

# **Theological Equipping Class**

## ***Victimization and Outrage Culture***

9|27|20

### Introduction

Banning words and stuff

Is it racist?

Fun new words

### Origins of Outrage: Motive, Means, and Opportunity

#### Motive

Postmodernism

Critical theory

Victimization and outrage culture

#### Means

Technological advancement: media and social media

#### Opportunity

Affluence, comfort, and peace

## What is victimization and outrage culture?

What is victimization?

Marks:

1. Hyper-sensitivity
2. Presumption
3. Incentive

Jordan vs. Lebron

What is outrage culture?

the tendency to seek out opportunities for offense and assume the worst of intentions in others and therefore default into an emotionally driven hatred of the other

Distinguishing Marks and Problems with Victimization and Outrage Culture

1. Outrage culture elevates emotion over reason.

Examples:

- Police shootings
- Sexual assault
- Students and professors

The death of discourse

2. Outrage culture assumes that one side is the victim before examining the merits of the case.

God is always on the side of the victim.

How do we distinguish victim from victimizer?

- *He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord. (Proverbs 17:15)*
- *It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the righteous of justice. (Proverbs 18:5)*
- *The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him. (Proverbs 18:17)*
- *If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame. (Proverbs 18:13)*

### 3. Outrage culture is inconsistent and hypocritical.

Horizontal inconsistency

Vertical inconsistency

Speech is violence?

- Premise 1: Words cause stress.
- Premise 2: Stress causes harm.
- Premise 3: If someone attempts to harm me, I have the right to self-defense.

### 4. Outrage culture is outraged at the wrong things.

Righteous vs. unrighteous outrage

Things that offend God that modern culture tolerates or even celebrates:

Abortion, sexual immorality including homosexuality and transgenderism, covetousness, injustice disguised as justice, heresy, and so forth...

Things that God loves, that our culture hates:

Actual justice, forgiveness, reconciliation, due process, love for your enemies, truth, etc.

5. Outrage culture diagnoses THAT something is wrong, but not WHAT is wrong.

"If you see something say something. If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't."

Anger at police shootings

at inner cities

at forest fires

at rebuke/correction

Why outrage culture shuts down conversation

6. Outrage culture neglects biblical commands regarding how to deal with offenses.

What does our culture say to do when you are offended?

What does Scripture say?

1) Is it deserved?

2) Can you overlook?

*Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.*  
(Proverbs 19:11)

3) Personal conversation

7. Outrage culture cannot be pacified.

"Never lose your outrage." Bernie Sanders

The problem isn't tone!

"For the gospel is not flattering to human beings; it is directly opposed to their thoughts and wishes, and, as divine truth, gives the lie to their falsehood." (Bavinck)

Indulging the flesh

*Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19–21)*

## Responding to outrage culture:

- *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (James 1:19–20)*
- *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. (Ephesians 4:26–27)*
- *For the ruthless shall come to nothing and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off, who by a word make a man out to be an offender, and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate, and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right. (Isaiah 29:20–21)*
- *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. (Proverbs 10:12)*
- *Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends. (Proverbs 17:9)*
- *Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly. (Proverbs 14:29)*
- *Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. (Proverbs 16:32)*
- *A man of wrath stirs up strife, and one given to anger causes much transgression. (Proverbs 29:22)*
- *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2–4)*
- *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (1 Corinthians 13:4–6)*