

## The Subversion of Christianity II

### Course Description

The modern problems of humankind, be it ecological, political, sociological, or economical, etc., have often been attributed to natural disasters, deficient government policies, unbalanced social institutions, etc. The Bible, however, has painted a very different picture for us: their origin stem from the point of departure when humanity chose to eat the (forbidden) fruits from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, breaking off from the communion of love with its Creator. Despite their rebellion, God, in his love, sent his Son to the world to achieve reconciliation for and with humankind. While waiting for the consumption of salvation at the End, Christianity (the church), instead of transforming the cultures it encounters, has been subverted by the latter ever since its beginning. The heart of the problem is that we have not fully accepted the fact that Christianity is a scandal to fallen humanity and have been attempting to make it simple and palatable for ourselves. Successive generations have reinterpreted Scripture and modeled their faith after their own cultures, thus moving societies further from the truth of the gospel. It is the objective of this course to explore this story of subversion. We begin by examining some key themes of the first eleven chapters of Genesis to understand the way (and the consequences) humanity descended from the freedom and communion of love with its Creator to its own morality and religion—its own sense of “good and evil”. This course (Subversion of Christianity II) picks up from the Fall of humanity (Ge 3) and traces its path of complete breakage in its relationship with God to Ge 11.

### References

1. Jacques Ellul, *On Freedom, Love, and Power*, trans. Willem H. Vanderburg, (Toronto: University of Toronto, 2015).
2. Jacques Ellul, *The Subversion of Christianity*, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986).
3. Mark A. Noll, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1994).
4. Willem H. Vanderburg, *Secular Nations Under New Gods: Christianity Subversion by Technology and Politics*, (Toronto: University of Toronto, 2018).
5. Bruce K. Waltke, Cathi J. Fredricks, *Genesis, A Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001).

### Class Schedules

September 6	1. Review on “Creation”
13	2. Humanity Breaking Away from God
20	3. The Consequences of the Break
27	4. The Beginning of Human History
October 4	5. The City and the Tower

11	6. Christianity in the Grip of Vanities and Chasing after the Wind
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