressing position. “More enlightened people do not see it that way.” “God would never be in favor of anything like that.” “How can you be a Christian and believe something like that?”

There are many more examples of truth winning if given a fair presentation. Those with the false belief are usually trying to bury the truth in false information or whatever is handy and might work to keep truth from getting a fair presentation. For a bad idea or false belief to survive, it needs to stop the truth from being heard. When peaceful means do not work, force and violence are used.

Even the idea of using violence is not dangerous until it is put into action. Ideas are still not dangerous. The action taken is the dangerous part!

Jesus did not use force to promote any of his ideas because His fair presentation was enough to show that they were all true. After healing the demon possessed man living among the tombs, we have **Mark 5:17,18 And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.** He is equal with God and can do whatever He wants. Why let some of His creation cramp his style? When John wanted to call down fire from heaven Jesus said **Luke 9:54-56 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.** He did not try to convince the rich young ruler to reconsider **Luke 18:23,24 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!** The Pharisees did not want to crucify Jesus because His actions were causing harm. He had harmed no one including the Pharisees. When you are representing the truth, you do not need to use force or get into lengthy arguments. If someone is not looking for truth, but trying to prove their position is right, you are in error arguing with them and wasting your time and theirs.

The free exchange of ideas is largely responsible for the modern lifestyle. Science and technology need all ideas given a chance to avoid stagnation. Science has its roots in Christianity, which is very tolerant of ideas when it is not controlled by legalists. Science started as a study of how God's creation works; many still

see it that way. Capitalism, which also has a Christian foundation, rewards those who can make a better product or a less expensive product or put forth more effort or take greater risks. Many success stories involve people thinking "out of the box".

Physics has a lot of multiplication and division problems, which take a lot of time and paper to do longhand. In 1622 a William Oughtred put two logarithmic scales side by side and made both operations possible in seconds. When I was in college the slide rule marked you as a brain not that it is complicated but only physics majors had them. I used them the first few years I taught physics in high school. One year I was surprised at all the sales on slide rules in the catalogs till a student showed me his calculator that was about the size of a smart phone but more than twice as thick. It did only the four basic functions, but it kept track of the decimal point and it would add and subtract. When I retired the calculators were programmable and probably made good cheat sheets. In less than 20 years the slide rule was forgotten, but if the calculator was outlawed when it was first introduced or taxed excessively or the religious leaders would have said you will end up in hell if you use a calculator. We might all still be using slide rules or paper and pencil to multiply and divide.

My friend and I work on remodeling projects together and we do what we call "brain storming" about ways to do projects. We each usually have a way to do the project and then we consider the problems of each way. We seldom use either of the first methods. Somewhere in the exchange of ideas one of us is able to see a way to solve the problems with a method that is different from the first ideas. We are often impressed at how well this new method improves on the original ones. If at any point one of us says "That is a really dumb idea. What are you thinking?" we do not reach the impressive idea.

I would like to see Bible study in Sunday School done like we work on remodeling projects. We all see a passage differently, but there seems to be a "Biblically correct" way to look at Bible teachings and anything outside of that box is dangerous and therefore suppressed. This suggests that we know that our belief is wrong and we do not want anyone shining a light on the error. We may just be unsure and do not want to risk knowing we are wrong and have to change. I do not like change either, but "that is the way we have always done it" may not be the best way. We could be missing blessings or failing to bring glory to God.

Are you saying that if someone wants to kill me it is not a dangerous idea? Yes, that is exactly what I am saying...it is not a dangerous idea. The idea does not hurt you in any way. It hurts my feelings to think someone wants to kill me, but we should be able to deal with that by now. When your Mother cleaned and arranged everything in the house and would not let you make a wreck of it your feelings were hurt and I'm sure your feelings have been hurt many times since then by a multitude of people. If you are a Christian, there are a lot of Muslims that want to kill you. You have no idea how many people you irritated in the past that wanted to kill you. Satan will kill you as soon as God allows him to do so. The actions that the idea produces can be dangerous, but the idea is not. We have been unable to find a verse that says that God punishes us for ideas.

There are clearly verses that warn us to keep our thoughts pure which is why the Bible tells us to renew our minds through the Scriptures, but that in no way tells us that ideas are dangerous.

So, what are we to do? We are to encourage open debate with the spirit of finding the truth in Scripture not finding our own agenda. America's founding fathers used to have heated debates, but then afterwards would go out to eat together as friends. They knew the person with the opposing viewpoint still had the best interest of the

country at heart even if they had opposite views as to what was best for us. We need to get back to that mindset, where we can have an open debate on a given subject and still maintain a civil discourse. Just because someone disagrees with you does not inherently make them your enemy. We need to welcome debate otherwise we will never be able to point people to the truth of God's Word. The only thing dangerous about the subject of ideas is not allowing and encouraging the open discussion of them.

As a final note, when you have God's Word on your side you should never be afraid to have the discussion, but you should also not be discouraged when someone does not immediately see things your way. The open exchange of ideas is how we grow, but we do need to remember to have the objective authority as the basis for our doctrine, not people's opinions.