

## 7. The Far Right Trinity

---

Tess Lambert, 01.04.2022

### Youtube Video

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuYM\\_I8JDxc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuYM_I8JDxc)

#### [00:00:18.070] - Speaker 1

Dear God in heaven. Thank you for this time that we're about to spend together in the study of your word and study events as well. And all that is happening these days, and help us to understand the concepts we're about to end together. Please teach us, we pray. May the Holy Spirit fill us, and give us understanding [...] In Jesus name. Amen

#### [00:00:52.710] - Tess

The last two times we've met, it's been a little bit of a challenge. We really needed to get over that hump of breaking down libertarianism as a political concept. And that didn't enable a lot of discussion. That we could railroad that through where we were all on the same page on what libertarianism is in theory and hopefully what we can also see how it is in practice. Because one looks much nicer, or the theory looks much nicer than the reality. We have spent quite a bit of time in the last couple of classes doing that. The last class, I think was fairly heavy, maybe the last two. We're only doing this because you asked a question, Brendon. You asked, how do we sift the left wing? And with that, then we started to ask, why are we left wing in the first place? I should have had this. You, Rachel, put us over here as a movement from 1989 to 2018. No one has argued with that. Why did we change in 2018? And we know that 2018 is the midnight cry, that we walk in the light of the midnight cry all the way to the second advent.

#### [00:02:28.240] - Tess

And we also know that when people leave this movement, the light behind them goes out. And we know that light is prophetically speaking, using line upon line, that light is the light of the midnight cry. What is it about 2018 that people who leave the path, constantly conflict with? We said in the last two classes, every single fight that this movement has really had since 2018, has centered on two streams of information. Has centered on left wing versus right wing. When people come into conflict, and we've had these shakings and these disagreements, it still comes down to 2018. And when they leave the movement, when the light behind them goes out, what does that mean to how they would now view the midnight cry? Not necessarily me or some prophetic message, but the core, some external prophetic concepts. Like saying that Russia is the King of the south. But getting to the heart of the midnight cry, the heart of two streams of information. What is the light that they're walking in that they no longer have. To understand that, we need to really understand what the midnight cry means to us, what it was designed to teach us.

#### [00:04:03.440] - Tess

It's two streams of information. It's two sides of a political debate, whether we call that 2016, or really all the way along our reform line. We went from discussing what's wrong with the left wing, and we're going to come back and discuss the left wing again, to discussing the right wing and why we needed to shift from right wing to left wing. What does that even mean for us? If we aren't able to define it, then what's the point of shifting? Then we began to then get to the beating heart of what the right wing stands for and what the left wing stands for. Then, going deeper into the problems of the right wing, seeing their stance on freedom, seeing the left wing stance on equality. We began to broaden the right wing and see it encompass not necessarily the traditional white Christian conservative base, but I would suggest a much more dangerous and powerful base in 2022 in a post Christian world. And with that, we started to break down libertarianism. Libertarianism as a political party, technically it's not that powerful. But as a mindset and as a worldview, it is much more common than we might suppose.

### **[00:05:37.350] - Tess**

So we were in our last class breaking down libertarianism. I tried to sell it to you in its most beautiful positive concept. Freedom for all. I did collect a couple of photos. I'm not sure if I can share screen. Can I share screen? Maybe it won't let me. They aren't that important. We could do that later if we're able to. But just even if you looked it up for yourself, look up libertarianism and their banners all about freedom. It's like what we did when we looked at our United Australia Party, far right party in Australia today, and how thickly they lay on the message of freedom and how it's under threat from the left, from woke leftists. After selling it all to you, then I tried to then pop that bubble. It's beautiful message about freedom for all. And then what that looks like in reality. And just to give a taste of what it looks like in reality, just a taste. We took their prominent heroes and asked their prominent heroes what they think of the Civil Rights Act. And if they can't get the Civil Rights Act 1964 correctly, then you could only imagine what they do with gender politics today. Or with anything today that seems to trample on individual freedom, especially freedom to discriminate.

### **[00:07:26.170] - Tess**

So we built up a beautiful bubble and then we tried to pop it. So since then, we've obviously had the camp meeting. But there was also the two articles that I shared and asked you all to read. So you could give your thoughts on. The first article. Does anyone have any thoughts they want to share on the first article? This was Huffington Post. *Why Libertarians and Rand Paul are wrong about the Civil Rights Act*. They go into some detail here and they pick apart, the libertarian issue with the Civil Rights Act, and show just how problematic it is. I don't think Rand Paul really wanted to explicitly state how deep his opposition to the Civil Rights Act would go. What this article is showing is if he disagrees with this one part, then how much does he disagree with all these other elements that have come in not just in 1964, but in over the years to try and bring about some form of racial equality in the United States? Does anyone have anything that they want to share on that Huffington Post article? Was it enlightening? Was it helpful? Did it clarify things for you?

### **[00:08:59.450] - Tess**

People are shy today. I'll just start calling. Greg.

**[00:09:06.750] - Mrs. Bennett**

The article is so normal.

**[00:09:17.230] - Tess**

Mrs. Bennett, what were you saying? Sorry.

**[00:09:20.890] - Mrs. Bennett**

Just how normal it was in that today's society.

**[00:09:26.350] - Tess**

What's normal?

**[00:09:28.030] - Mrs. Bennett**

What's normal? Just the responses that came from the guy, and how she valued what the guy said. Max.

**[00:09:38.890] - Tess**

Oh, you're going to the Vox article.

**[00:09:41.590] - Mrs. Bennett**

Yes.

**[00:09:42.620] - Tess**

The normality of it.

**[00:09:44.890] - Mrs. Bennett**

Yes.

**[00:09:45.480] - Mrs. Bennett**

Just the normality of it all. And it was shocking.

**[00:09:50.470] - Tess**

That is such an important point. I might address the Huffington Post article at the moment, but then if we come back to Vox, I'll ask you again to enlarge on that thought, because I think it's important. That is one of the key reasons I wanted people to read, what is a long article, and really just this person talking about his beliefs. But as we read it, we see the normality that's given to these quite bigoted views. Greg, you're going to comment on the Huffington Post article?

**[00:10:31.270] - Greg**

Yeah. I thought libertarian political helped me understand ?..... ? But it brought to the contradiction between what they believe.

**[00:11:01.110] - Tess**

Can I stop you for a second? You're cutting out a lot. I'm picking up the bits that are broken and I'm going to repeat that back. You said that this article helped you see the contradiction between what they say and what that looks like in practice. The beautiful message. But then they are forced into a position where they're supporting what and you use the word despicable types of discrimination. Is that what you were? Do you want to keep going? Before you got any further and I started to forget I wanted to repeat so we could pick up. But we need to work on your audio. Sorry.

**[00:12:02.350] - Greg**

So hopefully you can hear me clearer.

**[00:12:07.020] - Tess**

It's much better.

**[00:12:07.830] - Greg**

Yes, is just what I was thinking. I found a lot of contradiction between what they say is despicable and what they really hate. Yet they seem to be the proponents of what they hate.

**[00:12:25.490] - Tess**

Yes. To not see a need for government intervention on the social level. I think it does become an issue as to whether or not they actually see the problem as a significant one in the first place. I agree. Were you done or was there something else?

**[00:12:49.390] - Greg**

No, that's all. The second one article that we're not discussing. We'll discuss later.

**[00:12:57.730] - Tess**

Sure. Thank you Greg. Ray? Doesn't just have to center just on the article, but we're talking about. It should center on the article, but the context is this libertarian issue they have. Sorry. Continue.

**[00:13:20.010] - Raymond**

No, that's fine. Something that sort of stuck out to me was this attitude that was referred to that slavery would sort of wither out and die eventually anyway without the government intervening because the Christian proponents of it were inherently moral. So they would eventually get over it and stop doing slavery. And I just think, that tolerance betrays the hypocrisy of the whole thing. How long are you

prepared to tolerate something that you say you think is evil, but will eventually look after itself? To me, that's not good enough.

**[00:14:13.130] - Tess**

I agree. But they have this to play Devil's advocate, this idea that those who choose freedom over equality lose both. Sorry, those who choose equality over freedom will lose both. I think that that is a right wing famous quote, that if you do not prioritize freedom over equality, you'll find that the society is incapable of either. I don't agree with that phrase that you have to lose freedom to prioritize the equality of those who have been and continue to be oppressed by society.

**[00:14:55.590] - Raymond**

Before I joined the movement or as I joined the movement, I was watching a lot of Ben Shapiro, and it was reminded me a lot of the arguments he had. That's the exact base I pulled these days. But it was reminding me a lot of the arguments he used to put out about the minimum wage. He's like, no, the government shouldn't have a minimum wage. As companies earn more, they'll pay their employees more because they'll see the value of it and it doesn't happen. You look at the statistics and it just doesn't happen. I was getting a few flashbacks and whatnot from my past, my previous dispensation.

**[00:15:35.350] - Tess**

Yes.

**[00:15:36.380] - Tess**

It's very much that idea that freedom will solve society's problems. And I think quick search. Very quick search, because he's one that I haven't researched when it comes to libertarianism. It seems to me that he does have libertarian leanings, even if that is not their political party affiliation. This is the undercurrent of thinking for much of the far right today, which is what we're trying to dig out. Is that all Ray? Just let me know when you're done so I don't interrupt.

**[00:16:20.870] - Raymond**

Yeah, I'm done.

**[00:16:22.370] - Tess**

Sure. Josephine? Josephine?

**[00:16:42.010] - Josephine**

Sorry. I hadn't turned on my mic. Was it Rachel Maddow that interviewed Rand Paul? Is that the article you're talking about?

**[00:16:53.290] - Tess**

Yeah.

**[00:16:54.850] - Josephine**

He had to be cornered to come out with his belief. She had to ask him a very direct appointed question for him to be able to come out with his belief. Or what shall I say? About libertarian and the far right. The libertarians are very... The word 'alt'. Is that alright? They're very extreme in their belief. Which means that they could be quite dangerous when they get into power. Is that because of the way they believe, because of the ideology? Am I asking a proper question, or am I just making it up in my mind?

**[00:17:55.450] - Tess**

Just to comment on what you said before? Rachel Maddow had to corner him to get him to state his true position on key portions of the Civil Rights Act. It's 2022. It's not politically safe in 2022 to criticize the Civil Rights Act. But in 2022, you talk about the Equal Rights Amendment for women or expanding hate crime to include gender based violence. And that's a different story. They would be much more comfortable openly stating opposition to those things. They're more concurrent attempts to change legislation and thinking. But yes, he had to be cornered, because it's not something that people politically want to be able to be quoted as saying criticisms of the Civil Rights Act. We're going to discuss more libertarianism as it impacts politics, because we have heavily focused, in the past as a movement, talking about especially older conservative Christian Republicans. If you look at even the far right today, if you look at the most outrageous members of the Republican Party today, many of them are not the Mitt Romney's. They're not even that older generation. What is coming up and what is becoming much more active and vocal and aggressive over the last, I would say twelve years, is a slightly different demographic.

**[00:19:51.140] - Tess**

We are in a postchristian world. And while we continue to target evangelicals and evangelical influence over Trump and the Republican Party, if we only see that we forget that we are talking to a bubble and that it is a post Christian world, therefore it's a post Christian United States. We're going to continue to talk more about that influence on politics and how dangerous libertarianism becomes once it channels people through into the far right. But what I want us to understand really clearly is if you go to their website, if you hear them state their party platform, it is beautiful. They can sell it like nothing else. I'll disagree with what you say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it. He who chooses equality over freedom loses both. They have phrases, they have arguments that sound beautiful. They have an entire political system that sounds beautiful until you start seeing it in practice and start pushing them into a corner on some of these civil rights issues. I'll say yes, talking about the political danger of it. But an attentive yes, because that's where our discussion is going to continue to be about for a little while longer.

**[00:21:27.210] - Tess**

Is that all, Josephine?

**[00:21:28.850] - Josephine**

Yes, thank you very much. I was sort of thinking along those line, but you just clarified it and made it so much clearer.

**[00:21:38.430] - Tess**

Sure. I really want to make sure in this class that everyone has an opportunity to voice their thoughts, even just if you're repeating back things that we've already said in your own words. It becomes clearer for you if you want to do that. It's hopefully a more interactive class. To quote back from something we quoted in the last class from Current Affairs white libertarians opposed to civil rights. And they explain it that from a legal perspective, discrimination should be permitted in any society that honors freedom of association. So a libertarian will support an individual's right to discriminate based on race or gender or whether or not someone is homosexual. At the same time, they will support gay marriage. They will oppose the Union of Church and state. Do we get how important that is for us to see? A libertarian will oppose the Union of Church and state. Does that complicate your picture at all? A libertarian will oppose Church and state.

**[00:22:56.290] - Josephine**

Yeah, that makes me start to think about all what's coming in the next lecture.

**[00:23:05.470] - Tess**

We're in a post Church world, aren't we?

**[00:23:08.190] - Mrs. Bennett**

Yeah.

**[00:23:09.050] - Tess**

So when we talk about the Union of Church and state as it fought for his existence in 1888, even under Billy Graham, we are in 2022. What does the Union of Church and state at the Sunday law look like today? Brandon, all I'm doing is making our picture as complicated as possible, so hopefully we can have any discussion issues arise now in a time when we can dig through them together. Brandon.

**[00:23:43.630] - Brandon**

I'm not sure whether I'm answering your question here. It was more a question when you brought up the Church and state comment. So from a libertarian point of view, they would oppose that Union because they see Church enforcing morality on people, and they don't like they want the freedom to do what they want. Is that where they're coming from, or is it more complicated than that?

**[00:24:22.970] - Tess**

Libertarianism like their economic policies gets muddy once you start seeing it in practice. What does a libertarian do when a trans woman wants to play a female sport, wants to compete along, with women? What does a libertarian then do? Is it trans rights or is it protecting the freedom of... It gets a little bit

muddy and a little bit complicated outside of those situations, what is a Church going to enforce that a libertarian would support? Libertarians are all about supporting gay marriage, for example. I'll keep going back to that one because it's the easiest one to see. But what really is a Church going to enforce that an atheistic libertarian would have no problem with? I think there's an answer to that question, but I don't want to give it now. Ray.

**[00:25:32.170] - Raymond**

When you said that, I think my question is similar to Brendon when you said that they're post Church and state. Does that make the whole Moral Majority thing really messy? Because where do they stand on? Because the Moral Majority came about to stop the government taking away the tax exempt status from their religious schools and universities and things like that. Where would the libertarians stand on that issue? They don't like the government sort of enforcing those things on individuals and organizations, but at the same time, they're not going to be happy about Christians lobbying politics. Is that sort of the whole point of this discussion? It gets super messy.

**[00:26:30.110] - Tess**

I think the problem is. Almost all of us come from a Christian history. And then we came from that Christian history into a Christian movement. And then we started fighting with other Christians who had left Adventist Christianity into this movement and their long history with Protestantism. We have Christian, Christian, Christian, Christian, and Christian. In 2018 we start fighting with FFA, the Christian wing of this movement that came from Adventism, which has been drinking the line of apostate Protestantism, which has got a historical connection to Catholicism. And then from 2019 to 2021, we're fighting with people who are having that same legacy issues of thinking in that Republican, conservative, Christian, Moral Majority type of mindset. And it has been from 2018 to 2021, a bubble. And what I'm saying is, if we step back and actually look at the left wing and the right wing, let's pop our bubble for a moment and stop speaking as Christians, considering that we're going to Adventism and other Christians, and actually look at the right wing. Because it isn't a Christian world anymore. And the main threat inside the United States are not evangelicals, they're a threat.

**[00:27:59.910] - Tess**

They're there. And Donald Trump knows that he needs their segment of the vote to win. We're right to point that out. We're right to point out how Donald Trump speaks to today's Moral Majority. To see how Donald Trump speaks to Jerry farewell, the son of Jerry farewell sr. Trump needs that evangelical vote, but he needs more than that evangelical vote. That however big a percentage of his base is. There's something much more prehistoric, much more deep that Trump is appealing to, than just evangelicals. We're popping our bubble for a moment and we need to have that bubble popped as we approach the Sunday law. First of all, so we can help the world make sense to the Adventists who we are meant to be speaking to. And also we can prepare to do our work at the Sunday law. For many people of the world who don't exist in our Christian bubble. Does that make sense?

**[00:29:26.790] - Moly**



Yeah. I just wanted to ask a question. How I read the things. It looks like, even though, the leaders or the politician, they sort of had this fear... Of how the slaves sort of inferior to the white... And they start making up laws and get involved in their... Just to sort of put them down. I could see that they're sort of scared, but they sort of remind me what happened with ancient Israel in Egypt when the people were ready to come. The Pharaoh could see that these people are growing up in numbers and they are getting stronger, and they sort of have the same attitude. Was that the same? What I'm saying internally, the mindset of us as a movement, we still have the mindset of the Apis Bull. But looking at this one, even external, even the people in the government in ?? , they have that mindset as well.

**[00:30:49.550] - Tess**

Without answering your question directly, because I think we are going to as we go through the article and some other articles that I want us to go into. Then the feeling of being threatened is very real. Because Masterpiece Bake Shop versus Colorado Civil Rights Commission, this man, he just wants to be able to run his own business how he believes is right, which means you don't sell cakes to a gay couple. And this side Civil Rights Commission and I've undersigned civil rights. We connect it to the civil rights movement and we know what civil rights is about. Civil rights is about equality, part of that being government enforced equality, social equality. Then if this fellow loses and the gay couple wins, who's the victim? Who becomes the victim? If the Civil Rights Commission wins and the gay couple wins, this fellow is a victim, isn't he? Then isn't it this side that's under threat? So you could put anyone here, you could put a white male Christian here, or you could put a South Sudanese member, leadership member, board member, man here, and we put a female in charge of their Ministry. All of a sudden who becomes the victim, who becomes under threat, who loses their freedom?

**[00:32:37.950] - Tess**

It becomes a story about perpetrators and victims. And it muddies the water. Because if you believe that freedom is so precious, even freedom to discriminate, and you believe that if freedom is so much under threat and this person here loses, it's going to bring about a feeling of victimhood, but also a feeling that you are under threat, that your rights and your freedoms are under threat. It's not reasonable, but it is there. And we'll get more into that when we go into our second article. Sorry, Molly, did you say something?

**[00:33:25.670] - Moly**

Wasn't the 14th Amendment written to sorted out? To solve that problem?

**[00:33:32.850] - Tess**

Yes, but I'll refer to Elder Parminder for thoughts on the 14th Amendment. He's much more knowledgeable on that one than me. I might go to Marie and then we're going to move on to our second article. Marie?

**[00:33:49.690] - Marie**

You asked the question, who was Trump appealing to? So I just was thinking, well, and you said it was much more than just the right wing, the Republicans. It's much more than Republicans. I was thinking atheist and maybe fundamentalist. That was all I was going to say.

**[00:34:27.330] - Tess**

We're going to say more about atheism in a moment. It does become important. Before we head into our second article, there was a part in this article that is quite insightful. It helps unlock some of the puzzles that we've been building. But it becomes really important in this to understand the significance of this faction of the right wing, to understand how Reddit operates as a platform. So some of you on the local fellowship heard Rachel speak about Gamergate, and when she spoke about Gamergate. She asked the question, how many of us know what Twitter is and knows how Twitter works? And quite a few of us didn't know what Twitter even was, let alone how it operated. So before we go into this article, Rachel is going to explain for us what Reddit is and how Reddit operates. And as we go through, you'll see why it's important for us to know that. I'm going to go quiet for a little while and we're going to change screen and Rachel is going to come on. Are you there? Rachel, are you ready?

**[00:35:48.270] - Rachel**

Can you hear me? Okay.

**[00:35:52.210] - Tess**

Could you say something again?

**[00:35:54.090] - Rachel**

You can hear me okay? Can you hear her okay?

**[00:36:01.090] - Rachel**

It's okay. Thank you.

**[00:36:05.990] - Tess**

I'll let you go.

**[00:36:07.730] - Rachel**

Alright. Thanks though. I'm going to talk to you about Reddit in a very, very simple way. The best way that... Reading all of the information, I guess, it's easier for you to just break it down. Basically, as we know social media, there's a lot of social media platforms out there. from Facebook to Twitter to Instagram and Reddit, another line platforms. And people basically use the same way to share information to gather information. But there are some differences. If you put in the most simple terms, Reddit is a giant forum. And then in that giant forum we have these smaller forums. And so the giant forum we call as a website, it's called Reddit. And the little ones we're going to call a subreddit. We're going to come back to the subreddit. If we just did a little compare and contrast of a social media, maybe

we will look at Facebook and we'll look at Reddit. So Facebook, the way Facebook is set up, it really is about the individual, about using their personal information like birthdays and relationship statuses and your age. They use a website to grow relationships with other people. There's a difference between Facebook and Reddit.

**[00:37:48.250] - Rachel**

So Facebook is sharing information. It's about people, you know, people that you know, sharing things about you really don't care about. But Reddit's different sharing things that you really care about to people that you don't know. So that's the difference between Facebook. So Reddit value is contribution to the community over the individual. What it does, it creates these subreddits. Another word for these subreddits are community. If you think of the Reddit values the contribution to the community over the individual, that's the way I can sort of remember it. So the idea is to create value as part of this community that exists in these subreddits and then to grow that community. In other words, Reddit isn't about you, it's about the collective. So let's have a look at the subreddit. I'm going to Zoom in and have a more to look at the subreddit. Can you see the board okay?

**[00:39:02.470] - Tess**

Yes, it's good.

**[00:39:06.070] - Rachel**

We're going to Zoom out. If we think of these subreddits. And by the way subreddit means a way saying 'I read it'. That's what Reddit means. We have these subreddits or we can call this community. So on these subreddit, people can write tech or share video, do movie, meme. And how it works is this. We read that article from Vox and the guy's name was Max. I guess it wasn't his name. But there was one section in there, or a few sections, that was talking about Reddit. So basically how this works. I'm just going to use Max as one of the examples. So his community that he was a part of. I don't know if you saw that in the article, but you might go back and have a look. They might use their name, but they can have a user's name. We're just calling that for now. So on this subreddit you can join this community. And the way it works is... On the side of the subreddit you have these arrows. And the way it works is that it's the community that drives the content. It's not administrators, it's actually driven by the community.

**[00:41:07.790] - Rachel**

So if somebody reads or watches something on this subreddit, they can upvote it and they can downvote it based on if they like it or not. If it gets a lot of upvote, it moves up through the rankings or Reddit rankings so that more people can see it. And then the ultimate goal I guess is to come on the main big forum. This is the website, the main one that you see for open credit. And also you can download it and then it just pretty much disappears from viewers site. So that's how it works through the subreddit and it eventually will go on here. So there might be 600 people that have voted for them up and then it will appear on the main website. As I said, it's a community that votes on the concept. And also a few things about Reddit. It does try on being anonymous, I probably didn't say that before. And pretty much anything goes. Since 2017 they have changed a lot of things since Charlottesville. This was used a lot. Reddit was

used a lot through there. There's about 130,000 different subreddits. That 130,000 different community that you can join and I'm sure it's increasing from there.

**[00:42:55.430] - Rachel**

Reddit's really popular because it's a place that people can find common ground and join these communities. So just a couple of little things... I'll put something on the board. Because it's anonymous, their age, who they are, it's quite hard. So they do surveys and then they can draw the information that way. But there's one done in 2001, we're just going to have a look at some of the stats from there. So Reddit was created 2005. In 2001 the survey was conducted. That's the way they gathered the information. And Reddit was ranked in the whole world. It was ranked 19th most visited website. In the US it was the 7th most visited website in the world. They have also a mobile app that you can use on your phone. And that was one of the most popular apps in the US. I'm not too sure what it looks like on his phone. But basically a lot of people use the app more than on their laptop. And overall, the total number of Reddit users per month, active users, is 430,000,000 active per month. And what we want to have a look at is who uses Reddit.

**[00:45:07.890] - Rachel**

So 36% of the users aged between 18 and 29. I want to have a look at the math. Thanks to Chris. If we have a look at this per month, you can correct me if my math is wrong. So per month, 154,000,800 users are between the ages of 18 and 29. And then another thing we want to have a look at really quickly is 63.2% identify as being male. If we did the math on that one per month, we're talking 271,760,000 has been male. And the last little bit. The highest number of users of Reddit are from American, the second highest users actually are from Australia. That was surprising for me. But that was a very basic overlook of Reddit. Has anyone got any questions, though? I might have went too fast, but has anyone got any questions? Raymond, you've got your hand up.

**[00:47:03.610] - Raymond**

Yeah. I don't know if you found this in your research at all, but when you said that users can vote on content line either good or bad, I don't know if it was commented on at all in what you looked at, but does that encourage more extreme content? Because people want obviously the community to either like or dislike their stuff and be visible.

**[00:47:34.010] - Rachel**

It does get a bit complicated how the up and the downvote does work. It can actually go on the date that it's actually presented as well. That has effective, but it's more than three days old. It can actually go down the rankings really quite quickly as well. I did mention it quickly, like Charlottesville, the community that was joined to that, what they can do is they can link it. It's a little bit like Twitter with a hashtag. You can link all these as well. Like. If you're looking for a certain thing, you can actually find it from Google as well. I'm not sure if I answered your question. Sorry.

**[00:48:17.030] - Raymond**

No, that's okay.

**[00:48:20.390] - Rachel**

Ask me again. Sorry.

**[00:48:26.250] - Raymond**

The question was, does the voting system encourage people to post more extreme things to get more votes and more visibility?

**[00:48:37.830] - Rachel**

And I guess it depends if that's what the community is about, then that's how it's driven by that community. If that's what they like, then it's going to get up voted the more numbers, then it will file through more viewers. The idea is to get more people joining and more viewers, both.

**[00:49:02.410] - Raymond**

Yeah. Thank you.

**[00:49:04.610] - Rachel**

Is it Greg?

**[00:49:10.890] - Greg**

Yeah. So basically that doesn't mean it has to be accurate or factual. It just has to be popular.

**[00:49:18.210] - Rachel**

Yes. And there is actually on the main Reddit page, you do have links, what's hot, what's popular as well. It's very changing sort of platform. It doesn't say segment at all. If you get on there and have a look at Reddit and then you might take a snippet. I was going to actually share a snippet. And then you go back a few hours and it's really changed. It's always changing.

**[00:50:02.270] - Josephine**

The people that write do their names come up so that, you know, it's a specific person writing for the community? Or is it the community name that comes up when it goes into the big page or the small page?

**[00:50:16.550] - Rachel**

I couldn't hear that. I don't have the best audio.

**[00:50:21.570] - Josephine**

Sorry. The people that write the articles that gets uploaded, the names appear there? And when it's uploaded onto the forum, is that the community's name that comes up or the person as well is the community?

**[00:50:41.430] - Rachel**

Yeah, correct. So you have a person that has a user's name, but this is the community. This is the one that matched in that article that elders Tess posted. That's their community. So you can join that community and then you can write posts and send photos and be a part of that community.

**[00:51:06.850] - Josephine**

Thank you.

**[00:51:14.750] - Speaker 10**

Not really asked so much as a comment because I sort of use it sometimes. Usually when I make comments on certain videos and stuff like that, people can give awards and stuff like that. And usually the awards cost money to give out. It's involved.

**[00:51:40.870] - Rachel**

Yeah. They can get Karma rewards. It is quite complicated. I was hoping to just simplify it. It's quite complicated what the community really is community driven. They do have monitors, not moderators. It's not the administrators that actually have a lot to do with it. They've got people that actually go through post. Now it's a lot more regulated. But there's more rules to what you can put on. Compared to before 2017. That was just an example. There was one that went through that word for Donald Trump. So they had it and then they have Trump. Something about Trump on here. So everyone that would be sharing on the subreddit would be either for that community. And that's how it just gets driven by people pushing the concept. Is there any more questions? Brendon?

**[00:53:07.030] - Brandon**

Hi, Rach.

**[00:53:08.470] - Rachel**

Hi, Brendon.

**[00:53:10.150] - Brandon**

Just to clarify, this is anonymous, isn't it?

**[00:53:13.360] - Rachel**

Yes. Correct. I might not have said it, I was a bit nervous. Sorry.

**[00:53:16.170] - Brandon**

No, you did say. I'm just clarifying. I'm just trying to get to why this is important. I'm just trying to understand myself. What we're seeing here is a group of people who are anonymous, who are actually driving content that gets their passion stoked. And then as a result of that, you've got a community of like minded people feeding off each other. I guess, in an isolation bubble in their own subreddit. Is that basically what's happening here, regardless of the topic? And obviously the topic we're talking about is sexism.

**[00:54:20.490] - Rachel**

You're right, Brendan.

**[00:54:27.430] - Brandon**

These people because they're anonymous, their inhibitions are dropped because they're anonymous, and they're just speaking from their soul and they're going, yeah. And it's getting to the beating heart of what that community is after in that little subreddit. Is that basically what's happening?

**[00:54:47.570] - Rachel**

Yeah. And there are people on there that actually want to do nice things on this forum, but there are a lot of things that are questionable. Absolutely.

**[00:55:01.850] - Brandon**

I guess we're focusing on a very specific thing with our study. But yeah, you're right. It could be any topic about anything. It could be positive, negative. It's whatever that community, it's whatever's driving that group. It forces a like minded group of people together, I guess in whatever topic.

**[00:55:24.030] - Rachel**

Yeah. When we talked about Twitter, remember how we talked about the hashtag, how people can connect in that same way? This community connects in the same way.

**[00:55:42.310] - Brandon**

No, that's it. Thank you, Rachel.

**[00:55:48.410] - Rachel**

It was my brief summary. Any more questions before?

**[00:55:57.390] - Tess**

Thank you. Rachel. Could you turn your board over for me?

**[00:56:11.290] - Rachel**

You're correcting my math.

**[00:56:13.870] - Tess**

Not at all. I trust your math simplicly. I just wanted to emphasize those numbers a little bit more. Thank you for explaining that to us. There's no use for us to discuss a data taken from Reddit if we don't understand what Reddit is, where that data comes from. What you have is the 7th most visited website in the United States. I'll just list the top eight. Google, YouTube, Facebook, Amazon, Yahoo, Wikipedia, Reddit, and the 8th is Pornhub. But that shows how commonly used this platform is, and perhaps many of us have never heard of it, have never been on it. It sounds when we say such a percentage of people on Reddit, of such groups on Reddit believe or say the following. It doesn't really hold much significance for us if we think Reddit is some two bit forum with 15 people on it that no one's ever heard of. So you've explained to us how it works, and you've explained to us how prolifically it's used. And also 63.2% is a sizable majority of those users. Almost two thirds of users are male. Thank you. Rachel, would you mind taking a couple of photos each side of your board and we'll put it up on our forum.

**[00:57:54.870] - Rachel**

Okay.

**[00:57:59.030] - Tess**

I'll come back to you if people have more questions on that. We wanted to explain Reddit before we went into our second box article. Now, Reddit, like Facebook, like Twitter. It's just a platform. It's just a mechanical system of nuts and bolts and gears. A mechanical platform where living, individual people are able to come together and express their views like we are today. Now, if I was to join Reddit, I'm not, if I was to join Reddit, I might look for groups that I believe in. I am not going to try and go into a group that is against or hostile to my belief system. No one's going to do that unless they want to make trouble, which I don't find fun. I'm going to find groups that fit with my worldview, groups of people that I can be comfortable around and feel safe to express my views with. What Reddit has been a platform for, especially are men's rights forums. When again, with big male user base. When men get together on forums to support and promote men's rights, obviously with the idea that men's rights or men's freedoms are under threat by the left wing, they particularly had to Reddit to form those men's rights communities.

**[00:59:40.950] - Tess**

When we spoke about the Vox article and we share that article and you read it, has anyone picked up why we are explaining Reddit in the context of that article? There was a couple of key paragraphs in that article I wanted us to Zoom in on. Greg.

**[01:00:09.030] - Greg**

In the article, it explained about how they were going to forums such as Reddit and they were speaking with people who were like minded. And the article also showed that there were a few women who tried to



put their opinions in. But I'm assuming now seeing those stats because it's 63% male, and young males probably. That those women were made to feel really bad or kicked out of the forum.

**[01:00:51.550] - Tess**

Yes, the context of this article is a particularly one man, Max. And what is Max?

**[01:00:59.830] - Greg**

He's a libertarian.

**[01:01:02.470] - Tess**

He's a libertarian, but he's more than a libertarian. There's a few things that Max is.

**[01:01:08.530] - Tess**

It's called MRA.

**[01:01:13.810] - Tess**

It's MRA. Or Men's... I can't remember.

**[01:01:20.990] - Tess**

Men's rights. One, two three. What is the famous Trinity? Men's Rights Activist. In other words, men's rights are under threat from women and the left. But what's two and three in this all too common Trinity? Brandon?

**[01:01:57.910] - Brandon**

Libertarian and atheist.

**[01:02:02.270] - Tess**

Libertarian and atheist. When we talk about the far right today in the context of gender, but really in the context of anything. When we talk about the far right, this is the most dangerous trinity that they see in action. There are some things Max is proud to be. He is an outspoken atheist and an active libertarian. The contours are the same, a proactive anticlericalism and a distaste for regulatory apparatus, couched in a vague sense that this distaste constitutes a moral stance. He will see feminism with that government enforced morality very similar to how he will see religion. There is this government God. It's all a bit of a Con. It all takes away from people's freedom. It's all the regulatory apparatus and it's all a type of conspiracy theory because he will see religion, Christianity as a conspiracy theory. He is atheist. He also sees discrimination against women as a type of conspiracy theory. The wage gap. What wage gap? Discrimination. What discrimination? Women have power. Women are caregivers. Being a caregiver carries with it a type of power. And what they're seeing is that this Trinity of atheism with libertarianism, with this belief that men's rights are under threat and opposition to feminism, is a very common Trinity.

**[01:04:01.340] - Tess**

And to prove that they go to Reddit, a survey taken last year of the men's rights subreddit found that 94% of the men on these subreddits identify as atheist or religiously indifferent. That's why I wanted you to see Reddit is not a small community to survey. If you go to Reddit, where you would find about one in three men in the United States are active on and you go to men's rights subreddits, you're going to find that... I can't draw their logo like Rachel can. I loved their logo. 94% are not Christian, are not anything. They're atheist. 84% are strongly conservative. But when they're strongly conservative, they do not lean Republican because they're atheist. They're not looking for a Church and state. They're leaning libertarian. With the leaning towards libertarianism. 94% of their membership identifies atheist or religiously indifferent. 84% identifies strongly conservative with particular policy preferences along a libertarian, not a traditional bent. They're not after traditional values in the religious sense. For those of us hailing from the nominal left, these associations have at times felt unnatural. Right wingers using the rhetoric of social justice to argue for the traditional status of men, all the while eschewing in a way more typical of the left, the patriarchal religious institutions that have classically underpinned these values.

**[01:06:16.470] - Tess**

When Max speaks about one ideology, men's rights, he can hardly help bringing in the others, libertarianism and atheism. For him, they are all related, distinct expressions of the same worldview. And then it goes into his concept of religion. He calls religion one of the biggest threats to society. He says that feminism, statism, all of that, while not being explicitly about God, is the same religious impulse. He calls it all feminism, like religion, a big light, a type of indoctrination that we receive through life. That's why we wanted to understand Reddit. We have to see the significance of these online forums, that this is not a small, obscure part of the internet. This is a fair reflection of the right wing in the United States. When you go onto these subreddit forums. So sure, that traditional values conservative with a traditional bent, evangelical Church-State Union portion of the right wing, supporter of Donald Trump continues to, is a threat today. That's an older generation. And what we're seeing is the younger generation, because when you go into this portion of the far right, you're also dealing with a younger audience.

**[01:08:07.950] - Tess**

So I want to give a little bit more background into the far right, both leaders and also the groups they're part of or the groups they lead. We might have to finish that next week, but I want us to discuss the Oath Keepers. Of course, the Proud Boys. We've already started discussing the Proud Boys. I'll use their logo, the three percenters, and I have to make sure I spell that right. It's less of a really well formed group than the above three. But there is the Bugaloo movement. Particularly the first three are properly organized far right militia groups in the United States today, and they haven't been around forever. Most of them, you can tie their roots back to pretty much 2009, the election of Barack Obama, but also the wider context of that history. Do we have any thoughts or questions on that second article that we went to? Because that was the main point of that article. I wanted us to see, like you said, Mrs. Bennett, just how common that thinking was. Rachel, you carried us through the history of 2014 Gamergate. We see these leaders, those who are most outspoken in 2014, but they have a degree of voice and power because the millions

underneath them who perhaps not with outspoken, violent fervor or perhaps not 100% supporting everything that they say, but supporting of the ideology that those men were espousing in 2014.

**[01:10:45.010] - Tess**

Marie.

**[01:10:49.850] - Marie**

One thing that stood out to me, the phrase they've lost their place, made me realize conservative Adventism when they're talking about headship and the males, I've often heard them say how they've lost their place, and it's all because of women taking on different roles. I thought that was interesting where that's actually coming from and the connection there?

**[01:11:30.270] - Tess**

Yes, they have that feeling of being threatened, but it's not coming from a religious position or religious perspective. They're atheist and they still strongly feel this group threat.

**[01:11:56.410] - Marie**

And I think it's interesting that the administer connecting with them in that way. It's sort of like bridging that connection there.

**[01:12:13.110] - Tess**

Yes.

**[01:12:14.910] - Marie**

So it seems to me.

**[01:12:21.910] - Tess**

Yes, it's all connected to the same idea. We're discussing, the right wing, which stands for freedom. And when we drew that out, we saw that evangelicals today and the Republican Party, they stand for freedom over equality, but not in its most pure sense. We're going into its most pure sense, which is why if this is freedom over equality and this is equality over freedom, the more that you espouse freedom over equality, the further on the right political spectrum you're going to get, aren't you? The more pure your belief in absolute freedom is going to become. And the more pure you believe in freedom, the more you are going to oppose any attempts to promote social equality. The more you're going to see promotions of equality as a threat to you. That's why you're going to find someone like Enrique Tarrio, not white, opposing Black Lives Matter while saying he is not racist. Why? What then is threatening him? What is making him so angry and so upset that his burning flags, attacking historical churches and being found before January 6 in the capital with a weapons stash? What makes someone do that except the feeling of being extremely threatened, your rights and liberties being threatened?

**[01:14:18.850] - Tess**

You might think that as you get further into the right wing here, you're going to get further into religious fundamentalism. In 2022 that's not really the case. We went to Reddit to see that. I'm going to quote and I won't give the whole article because I actually don't agree with a lot of the things he says, but I'm going to quote. A male atheist. He says, quoting a male atheist. By neglecting to address its dark occurrence online, Atheism has perhaps unknowingly planted the seeds for the alright harvest. Three years ago, Reddit's atheism Subforum, perhaps the largest community of atheists on the internet, was found to be the website's third most bigoted, meaning not just tolerant of overt displays of bigotry, but actively supportive of them. Last year, The Daily Beast revealed that the study's most bigoted Reddit Subforum, called the Red Pill, was founded by Robert Fisher, a Republican state lawmaker who is also an atheist. We need to see when we look at the news and we see the far right, when we see the proud boys, when we see the Oath Keepers, when we see the Three percenters, when we see the Bugaloo movement and we look at January 6, a lot of this is new.

**[01:15:49.930] - Tess**

There's always been that stream in society. But the activation of that stream, how mainstream it has become, how violent and visible and political it has become, is really only since about 2009 to today. I think at least the Oath Keepers and the Three Percenters chase their beginning to 2009. But the entire militia movement in the United States would tie it back to about that time period. Josephine.

**[01:16:40.410] - Josephine**

I thought about the equality and the freedom when they conflict. I might be taking us a little bit back to the camp meeting we just had. Is that all right.

**[01:16:55.200] - Josephine**

Or should I just leave it?

**[01:16:58.290] - Tess**

No, by all means.

**[01:17:00.990] - Josephine**

I first read the adventist quote you had there. I think it's back in 1986, and I raised it in adventist Church. And I was quite surprised that that was a really big deal, that Christ died not because of the wounds or the treatment, what broke his heart. That's what I mean. Not because of that, but because of the sin. Now, I had wondered then as to what exactly the sin was, but I never got the idea. But as I went through it with you in your lecture and the way you present it, how it broke Christ's heart. It was so bad in my mind. How bad that familiarity with sin and how hard to eradicate that sin from the lives of humanity. And it's taken a whole Eden to Eden to do that. And it really made an impact on my mind and the conflict between freedom and equality. And how you mentioned about force, the big government has to apply force sometimes and maybe pressure. Like pressure in order to have equality. And I don't know, it just had an impact that has never had on me before. Just realizing what you just mentioned.

**[01:19:08.770] - Tess**

Were you done?

**[01:19:10.150] - Josephine**

Yes. Thank you.

**[01:19:16.730] - Tess**

What we've seen for 6000 years is nothing more than a political election going right back to heaven. God has a political party and Satan says, I'm starting my own. You have a political party, I'm going to have a political party. And now let's get all the Angels to vote. Two thirds of the Angels vote one way, one third of the Angels vote another way. God says, okay, Adam and Eve, it's your turn to vote. Going to set you up a simple system of voting and you can decide what government you want, what political party you want to support. They voted on behalf of this Earth to support Lucifer's political party. And ever since then, all through the history, from Eden to the cross, it's just been a fight. It's been one election campaign, generation after generation of God just asking people vote, decide which government you want. That has been a story from Eden to the cross. It's the story of the cross. Christ is on the cross. You can Gethsemane first. His heart breaks there. He can see what happens when people choose Satan's political side. People only choose Satan's side because he makes it look beautiful.

**[01:20:42.660] - Tess**

He makes it look fair, logical, reasonable, beautiful. The reasonable right, isn't it? It's the red pill. It's the side that hasn't bought into the Con that is Christianity, the Con that is feminism. The side that's thinking for themselves. Christ sees that and it breaks his heart. But ever since then, today, and especially at the Sunday Law, all it is, the entire great controversy is an election campaign. Satan is selling his political platform. Christ is selling his political platform. And that's the significance of 2018. That's what we're calling out. Two streams of information to be. You can see it externally. We go to 2016. It's not a perfect parable that you have two streams, two political systems. And you know that you have to be able to see the great controversy in 2016. Because 2016 is going to lead you to the Sunday Law. The Sunday Law. You know, you see the great controversy at the Sunday Law. And you know that the Sunday law is about politics. So you have to be able to see the great controversy in politics in the United States. If you can't see it now in the politics in the United States, how can you possibly see the great controversy in the United States at the Sunday Law?

**[01:22:12.590] - Tess**

The Sunday law has always been about a political issue, whether that was slavery or whether that was about the enforcement of Sunday. It's always about a political issue. It's always got two sides fighting for or against it in Congress. If there's going to be a side for and against the Sunday law at the Sunday law, then you're going to have two sides, one against the Sunday law, who must represent in whatever poor fashion they do, God's political party. And if you're going to have another side fight for the Sunday law, then in whatever poor fashion they do, they're fighting for Satan's political party. It's all about politics. I

don't know why people Adventists think they can understand the great controversy, they can understand the Sunday law, and somehow they can do all of that without understanding or taking any external position on politics today. If they think the Sunday law could come at any time, then wouldn't they need to understand politics today? It's all about an election campaign, and a lot of people vote at the Sunday law because that's when they have to make a decision about what political party they want.

### **[01:23:35.290] - Tess**

But they're choosing between two different ethos. They're choosing between left wing ethos or right wing ethos. When we talk about the right wing historically, we've always gone here and seen evangelicals, seen Church and state, because we go back to the Reformation and we see the failings of Calvin and John Knox. How they supported Church and state, how that moved to the United States through the first and second Great Awakenings. Then we see that traced through history. But when we get to now and it's a post Christian world, we end up in a dangerous position if we keep thinking that it's Republican Christians who are the clearest representatives of, it sounds harsh but it's not, of Lucifer's political party. They're not the clearest representatives because it's in a post Christian world. We need to understand right wing as it exists over here where you might have the Mitt Romney, and then you'll get a Ted Cruz and you'll get everything on this political spectrum that will say, however nicely they'll say it, freedom has to Trump equality or we'll lose both. We care about equality, but if we don't prioritize freedom, then the country will cease to be a Republic and everything will die.

### **[01:25:07.090] - Tess**

But I want us to move beyond that right wing that gets mocked. When you go online and you see videos of Republican senators asking Mark Zuckerberg, So you like Twitter, my grandkids are on Twitter and it all gets mocked. These older generation Republicans, heavily a Christian leaning. They're not America's future. America's future is postchristian. And that's where is the right wing that we're seeing rise up today that we've seen rising up since 2009? It's not a growing evangelical power base in the United States that is propelling us towards the Sunday law. It's not. What's propelling us towards the Sunday law is what particularly started around 2009, a more activist and militant right wing. And this is heavily millennials, which is somewhere in their 20s to about 40, heavily millennials. And with that younger base that is very concerned about the rights of men in the face of feminism and LGBT civil rights, libertarian and atheistic, there's a couple of questions. I will close, if you wouldn't mind holding them until next week. But there was just one quote that I wanted to go to. If I can try and find it. We're a little bit scattered today. I want to go to one of these groups, the three percenters.

### **[01:27:26.190] - Tess**

Mark Pitcavage is an expert on militias at the AntiDefamation League, and he said, when you look at these militias, they are basically three things. Libertarians, plus guns, plus conspiracy theories. It's not republicanism, it's not Christianity. You arm libertarians and then you give them conspiracy theories, and that's where you get the far right today. That's where you get Unite the Right rallies. We'll come back to this breakdown and analysis of the right wing next week. If you kneel with me, we'll close in prayer. Dear Lord, it can seem dry covering all these political issues. I pray that we will see the great controversy in it. May we see our history as this election campaign. Where you're pleading with us to choose your

government, your government, your political platform, over Satan's government, over his political platform. May we choose yours? May we see it as it is, even if some of it involves a cross. Even if some of it does not appeal to us in the way that Satan's does. May we vote for you? May we choose you not just in feelings and emotions, but with a thorough understanding of the principles upon which your government is built.

**[01:29:02.650] - Tess**

Understanding our freedoms, but also where you limit our freedoms, where you become involved in day to day aspects of our lives. Where you choose to restrict us. May we accept that restriction when we understand why you do that, how you do that and why you do that. We put all of this into your hands and pray that you continue to enlighten us. Continue to guide your people. Continue to prepare us for the Sunday law. For all those who are struggling, Lord. For all those who are seeing the appealing messages coming from right wing streams even within the movement. I pray that they'll wake up, that the light behind them of two streams of information, the midnight cry that shines their path, that it doesn't go out. May it not go out on ours? I pray this in Jesus name, Amen.