

Isn't Christianity Homophobic and Transphobic?

Where are we and how did we get here?

Understanding the Roots of the Revolution

The Triumph of the Erotic

The Triumph of the Therapeutic

The Accusation in Context: Homophobic and Transphobic

A Christian Response

An affirmation of Identity

A place for boundaries

Set free to Love

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Where are we?

- A Picture in Words

- Individualism
- Materialistic
- Hedonistic
- Sexually Obsessed
- Progressive

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Where are we?

- Naming the Picture: Expressive Individualism

“Each of us has his/her own way of realizing our humanity, and that it is important to find out and live out one’s own, as against surrendering to conformity with a model imposed on us from outside of society, or the previous generation, or religious or political authority.”

Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age*

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Where are we?

The wrong side of history?

- Post-Christian
- Mimetic vs. Poietic
 - Mimetic: The world has a given order (God). We find our identity by discovering our place in that given order. I have roles. I have callings.
 - Poietic: The world lacks intrinsic meaning and purpose. I must make my meaning out of the world. My Identity is hidden within and must be released and expressed.
- Post-Modern

We are in a struggle over the direction of the culture.

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Where are we?

A picture formed by Philip Rieff

- Cultures are defined by what they forbid.
- Cultures survives principally by the power of its institutions to bind and loose people in the conduct of their affairs with reasons which sink so deep into the self that they become commonly and implicitly understood.
- Cultures historically have directed people outward
- A picture of History: Political Man → Religious Man → Economic Man → Psychological Man/Expressive Individualism

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How did we get here?

- Hume/ Darwin/ Nietzsche: The Loss of God/Transcendence
 - God is not necessary to explain the physical universe
 - God is not necessary to explain the origin of life
 - God is dead, and all stuff of religion needs to be swept away as mistakes of the past.
 - Morality is an illusion. It has no objective basis(morality). Be whoever you want to be and do whatever works for you.
- Jean-Jacque Rousseau: Man is born free and everywhere is in chains. My problems are out there! (the emergence victimhood).

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How did we get here?

- Jean-Jacque Rousseau: Man is born free and everywhere is in chains. My problems are out there! (the emergence victimhood).
 - Humanity begins in a state of perfection but society trips us up.
 - What really matters is the inner-self
 - The human is at his/her best when they act according to their nature.
 - "The only slave is the man who does evil, for he always does it in spite of himself. Free is found in no government; it is in the heart of the free man. It takes him everywhere. The vile man takes his servitude everywhere."

Rousseau, *Emile*

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How did we get here?

- Romanticism: Wordsworth, Shelley, and Blake
 - From philosophy to society as a whole, the arts are a helpful ally.
 - To find our true self, we must turn inward/ personal experience which will help us discover the universal truths, be true to our inner impulses. *Society has parted man from man, Neglectful of the universal heart.*
 - Feelings over reason
 - Freedom from Religion, and freedom for erotic love
 - External, socially constructed constraints militate against this authenticity of self in a manner that leads to the loss of freedom. For Blake and Shelley, Christianity was the worst offender.

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How did we get here?

- The Plausibility of Self Creation: Nietzsche, Marx, and Darwin
 - Self-creation: I can be who or whatever I want to be.
 - Material Roots: Industrialization/Capitalism/Consumerism
 - Nietzsche—claims to truth are not ultimately claims about objective reality but claims about preference, how you want the world to be. The most disgusting form of truth claims are Christian. Thus, be suspicious of all truth claims as grabs for power and the fundamental position that religion is distasteful.
 - The big mistake of humanity is assuming that we have an assigned human nature. Freedom means being free from any sense of essential purpose and free for self-creation.

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How did we get here?

- Why Sex is the answer: Sigmund Freud
 - From the Romantics we are told that happiness is really about an inner (psychological)state. For Freud, happiness needs to be focused more precisely: happiness is sexual pleasure.
 - *“Man’s discovery that sexual love afforded him the strongest experience of satisfaction and in fact provided him the prototype of all happiness, must have suggested to him that he should continue to seek the satisfaction of happiness in his life along the path of sexual relations and that he should make genital erotism the central point of his life.*
 - Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*

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- Why Sex is the answer: Sigmund Freud
 - Rousseau saw unhappiness as the result of the corrupting power of civilized society, by moralizing self-love, which prevented people from being true to themselves and forcing them to follow artificial conventions. Freud stands in congruity, but he sexualizes and darkens it.
 - The problem is that we have natural sexual desires that will lead us to be happy and “civilized” society restricts us from fulfilling those desires. Further, the natural man is dark, violent, and irrational. Thus, we gave up our happiness for security. We forfeited true happiness, free sexual expression, so that we could be safe.

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How did we get here?

- **Why Sex is the answer: Sigmund Freud**
 - If sexual satisfaction is central to who we are, what about children?
 - Freud offers a scientific justification for the sexualization of children.
 - Freud normalize childhood sexuality by normalizing childhood masturbation and helped to solidify his claims that sex was central to what it means to be human.
 - Religion, as it expresses moral taboos, is an infantile neurosis of human civilization, carrying out childish hopes and fears into adulthood. The way forward will be beyond religious belief, looking to science and doing all you can to fulfill your sexual desires.