



# Christian Citizenship

**“You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world” (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God’s kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God’s Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the “public square” with our message of Christ’s mercy for all. Please pray for God’s will to be done... in Jesus’ name.**

---

## **Parents and Teachers Are Speaking Up... and Being Heard**

The parents of Loudoun County, Virginia, have not been quiet. Their concerns with the school district’s “woke curriculum” resulted in a feud that made the national news. It was the suspension of Tanner Cross, a P.E. teacher who spoke out against a new transgender policy, that turned up the heat.

Tanner’s defense team is Alliance Defending Freedom. His attorney explained that in talking to a lot of teachers at the school, many agree with Tanner but have been afraid to come forward. Thanks to Circuit Judge James E. Plowman, Jr., they don’t have to be afraid anymore. Plowman ordered Loudoun County to reinstate Cross, calling what the district did “an unnecessary and vindictive act.” It was an “unconstitutional” action, he wrote, and it has “silenced others from speaking publicly on the issue.” Tanner’s attorney, Tyler Langhofer, said, “What we need is more teachers engaging in the political process. . . . The First Amendment hasn’t changed. The principles [of free speech and religious freedom] are still here—and if they’re willing to stand, we can win this battle. But we can’t win if they won’t stand. We can cancel Cancel Culture if people have the courage to stand.”

Rachel Damiano, an assistant principal at North Middle School in Grants Pass, OR., and science teacher Kate Medart, not only had the courage to stand up, but they started a grassroots organization called “I Resolve.” They proposed: 1) allowing staff and students to abide by their consciences and refrain from using preferred pronouns for students whose anatomic sex does not match the students’ pronoun of choice, 2) requirement of parent involvement, and 3) labeling

of restrooms and lockers “anatomically male” or “anatomically female” to correspond with students’ anatomic sex. Students also could request access to private restrooms or locker rooms. Damiano and Medart consulted with school officials in preparing their proposal, but after they promoted their ideas in a video that they created on their own, the two were put on leave “pending an investigation.” They were told that five other school workers had complained that their Christian beliefs were “anti-transgender” and therefore unacceptable.

Damiano and Medart have taken legal action and are being represented by the Pacific Justice Institute which has filed against the Grants Pass School District. Their attorney, Ray D. Hacke, said, “The Supreme Court has made clear that educators don’t check their freedom of speech at the schoolhouse gate when they accept employment with public school districts—they have as much right to speak out against district policies they consider harmful as any other citizen.”

In Rapid City, SD., local families were so frustrated by “woke” indoctrination in their school district that they organized a campaign—very similar to what the parents in Southlake, TX., did—and managed to sweep all four open seats on the school board with conservatives. (Sources: “Virginia District Hears Parents Loudoun Clear” by Tony Perkins in *Washington Watch*, 6-9-2021; and “Teachers at war with district over Christian and conservative opinions take legal action” by Bob Unruh in *WND*, 6-13-21.)

**What can we do?** First, do your homework. Read *Love Thy Body* by Nancy Pearcey, *God and the Transgender Debate* by Andrew T. Walker, and *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment* by Ryan T. Anderson. Visit Walt Heyer Ministries at [www.waltheyer.com](http://www.waltheyer.com). Order *The Transgender Agenda* and *Transgender Transition* DVDs from Answers In Genesis. Next, gather with like-minded parents and teachers to exchange resources, be alert to school curricula, and meet with school boards and administrations when appropriate.

**Please pray** for the children... in Jesus’ name.

## **Ivy League Grads Need Not Apply**

Some of the brightest minds and most influential citizens have, for centuries, come from elite universities. "Those Ivy League graduates," observes Phil Shiver, "could count on one coveted benefit of higher education: landing a good job." But according to a hiring manager for a popular magazine, writes Shiver, that might be changing.

R.R. Reno is the editor of *First Things*, a well-known religious public policy magazine. In an article for the *Wall Street Journal*, Reno explained that he has largely stopped hiring graduates from Ivy League schools because they're either too "woke," too "self-important," or have been trained to stay silent when it matters. "A decade ago, I relished the opportunity to employ talented graduates of Princeton, Yale, Harvard and the rest," explained Reno. "Today? Not so much."

Students educated at Ivy League-type schools, explained Reno, have been "socialized to panic over pseudocrises." They navel-gaze about "diversity," "inclusion," and other abstract ideas rather than put their nose to the grind on real work. On the other hand, for every outspoken student activist there are many more who refuse to speak up when it counts. Reno wrote,

"If students can be traumatized by 'insensitivity' on that leafy campus, then they're unlikely to function as effective team members in an organization that has to deal with everyday realities. And in any event, I don't want to hire someone who makes inflammatory accusations at the drop of a hat."

He continued, "Student activists don't represent the majority of students. But I find myself wondering about the silent acquiescence of most students. They allow themselves to be cowed by charges of racism and other sins. I sympathize. The atmosphere of intimidation in elite higher education is intense. But I don't want to hire a person well-practiced in remaining silent when it costs something to speak up." (Source: "Employer says he has stopped hiring Ivy League grads" by Phil Shiver in Blaze Media, June 9, 2021.)

**What can we do?** Think about your child's continuing education. Reno says he seeks graduates from smaller, lesser known, though more dependable private institutions or state

universities. Help your child find good role models of productivity that grows out of biblical honesty, perseverance, and doing all work to the glory of God. If your child has a specific professional interest but doesn't want crippling debt to delay marriage and family, think about the life-long benefits of a tech or trade school.

**Please pray** for the hearts and minds of college-bound students... in Jesus' name.

## **CRT Infiltrating Schools & Churches**

Keisha King, a black mom representing Moms for Liberty, recently presented her concerns about Critical Race Theory (CRT) to the Florida Board of Education. She warned that the far-left ideology is racist and will destroy America if not stopped. This mom is one of many parents and teachers who are speaking against CRT in public schools. At the same time, there are Christian men and women calling out the wolves in sheep's clothing who are bringing CRT, social justice as opposed to biblical justice, and intersectionality into churches.

**What can we do?** Be informed. Visit the Oregon Association of Scholars ([www.oregonscholars.org](http://www.oregonscholars.org)) and print off their "cheat sheet" designed to help respond to social justice rhetoric. Make use of the "Tool Kit: Combating Critical Race Theory in Your Community" provided by Citizens Renewing America ([www.citizensrenewingamerica.com](http://www.citizensrenewingamerica.com)). Be alert to CRT/social justice in the LCMS. Ask to join Stephen Scaer and the Facebook Group of Lutherans Against Critical Theory which exists to counter the ideology and work of Lutherans for Racial Justice. Discover that CRT, social justice as opposed to biblical justice, and intersectionality are rooted in Marxism. Become familiar with Trevor Loudon who has spent 30 years researching the purposeful infiltration of Communism into American churches. Listen to an interview with him by Jon Harris on Conversations That Matter (<https://youtu.be/c90fB9ZfWSs>). (Note: Harris has witnessed CRT/social justice brought into the Southern Baptist Convention.) Remember that God told His people not to accept the help of unbelieving neighbors in the land when rebuilding Jerusalem. (Ezra 4:1-4)

**Please pray** for Truth always ... in Jesus' name.

