

what is woke?

you asked for it | week five

post falls campus | july 9th & 12th | sam meredith



WHY this series

- It's normal in life to have questions, whether from our culture, family, friends, or ourselves, and we believe God's Word is a constant guide and authority for our Christian faith and practice.
- God's Word isn't an "answer book," but as we get to know God and His Word, we're able to process life and questions from a biblical perspective

1. What is "woke"?

A simple definition: A worldview that seeks to address injustice and inequality by prioritizing identity, social justice, and cultural change through the lens of race, gender, sexuality, and power.

2. Topics under fire

Topic	Common Progressive/"Woke" Shift	Historic Evangelical View
Authority	Scripture is sometimes reinterpreted primarily through modern cultural lenses.	Scripture is the final authority.
Truth	Greater emphasis on lived experience, identity, or social location in interpreting truth.	Truth is objective because it comes from God.
Sexual Ethics	Affirmation of same-sex marriage or LGBTQ+ relationships in some churches.	Marriage is between one man and one woman; sexual intimacy belongs within marriage.
Gender	Greater openness to gender identity being distinct from biological sex.	God intentionally created male and female.
Human Identity	Greater emphasis on identities such as race, sexuality, gender, or social group.	Identity is primarily found in Christ.
Sin	Greater emphasis on systemic injustice, while some critics argue that personal sin receives less attention.	Humanity's greatest problem is sin against God.
Salvation	Some emphasize social transformation alongside, or critics say, sometimes over personal conversion.	Salvation is through faith in Christ alone.
Justice	Greater influence from contemporary social justice theories and frameworks.	Justice flows from God's character and Scripture.
Race	Greater focus on power structures, privilege, and systemic oppression as interpretive categories.	Unity in Christ transcends ethnic differences while celebrating diversity.
Mission	Broader emphasis on cultural engagement and societal transformation.	Make disciples and proclaim the gospel.

3. Why this topic matters

- If we change our view on the role of the Bible as God's authoritative Word, everything is up for grabs. From our view of God, sin, our need for salvation, His saving grace, and the need for obedience.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

- All of the Bible (Old and New Testaments) is God's Word for us. It is our standard of faith and practice.
- Woke goes wrong by beginning with cultural *conclusions* and then reinterpreting Scripture to support those predetermined conclusions.

4. How are we to respond?

- Error 1 – We get so frustrated with HOW people are going about this – we ignore the need for justice
- Error 2 – We “love” the people so much that we shift our views to make their stances and lifestyles ok
- Error 3 – We fight the wrong enemy – people are not our enemy, the devil is. God has won so we don't need to panic, lose our minds, be mean, compromise, etc

Romans 12:2 NLT Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:9-21

- Love people with God's kind of love and hate evil (v9)
- Serve the Lord enthusiastically (v11) – stay on mission
- Hope. Patient in trouble. Constant in prayer (v12)
- Help those in need (v13)
- Never pay back evil. Do good. Live in peace. (v17, 18, 21)

Jude 1:3b “defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.” NLT

1 Timothy 6:11a “Fight the good fight for the true faith.” NLT

2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.” NLT

John 16:33 “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” NLT

Micah 6:8 “The LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” NLT

Practical Application

1. Are you willing to surrender your perspective and preferences and take up God's perspective?
2. Are you willing to faithfully engage God's Word so you know His perspective on life's topics?
3. What is an area of your life where you've been siding with the culture rather than God's Word?
4. Who is someone you're praying for, for them to come back to God's Word as the authority in their life? What is your part in witnessing to them?

