

My Critique of the following Critique of The Anti-Woke Movement	
<p>The Fundamentalist War on Wokeness is a War on Christian Love OCTOBER 13, 2020 BY MICHAEL F. BIRD</p> <p>HTTPS://WWW.PATHEOS.COM/BLOGS/EUANGELION/2020/10/THE-FUNDAMENTALIST-WAR-ON-WOKENESS-IS-A-WAR-ON-CHRISTIAN-LOVE/</p>	<p>Critique by Shawn C. Madden, Ph.D.</p>
<p>My daughter recently came to me late one night rather upset and she showed me a video that her Bible study had been watching and it was rather staggering. In the video a certain Jeff Durbin – who I’ve never heard of but looks like he’s trying to do a 2005 Mark Driscoll impersonation – said: The woke evangelical whore is a slut who lies down in the middle a burning city spreading her legs to the rioters and looters spreading her legs to Marx Engels Alinsky and Sorros ...</p> <p>In addition Owen Strachan who I have cordially met has delivered a <u>series of talks</u> decrying wokeness and its influence on the evangelical churches. This has met with much commentary. Okay let me try to be that rare voice of reason in this asylum of politics and religion.</p> <p>I know wokeness believe me I live in Melbourne comically known as Melbingrad one of the woke cities in the world where the Government is so progressive it makes California look like Alabama. The State govt. even created a second COVID wave by hiring security guards to operate quarantine facilities who were trained in diversity awareness but not in infection control (which is why I’ve spent the last three months living under quasi martial-law).</p> <p>I have written for political mags critiquing the progressive authoritarianism that demonizes the working class for voting for BREXIT and Trump. I’m an eager consumer of news outlets like Quillette Heterodox Academy SpikedOnline and follow authors like Douglas Murray who are dedicated to standing up to the bohemian bourgeois on subjects like freedom of speech and women’s rights. I also know very well that the progressive identity hierarchy divides everyone into either the oppressor or the oppressed it imputes to ethnicities certain immutable moral characteristics and (worst of all) it viciously</p>	<p>First, he sets the stage with a foul video that his daughter saw as the apparent example of the critique of Wokeness. Interestingly he compare it to a “Mark Driscoll impersonation”, a person strongly embraced by SEBTS leadership at one time.</p> <p>Then he made a broad, unevaluated claim that “The whole anti-woke and anti-critical race theory trope strike me as not so much interested in opposing progressive authoritarianism and its divisive racial politics as much as it serves to deny ethnic minorities have any grievances and white churches have any responsibility to do anything about it.”</p> <p>He then aims his rhetorical guns at the sin others he seems to percieve as those opposed to the Woke Movement: “If you want to talk about evangelical whoring it applies just as easily to churches who have tethered themselves to white supremacy who have fattened their hearts in the days of slaughter who messianize politicians and Caearize Jesus who crave war like a baby craves its mother’s milk who engage in a form of civil religion that combines the worst of racial prejudices with myths of national infallibility.”</p> <p>And to those he uses terminology, not blatantly offensive as Durbin’s but in the same rhetorical vein – demonizing those he sees as opposed to what he embraces. “That evangelical is the false prophet who leads others to bow down and worship the beast with feet made of</p>

attacks minorities if they do not obediently perform their roles in the identity hierarchy. For case in point Vicky Osterweil's book *In Defense of Looting* makes the morally monstrous claim that looting Korean businesses is okay because Koreans like Jews are the faces of capital. So you might expect me to be sympathetic to the anti-woke rhetoric of Durbin and Strachan but I'm not so let me explain why.

The whole anti-woke and anti-critical race theory trope strike me as not so much interested in opposing progressive authoritarianism and its divisive racial politics as much as it serves to deny ethnic minorities have any grievances and white churches have any responsibility to do anything about it.

In my mind acknowledging the reality of racism discrimination and injustice – whether historical cultural institutional – and determining to change it does not require adherence to a Marxist narrative or becoming Woke. Rather it is the outworking of the liberal political tradition rooted in a Christian worldview where everyone should have the same rights freedoms and opportunities. Where to quote George Washington quoting Scripture “Everyone will sit under their own fig tree and no-one will make them afraid.” Churches and Christian leaders who are concerned with racism police brutality affordable healthcare protecting refugees acting on poverty ending sex trafficking urging sustainable environmental policy ensuring LGBTI people have the right to work as well as defending the unborn promoting end-of-life care as an alternative to euthanasia safeguarding religious freedom opposing the gambling and pornographic industries they are not whoring or compromised. They are simply doing what Christians have been doing for 2000 years which is loving their neighbour remembering the poor being the Good Samaritan imitating Jesus hating evil loving good and establishing justice in the gate of the city. If you want to talk about evangelical whoring it applies just as easily to churches who have tethered themselves to white supremacy who have fattened their hearts in the days of slaughter who messianize politicians and

Darwinian economics legs comprised of corporations and colonies a stomach of moral indifference to the suffering of others arms made of confederacy and misogyny and a head made of the military-industrial complex.”

And lastly he makes to too common charge that those who are opposed to the Woke Movement are ignoring the biblical mandates when in fact they are not – it is the foundational methodology and actions that are being opposed, but he ignores that kind of in depth evaluation and just chooses to paint with a broad condemnatory brush -

“Let me be clear love of neighbour requires you to be concerned for the just treatment of your neighbour whether they are Black Hispanic First Peoples LGBT migrant Muslim working-class or even Baptist. Any derogation of a Christian's duty to be concerned about the welfare and just-treatment of their neighbour is an attack on the biblical love command itself.”

I myself know of no one who is opposed to the Woke Movement that is becoming so pervasive in the SBC that is a racist or any other “anti-someone” that he implies. Those opposed, myself included, to the Woke Movement because of the clear philosophically flawed underpinnings recognize the biblical injunction and by and large have lived by it our whole lives with no other motivation than God's work in our lives and our recognition of the image of God in all. But we do so from a biblical foundation and without false motivation and actions that do no more than attempt to make people guilty for things they have not done nor would ever consider doing.

Caesarize Jesus who crave war like a baby craves its mother's milk who engage in a form of civil religion that combines the worst of racial prejudices with myths of national infallibility.

That evangelical is the false prophet who leads others to bow down and worship the beast with feet made of Darwinian economics legs comprised of corporations and colonies a stomach of moral indifference to the suffering of others arms made of confederacy and misogyny and a head made of the military-industrial complex.

So don't buy into the lie that acknowledging a history of racial injustice and prioritizing the pursuit of racial justice is wokeness. Don't buy into the lie that all social justice is driven by Marxist ideology. It is not! It is what the prophets commanded what Jesus expects of his followers what the church has accepted as normal and what constitutional democracies with a Christian heritage should aspire to not in spite of but precisely because of their Christian heritage.

Let me be clear love of neighbour requires you to be concerned for the just treatment of your neighbour whether they are Black Hispanic First Peoples LGBT migrant Muslim working-class or even Baptist. Any derogation of a Christian's duty to be concerned about the welfare and just-treatment of their neighbour is an attack on the biblical love command itself.

He would have done better by very directly and pointedly aiming his critique to Durbin and not broadstroking the whole "Anti-Woke"