

# Engaging with Controversial Issues in an Unbelieving World

*... we're now living in an age in which the secular world is unhinged from reality, unhinged from metaphysics, unhinged from truth, unhinged from being (Al Mohler)*

We can't effectively engage with the individual controversial issues confronting us, until we understand the worldview lying **behind** them.

## I) The Lies we are Told

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### 1. No Creator God and No Judgement

Ludwig Feuerbach (1804-1872)

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

### 2. No Absolute Morality (Moral Codes are Dangerous)

Wilhelm Reich (1897-1957)

Margaret Sanger (1879-1966)

Shulamith Firestone (1945-2012)

### 3. "I Construct My Own Identity: and make My Own Rules"

Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980): 'No forbidding is allowed!'

### 4. No Ultimate Truth (Truth Claims are Power Grabs)

Michel Foucault (1926-1984)

Critical Theory/Critical Theories

### 5. Christianity is Toxic

## II) Bad Ideas Bear Bitter Fruit

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'Mugged By Reality'

The lives of those who promoted the lies

The impact of bad ideas on a societal level

### III) Good Ideas: Good Fruit

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The biblical worldview provides:

The **only solid foundation for human dignity**. *We have all been created in the image of God.*

The **only solid foundation for real freedom**. *No government has the authority to tell us what to think. We will each answer to God.*

The **only solid foundation for morality**. *The perfectly just and righteous God has given us all a conscience, an awareness of his moral law.*

The **only sure way to human flourishing**. *Family, work, and civil authorities have been impacted by sin, but they are God's provision for our good.*

### IV) How should we Engage?

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Be confident in the truth

Expose the lies as unworkable and damaging

Live out the love of Christ

Teach biblical ethics (don't dodge controversial issues)

Teach about controversial issues in the light of God's Word and in the light of Creation (both special revelation and general revelation)

Teach the biblical worldview

Provide your congregation with up-to-date resources about the difficult issues and guidance as to how to engage at a local and national level

Be confident in God's good purpose for his people and for the world – for time and for eternity

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#### Further resources:

Many helpful resources available on [The Christian Institute website](#); and free briefings available on request, e.g.

[Online Safety Bill](#)

[Conversion Therapy Update](#) (and see <https://letuspray.uk/>)

[Secular Humanism](#)

[Identity Politics](#)

[Free to Disagree](#)

[Are Christians on the Wrong Side of History?](#)

[When Does Human Life Begin](#)

[The Transgender Craze](#)

[Social Contagion](#)

#### See also the following titles by Sharon James published by Christian Focus:

[How Christianity Transformed the World](#)

[The Lies we are Told: The Truth we Must Hold](#)

[TRACK: A Student's Guide to Worldview](#)

[Gender Ideology: What do Christians Need to Know?](#)