

# Understanding Dissent in America Today

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What about all of the dissonance in America today? What is driving the irrational protesting that has erupted? Let’s see if we can discern what the basis of this hostility is, from a simple Bible student’s vantage point.

Six Sigma, a business management consulting technique, uses a problem-solving formula called the “5 Why’s.” Applying “why” questions to a specific problem eventually produces knowledge that gets to the **root cause** of that problem. We will utilize this process to discover what is the **root cause** of the irrational provocation we see in American society today.



There is dissent on many levels in the West. It covers the breadth of our society. What is the nature of that dissent? We can identify the discord in the following chart:

Immigration Dissent	Border Dissent	Corporate Dissent	Political Dissent	Academy Dissent	Legal Dissent	Media Dissent	Religious Dissent	Entertainment Dissent
Sanctuary Cities	Against Wall	Starbucks Hiring Refugees	Cabinet Delay	Free Speech Protest	Lawsuits	Fake News	Pope	Platform for Political Bashing

The first question, then, why such a ruckus? **Why all this vitriol?** The common denominator for all of this irrational animosity is a hostility toward President Donald Trump and the policies he espouses.

## Hatred of President Trump

This hatred is apoplectic, that is, to be in a state of extreme agitation or spasmodic rage. President Trump is regularly characterized in the worst possible light by the dissonant political and media establishment. His administration’s policies are branded as un-American or anti-American by that same establishment. In nearly every major sphere of American society, this dissent seems informed by the Saul Alinsky’s “Rules of Engagement,” a manual for achieving progressive ends through anarchy. “Never let a serious crisis go to waste” (Rahm Emanuel) is its mantra. Bill O’Reilly validated this hatred in a Talking Point on Democrats who push an opposition agenda based on hate. He stated “So, we now have an opposition agenda primarily based on hatred not what’s best for the country. Just listen to the rhetoric on the left. It is vitriolic in the extreme” (Published April 04, 2017, FoxNews.com). These tactics are on full display through the resistance apparatus at work in our society. But why such a hatred of Trump and his policies? This takes us to the answer to **the second “why” question**. Progressivism fuels this outrage.

## Progressivism

Progressivism is a philosophy for societal change and improvement in the human condition, based on the idea of social evolution. Progressives support and advocate for social reform. A significant aspect of progressivism is **radicalism**, the idea that in order for social evolution to emerge, social norms must be replaced by any means possible. Saul Alinsky provided a model of social revolution that undergirds progressive ideology. For example, progressives believe we should evolve into a society where homosexual marriage, LGBTQ lifestyles, euthanasia, and abortion are not just accepted but normal. These then become the foundation for new progress.

Alinsky was a 1960's radical who urged his followers to be flexible and opportunistic and say anything to get power, which they can then use to radically change the existing social and economic institutions toward a socialism agenda. Alinsky was a Chicago community organizer who devised a strategy of deception to promote social change. His manual to advance radical agendas was titled "Rules for Revolution" and was later changed to "Rules for Radicals." The subject of Hillary Clinton's thesis was Alinsky's theories titled "There is Only the Fight: An Analysis of the Alinsky Model." She even personally interviewed him for the project. Barak Obama was also influenced by Alinsky, becoming an adept practitioner of Alinsky's methods as a workshop leader in South Chicago. Alinsky was primarily a socialist. The progressives favor Alinsky's radical agenda because they see socialism as part of the progress toward social evolution.

Saul Alinsky believed that radicals should be **political relativists**, taking an agnostic view of means and ends to undermine the system. An Alinsky radical has a single purpose, namely, to take power from the Haves and give it to the Have-nots. The Haves will defend what they have, whether power, influence or wealth, depriving the Have-nots of what they want, so the Haves must be destroyed before justice can be achieved. This amounts to a destructive assault on the established order in the name of the **people**. The strategy is to infiltrate the institutions of society and government. Confrontation, protests, riots, intimidation, guerilla warfare, and general anarchical activity are the tools of social radicalism.

Radicalism embraces **political nihilism**, the idea of the total rejection of established laws and institutions through anarchy, terrorism or other insurgent activity. The issue at hand is never really the issue. The issue is always the revolution. The cause, whether inner city blacks or women's rights or sexual orientation or abortion or homosexual marriage or racism or police brutality or illegal immigration, is **never the real cause, but only an occasion to advance the real cause**, which is accumulation of **power** to make the revolution. And for progressives, that power will be used for social evolution.

Effective channels to advance progressive ideology have included political correctness (language police), social justice advocacy, micro aggression (unintentional discrimination), victimhood (advertising oppression for sympathy), propaganda, racial, ethnic and religious unrest, virtue signaling (stances assuming moral superiority), identity politics (exclusive political alliances away from broad party politics), radical idealism (social utopia), and grievance advocacy (racial, sexual, or ethnic).

Conservatives think of war as metaphor when applied to politics. Radical progressives view it as real war!

Radical partisans of the left go into battle set to destroy their opponents by stigmatizing and demonizing them as **racists, misogynists, sexists, fascists, haters, xenophobes, Nazis, bigots, Alt Right, homophobes and Islamophobes**, just to name a few. Deception, for them, is a military tactic in a war that is designed to annihilate and eliminate the enemy. In this case, it would include anyone threatening a radical progressive political agenda of social evolution. When someone is perceived to be a menace to this agenda, they are viciously branded so they can be exposed, marginalized, and discarded as a legitimate adversary.

A basic principle of Alinsky's advice to radicals is **to lie** to their opponents to disarm them by pretending to be moderates and liberals. Radicals will say anything, and pretend to be anything to attain resources and power. Racial arsonists pose as civil rights' activists. Anti-American radicals pose as patriotic progressives. Socialists pose as liberals. The pose, though, is only to achieve the ends—power to bring about a progressive agenda. Ultimately, the blueprint is working within the system until one can accumulate enough power to destroy it. This way one can undermine the system, causing it to collapse, and for progressives, restructure it according to progressive ideology. Weaponized politics is a brutal tool

of progressives to bludgeon society into submission. But **why progressivism and why a radical version of it?** The answer to this third question is because progressivism is anti-Bible to the core.

## **Anti-Bible**

A common trait of progressivism is marginalizing the Bible in order to subvert an ethic that competes with the social evolution of progressives. Here is a familiar adage that marks this distinction, **when one understands how society views a moral issue, it is usually the opposite of that which is in the Bible.** Bruce Springsteen, a famous rock-and-roll musician, during a concert in Australia, captured the progressive spirit when he stated solidarity with the women's march on Washington D.C.

...we're a long way from home, and our hearts and spirits are with the hundreds of thousands of women and men that marched yesterday in every city in America and in Melbourne who rallied against hate and division and in support of tolerance, inclusion, reproductive rights, civil rights, racial justice, LGBTQ rights, the environment, wage equality, gender equality, healthcare, and immigrant rights. We stand with you. We are the new American resistance [<http://brucepringsteen.net/news/2017/we-are-the-new-american-resistance>].

One can see there is not a whole lot of Bible in this. The Bible, and any who adhere to its teaching, are actually in the way of progress. Progressives view marriage the opposite of the Bible. They understand sexuality contrary to its teaching in the Bible. They advocate for gender roles against that which is taught in Scripture. They do not believe in the sanctity of life. They are antagonistic toward a biblical view of family life. Human origins, they believe, are the outcome of evolution, not creation.

Progressives view the Bible as the enemy, a deterrent to the evolution of society. For those who continue to want to employ the Bible, it is changed to support progressive social evolution. Jesus is taught as a social justice warrior, an advocate for eradicating aids, overcoming poverty, societal equality and world peace. Millennials have become the army, the foot soldiers, of progressive thinking in the church. They and many like them call themselves "progressive Christians" but ally themselves to the same radical agenda as progressivism. To do this, they move away from a literal interpretation of the Bible. **So, why anti-Bible?** The answer to the fourth "why" question is, a spiritual warfare incites this anti-Bible stance.

## **Spiritual Warfare**

This is the realm of spiritual resistance to the plan and will of God. Rebellion within the spiritual realm has spilled over into the earthly realm. Humanity has volunteered for this rebellion from its inception. Satan devised this strategy in heaven (Ezekiel 28; Isaiah 14) when he rebelled against God as the highest in God's creative order. That rebellion led to the fall of a horde of the heavenly host, along with Satan, described as demons.

There is a doctrine of demons we are warned will prevail in the later times. *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons* (1 Timothy 4:1). This warfare is spiritual in nature. *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places* (Ephesians 6:12). Behind the scenes, societal upheaval is the work of a demonic doctrine of deceitful spirits, designed to manipulate society to conform to norms that conflict with God's revealed will. **Underpinning the social evolution of societies is spiritual hostility toward God, Jesus Christ, Christians, and the Bible.** The struggle with this irrational dissent is not against flesh and blood but against these dark forces in the heavenly places. This is the heart and soul of the conflict to subvert, purge, and then reconstruct a radically progressive society.

Much of the change in society associated with progressivism has come in the last fifty years. The 1960s became the seedbed for this radical transformation. Societal evolution found its moorings in the radical antiestablishment of that period. Since then, it has been a steady but sure dismantling of societal norms with its radical replacement by progressive ideology. **But why?** This leads to the fifth and last “why” question. **Why spiritual warfare?** The answer conveys the **root cause** of the dissent in America and in the world. Satan is preparing the world for the kingdom of the antichrist.

## The Antichrist's Kingdom

Satan has been anticipating the establishment of this kingdom for generations. Finally, we learn in Revelation 12:7-9 that Satan will find himself with no alternative but to feverishly attempt to constitute that kingdom in the midst of the Tribulation.

*And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

The wrath of Satan will be poured out upon the earth's population as he erects the kingdom of the antichrist. This is the root cause of progressive dissent in the West today.

Everything in history has been moving toward this final cataclysmic event before the return of Jesus Christ to earth to establish His kingdom. Satan's kingdom is a fake kingdom. Everything about it is built on deception. He is a counterfeiter. He is a liar. His kingdom will be based upon an earthly global rebellion similar to the heavenly one recorded in Revelation 12. Satan and his demonic horde have been planning for this reality since his attempted coup in heaven before earth was created. **Anything anyone does today, to bring in a progressive culture is only preparing it for, and setting the table for, this kingdom of the antichrist.** So what are we to do as devout followers of Jesus Christ?

## Conclusion

Social progressives have an earthy view of life that continually evolves on into the future. This motivates them to fix the world and redeem the culture. Societal resistance to the Bible's moral and spiritual directives have been a hallmark of the collective sinful heart. Its western, and even global nature, today mirrors that of societies before the Flood and at the Tower of Babel. Like those societies, the heart of man is only evil continually, resisting God morally and spiritually, as currently reflected in the progressive dissent of American society. Antichrist's kingdom will coalesce this resistance globally in the future.

Followers of Jesus have a heavenly, eternal concentration, while living as pilgrims and strangers on earth. Jesus gave His people a mandate. It is not to redeem culture or participate in social justice. It is to make disciples, as Jesus declared in Matthew 28:19-20.

*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and **on earth**. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

It's eternally valuable to make disciples. The purpose of disciple making is to prepare believers for the heavenly eternal kingdom to which they are going, by developing their own spiritual maturity. Be compassionate. Be salt and light in your own sphere of influence. However, focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ, not fixing the world or redeeming the culture.

*Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8).*