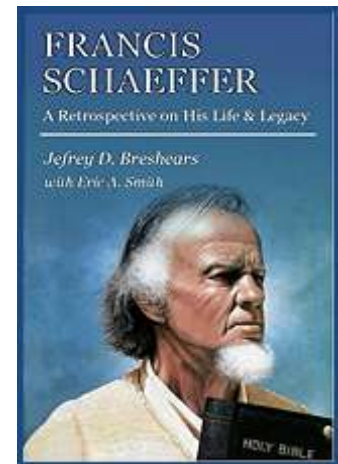


# Francis Schaeffer: A Retrospective on His Life & Legacy

## — PREFACE —

### Francis Schaeffer's Significance

- Along with C. S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer was probably one of the two most significant and influential Christian thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Schaeffer was perhaps one of the twenty most significant and influential figures in American Christian history.\*
- Contributions to Christian apologetics:
  - ▶ *The God Who Is There* (1968).
  - ▶ *Escape from Reason* (1968).
  - ▶ *He Is There and He Is Not Silent* (1972).
- Contributions to Christian cultural apologetics:
  - ▶ *The Church at the End of the Twentieth Century* (1970).
  - ▶ *How Should We Then Live?* (1976).
  - ▶ *A Christian Manifesto* (1981).
  - ▶ *The Great Evangelical Disaster* (1984).
    - “Through my work there is a common unifying theme which I would define as ‘the Lordship of Christ in the totality of life.’ If Christ is indeed Lord, He must be Lord of all of life – in spiritual matters of course, but just as much across the whole spectrum of life, including intellectual matters and the areas of culture, law, and government. I would want to emphasize from beginning to end throughout my work the importance of evangelism... the need to walk daily with the Lord, to study God’s Word, to live a life of prayer, and show forth the love, compassion, and holiness of our Lord. But we must emphasize equally and at the same time the need to live this out in every area of culture and society.”



\* My list: “The 20 Most Significant and Influential Figures in American Christian History”:  
(1) John Winthrop; (2) Roger Williams; (3) William Penn; (4) Jonathan Edwards; (5) John Wesley; (6) George Whitefield; (7) Edward Wigglesworth; (8) Thomas Jefferson; (9) Francis Asbury; (10) Charles Finney; (11) Henry Ward Beecher; (12) “Alexander Hodge Warfield Machen” (Archibald Alexander, Charles Hodge, B. B. Warfield, and John Gresham Machen); (13) Dwight L. Moody; (14) Walter Rauschenbusch; (15) C. I. Scofield; (16) R. A. Torrey; (17) C. S. Lewis; (18) Martin Luther King Jr.; (19) Francis Schaeffer; and (20) Billy Graham.

## — INTRODUCTION —

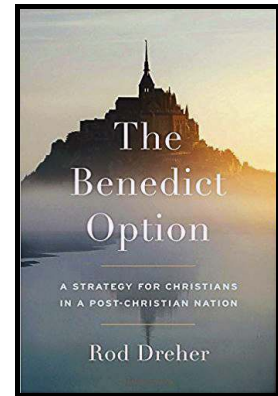
### Whatever Happened to the Human Race?

#### Cultural Homicide: Five Factors.

- (1) Secularism.
- (2) Socialism.
- (3) Sexualism.
- (4) Racialism.
- (5) Anesthetism.

#### Rod Dreher, *The Benedict Option* (Sentinel Press, 2017).

- A Necessary Preface.
  - (1) Is American culture getting progressively better or worse?
  - (2) Is there a “culture war” in America?
  - (3) Is true Christianity countercultural?



#### Evangelicalism.

- (1) Biblicism: The divine inspiration, historical reliability, and doctrinal and moral authority of the Bible.
- (2) Christocentrism.
- (3) Conversionism.
- (4) Evangelism.

#### What’s the Solution?

- Not evangelism... alone.
- Wholistic discipleship: “The Lordship of Jesus Christ in the whole of life.”
- A comprehensive Christian worldview.
- The most rare virtue: .....







# — 2 — L'ABRI

## A Spiritual and Philosophical Community A Countercultural Alternative.

- The ultimate legacy.
  - ▶ Ben Mitchell: “[Schaeffer’s] legacy is not primarily his intellectual contributions to the Christian faith.... His greatest gift was to provide a strategy and the courage to invade a culture of hopelessness and meaninglessness with a credible message of hope and meaningfulness.”
- The biblical inspiration: Isaiah 2:2-3.
- Developing a comprehensive biblically-based worldview.
  - as a radical alternative to the secularizing trends in modern Western history.
- The founding of L’Abri (“The Shelter”) in 1955.
  - ▶ The stated purpose: “To show forth by demonstration, in our life and work, the existence of God” and a refuge for those seeking “honest answers to honest questions.”
  - ▶ Integrating Bible study, theology, history, philosophy, law, ethics, social issues, politics, science, current events, the arts, etc.
- A countercultural community.



- ▶ Jerram Barrs: “Some who came to the Schaeffers’ home were believers struggling with doubts and deep hurts.... Some were people lost and wandering in the wasteland of 20th-century Western intellectual thought. Some had experimented with psychedelic drugs or with religious ideas and practices that were damaging their lives. Some were so wounded and bitter because of their treatment by churches, or because of the sorrows of their lives... But no matter who they were or how

they spoke, Schaeffer would be filled with compassion for them.”

- ▶ J. I. Packer: L’Abri served as “a study center, a rescue mission, an extended family, a clinic, a spiritual convalescent home, and a local church....” As Schaeffer came to realize, “Christian credibility... required that truth be not merely defended, but practiced....”

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# WHOLISTIC CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

## A Prophet for Our Time

### The Central Theme.

- Western societies and culture are ‘post-Christian’, and true Christians must think and act as aliens and sojourners in a generally hostile world.

### Two Threats to Christian Discipleship.

(1) The world system.

- ▶ “*Love not the world [system].*”
  - John 8:12; 15:18-19; 16:33; 18:36, 37; Mat. 5:14; Jas 4:4; I Cor. 3:19; II Cor. 10:3-5; Gal. 1:3-4; I John 2:15.
  - Rom. 12:2: Warnings against “accommodation” (enculturation).

(2) Liberal (“Progressive”) Christianity.

- ▶ Liberal Christianity as a “different gospel” (Gal. 1:7).
  - It is, in reality, a different religion.
- ▶ FS: “[Theological] Liberalism is nothing more than [secular] humanism dressed up in religious terminology.... The liberal mainline churches today are far more destructive than any cults.”
- ▶ The liberal takeover of mainline Protestant denominations, seminaries and colleges.
- ▶ A warning to evangelicals:
  - *The Great Evangelical Disaster* (1984) and the challenge of enculturation.
  - Liberalizing influences within evangelical churches.
  - II Cor. 6:14, 17 – “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?... Therefore, ‘come out from them and be separate,’ says the Lord.”



### A “Unique” Presence.

- Ben Mitchell: “I was well-prepared for Schaeffer’s survey of the history of Western thought. What I was not prepared for was how he looked....”
- John Fischer: “Schaeffer was hard to listen to. His voice grated. It was a high-pitched scream that sounded something like Elmer Fudd on speed.... If Evard Munch’s ‘The Scream’ had a voice, it would have sounded like Francis Schaeffer.”
- Ronald Wells: “We didn’t so much listen as levitate.”

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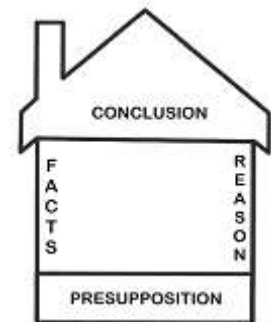






### Schaefferian Presuppositional Apologetics.

- Apologetics provides factual evidence and rational arguments in support of the truth-claims of the Christian faith based on the philosophical, theological and historical reliability of the Bible.
- The Scriptural foundation for apologetics:
  - ▶ I Peter 1:13 and 3:15.
  - ▶ II Cor. 10:3-6.
- Two essential purposes of Christian apologetics:
  - (1) To educate, edify and equip believers.
  - (2) To engage non-believers.
- Jeffrey Breshears, *The Case for Christian Apologetics*:
  - ▶ “Would you like to broaden and deepen your understanding of the Christian faith so as to more clearly and effectively explain and defend what you believe to both Christians and non-Christians? Very simply, that is the purpose and the value of apologetics.”
- Schaefferian soteriology.
  - ▶ Reason must rule emotions.
  - ▶ Conversion is the result of a heartfelt and transformational spiritual encounter with the living God through faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.
  - ▶ Conversion is a spiritual phenomenon: the result of a living synergistic and symbiotic relationship between the convert and the Spirit of God.
- “Taking the roof-off.”
  - ▶ Non-Christians worldviews provide no foundation for living a meaningful life.
  - ▶ Any beliefs and values that are True, Good and Beautiful are borrowed from a biblical worldview.
- The issue of predispositions.
  - ▶ Non-biblical worldviews provide no basis for meaning in life.
  - ▶ Any beliefs that are True, Good and Beautiful derive from biblical principles.
  - ▶ One’s worldview cannot be reduced merely to philosophical and theological beliefs.
  - ▶ Psychological and social factors.
  - ▶ “Predispositions” are the result of a complex mix of individual factors: our personality, moral convictions, mental and emotion state of mind, family life, environment, education, religious beliefs, life experiences, etc.
  - ▶ Os Guinness in *The Dust of Death*: “Becoming a Christian is an authentic choice of a whole person; it involves his or her reason, his or her emotions, and his or her will. It is in this sense that faith is more than rational.”



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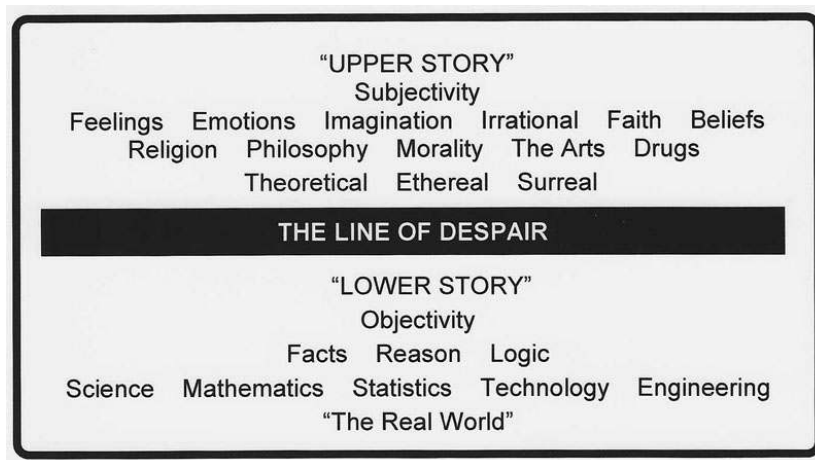
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- ▶ Thomas Morris: “In a very significant way predispositions seem to be more fundamentally constitutive of the person than any propositional beliefs which can be argued, evaluated, and changed. They in fact determine how arguments are perceived [and] how evaluations are made, and whether or not any belief changes result.... We cannot confidently argue people into the body of Christ. None of our arguments carries a guaranteed universal force which can compel every ‘rational’ person to assent to the truth of the gospel. We are always dependent on something in our listener over which we have no sure control.”
- Apologetics *confirms* rather than *compels* belief.
- The corruption of modern philosophy.
- Christians should be prepared to clearly and effectively explain and defend the basic principles of Christianity, and why we believe them to be true.

**“The Line of Despair.”**

- Modern man’s “point of tension”: the sense of alienation and hopelessness in living in a godless and purposeless world.
- An artificial dichotomy: Faith v. Reason.



**The Corruption of Philosophy.**

- Monumental consequences for Western civilization.
  - ▶ FS: Despite the damage done, many Christians and Christian leaders “still do not know what is happening... because they are still not being taught the importance of thinking in terms of presuppositions.... Historic Christianity stands on a basis of antithesis. Without it, historic Christianity is meaningless....  
 “So now for us, more than ever before, a presuppositional apologetic is imperative.”
- Foundational principles of Natural Law.

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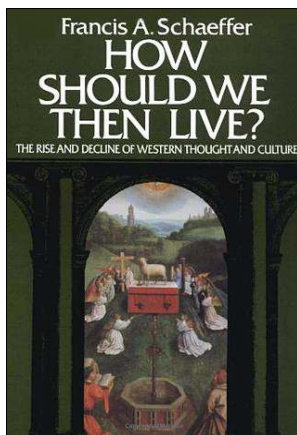
“HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?”

The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture

The Trajectory of Western Civilization

An Historical/Theological/Philosophical *Tour de Force*.

- Kenneth Clark’s documentary series, *Civilisation* (1969).
- The title: Ref. Ezekiel 33:1ff.
- An overview of Western history and culture from ancient Rome to the 1970s.
- The Enlightenment influence: secular humanistic philosophy and theological liberalism.
  - ▶ A civilization that has rejected biblical moral and ethical beliefs and values – and the resultant corruption of philosophy, theology, science, education, the arts, etc.
  - ▶ FS: “This book is an analysis of the key moments in history which have formed our



present culture, and the thinking of the people who brought those moments to pass. This study is made in the hope that light may be shed upon the major characteristics of our age and that solutions may be found to the myriad of problems which face us as we look toward the end of the twentieth century....

“To understand where we are in today’s world – in our intellectual ideas and in our cultural and political lives – we must trace three lines in history, namely, the philosophic, the scientific, and the religious. The philosophic seeks intellectual answers to the basic questions of life. The scientific has two parts: first, the makeup of the physical universe and then the practical application of what it discovers in technology” [all of which is set by the philosophic world view of the scientists] “People’s religious views also determine the direction of their individual lives and of their society.”

The Summa of Secularism.

- Christopher Lasch, *The Culture of Narcissism* (1979):
- Jeffrey Breshears, *American Crisis* (2020):
  - ▶ “Ours is a therapeutic-fixated society.”
  - ▶ Word of Faith (“Prosperity Gospel”) theology.

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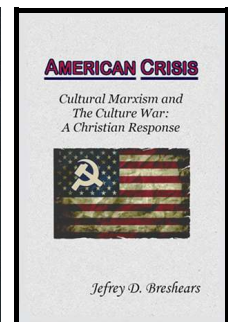
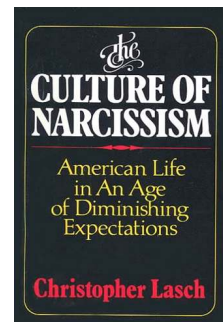
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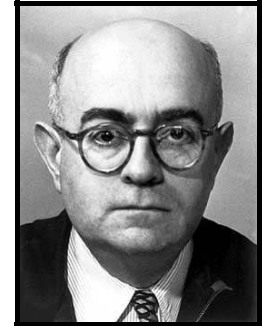
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## Christianity, Philosophy and the Arts.

- The philosophy and effects of modern art.
- On modern music:
  - ▶ Militaristic themes of Richard Wagner (1813-83) and Gustav Mahler (1860-1911).
  - ▶ Avant-garde “expressionistic” music of Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951).
  - ▶ Incoherent aleatoric “music” of John Cage (1912-92).
  - ▶ Neo-Marxist “agitprop” music.
    - Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, *et al.*
  - ▶ Theodor Adorno (1903-69): Neo-Marxist dissonant music.
  - ▶ Contemporary pop: The integration of discordant, chaotic “musick” with politicized, sexualized and obscene lyrics. [Ref. Chapter 5: “How Neo-Marxists Corrupted American Popular Music... and Culture,” in Jeffrey D. Breshears, *American Crisis.*]
- Modern films:
  - ▶ Secularistic, existentialist, nihilistic and sexualized themes in movies by avant-garde filmmakers.
  - ▶ Schaeffer: At least these films are serious and thought-provoking, unlike the vast majority of romanticized, vapid and mind-numbing commercial movies.



Theodor Adorno

## Manifestations of Cultural Corruption.

- Erosion of Christian influences.
- Mainstream values: security and affluence.
  - ▶ Materialism, hedonism, wealth, status, success, power and influence.
- The countercultural reaction: Sex and drugs and rock ‘n’ roll.
  - The catastrophic consequences of the sexual revolution.
  - ▶ Abortion “rights” – the ultimate sacrament of the sexual revolution.

## The Totalitarian Temptation.

- Dire warnings:
  - ▶ Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* (1932).
  - ▶ George Orwell, *Animal Farm* (1945) and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1948).
  - ▶ C. S. Lewis, *That Hideous Strength* (1945).
  - ▶ C. S. Lewis, “Srewtape Proposes a Toast” (1959).
- Carl F. H. Henry, *Twilight of a Great Civilization* (1988).
  - ▶ “A half-generation ago the pagans were still largely threatening at the gates of Western culture; now the barbarians are plunging into the... mainstream. As they seek to reverse the inherited intellectual and moral heritage of the Bible,... [we are] engaged as never before in a rival conflict for the mind, the conscience, the will, the spirit, the very selfhood of contemporary man....



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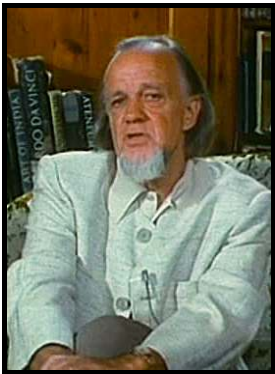
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“We may even now be living in the half-generation before all hell breaks loose – and we will be remembered, if we are remembered at all, as those who gave their hearts and minds and very bodies to plug the dykes against impending doom.”

- The threat of authoritarianism.
  - ▶ Government elites, working with technocrats, educrats, mediocrats and corporate titans, push a secular socialist agenda that will marginalize and diminish any residual Christian and Natural Law influences.
- The call for Christian resistance.



- ▶ FS: “As the memory of the Christian consensus which gave us freedom within the biblical form increasingly is forgotten, a manipulating authoritarianism will tend to fill the vacuum.”
- ▶ In lieu of a moral consensus based on Natural Law principles, liberty degenerates into libertinism and chaos.
- ▶ FS: An authoritarian elite “will gradually force form on society so that it will not go on to chaos. And most people will accept it – from the desire for personal peace [i.e., security] and affluence, from apathy, and from the yearning for order to assure the functioning of some political system, business, and the affairs of daily life....”

“Overwhelming pressures are being brought to bear on people who have no [moral] absolutes, but only have the impoverished values of personal peace and prosperity. The pressures are progressively preparing modern people to accept a manipulative, authoritarian government.”

- Contributing factors:
  - ▶ Media bias.
  - ▶ Secularized education.
  - ▶ Computers and Big Tech.
  - ▶ Genetic engineering and psychotropic drugs.
- NOTE: Christians, like everyone else, are *conditioned (influenced)* by the dominant social and cultural values and standards of our time – but our beliefs and actions are *not determined* by these forces.
- Jean Francois Revel, *The Totalitarian Temptation* (1977).
  - ▶ The world is “evolving toward socialism.”
- Francis Sempa, “Revisiting Revel’s *The Totalitarian Temptation*” (2022).
  - ▶ Social and cultural revolutionaries won the culture war in America by default.
  - ▶ By the time cultural conservatives recognized what was happening, it was too late: liberals and leftists dominate America’s cultural, social, educational, and political institutions.

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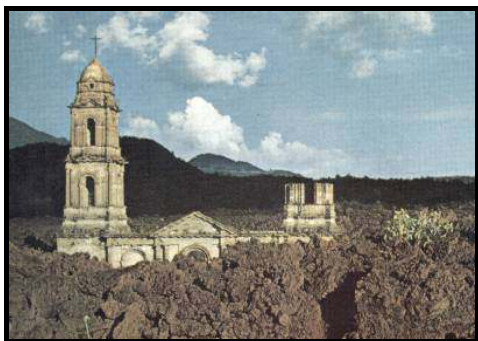
- The history of the United States has been unique in world history due to the Christian influences that were incorporated into our society, culture, and political system.
- The inevitable consequences of cultural deterioration: secular/socialist authoritarianism.
- The only alternative: a spiritual revival of unprecedented depth and scope, and the recovery of a comprehensive biblical worldview.

- ▶ FS: As these influences disintegrate, “there are only two alternatives in the natural flow of events: first, imposed order [authoritarianism or totalitarianism], or second, our society once again affirming that base which gave freedom without chaos in the first place – God’s revelation in the Bible....”

This makes it imperative that Christians understand that the Christian faith is a comprehensive worldview that addresses “the whole spectrum of life” issue....

“Will we resist the authoritarian government in all its forms” regardless of how the authoritarianism is marketed?... Let us be realistic. If we as Christians do not speak out as authoritarian governments grow from within or come from outside, eventually we or our children will be the enemy of society and the state. No truly authoritarian government can tolerate those who have a real absolute by which to judge [the government’s] arbitrary absolutes and who speak out and act upon that absolute. This was the issue with the early church in regard to the Roman Empire [as it applied to the worship of Caesar as Lord].”

- The current state of the American church.



- ▶ Due to a lack of understanding regarding the great challenges of our time and a corresponding lack of emphasis on wholistic discipleship, Schaeffer had little confidence that the church would provide the kind of wise guidance and support that Christians need.
- ▶ FS: “Much of the church is no help” because for so long most Christians have generally accepted the mainstream values of our society and culture – personal peace, prosperity, and an easy and comfortable lifestyle.”
- ▶ Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1776-88):
  - (1) An obsession with entertainment, affluence, and ostentatious living;
  - (2) A widening gap between the rich and the poor;
  - (3) An obsession with sex and hedonistic pleasure;
  - (4) The corruption of the arts, masquerading as originality and creativity; and
  - (5) The expansion of the welfare state, and patriotic apathy.

***How Should We Then Live? The Impact.***

- A dramatic effect on many Christians.

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### Natural Law 20 Basic Principles

1. There is a God (or gods, or some unifying power or principle) that is responsible for the existence and maintenance of the universe.
2. There is moral law to which we are accountable.
  - Certain attitudes, speech and actions are objectively right and wrong regardless of our personal/ subjective feelings about them.
  - These moral laws are absolute, universal and transcultural.
3. Citizenship obligations to one's society and state.
4. The rule of law (either a formal written code or informal customs).
5. The sanctity of human life and a prohibition on murder.
6. The right of self-defense.
7. Private property rights (including one's own body).
8. Protection from arbitrary government abuse or coercion.
9. The promotion of virtues such as wisdom, honor, courage, and moderation.
10. Honesty in normal interpersonal relations and commercial transactions.
11. Standards of social decency and propriety.
12. The sanctity of marriage.
13. Prohibitions on sexual promiscuity.
14. Prohibitions on incest and rape.
15. Respect for one's parents, ancestors and elders.
16. Proper protection and provision for children.
17. The value of kindness, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness.
18. The primacy of the common good over individual rights.
19. The principle of reciprocity and a tacit acknowledgment of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
20. The summary principle: "Do good and avoid evil."

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### Political Orientations Two Models

#### The Standard (Linear) Model

Marxism/ Communism	Socialism	Liberalism Moderate	Conservatism Libertarian	Nazism/ Fascism
← "LEFT-WING"		"RIGHT-WING" →		

#### A Revised (Two-Dimensional) Model

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Marxism /  
Communism  
  
Nazism  
  
Fascism

Socialism

Modern Liberalism

NATURAL LAW  
THEORY

Contemporary Conservatism

The Original US  
Constitutional Republic

Libertarianism

Anarchism

- State control of Society and Culture\* +

NOTE: The Social/Cultural scale includes moral, aesthetic, religious, and public policy issues.

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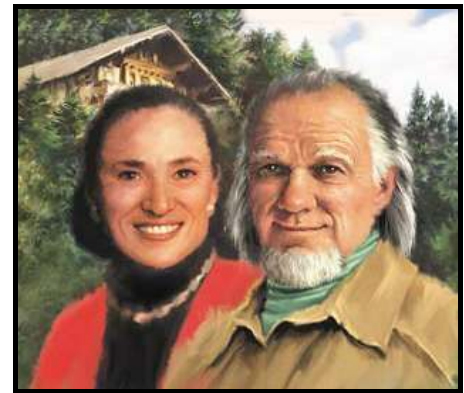
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**ASSESSMENTS**

**The Personal**

**The Schaeffer Family.**

- Edith Schaeffer: Wife, mother, homemaker, and author.
- Prisca and John Sandri.
- Deborah and Udo Middelman.
- Susan and Ranald Macaulay.
- Franky Schaeffer (b. 1952).
  - ▶ Two documentary films: *How Should We Then Live?* and *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?*
  - ▶ A controversial character.

[NOTE: See the APPENDIX – Dan Segal, “Franky Schaeffer: A Frank Assessment.”]



**Death.**

- Francis Schaeffer died of lymphoma in May of 1984 in Rochester, Minnesota.
- Preparing for his homecoming.
  - ▶ A last prayer: “Dear Father God, I have finished my work. Please take me home. I am tired.”
- A “weeping prophet” and a “man of sorrows.”

**The Critics**

**Three Issues:**

- (1) Schaeffer’s philosophical, historical and artistic credentials.
- (2) Schaeffer sowed “dissension and division within the evangelical community” by calling out influential evangelical leaders, publications and institutions.
- (3) Schaeffer’s political activism.
  - ▶ A theocrat who promoted the “Christian America” agenda of the Moral Majority.
  - ▶ Richard Pierard: Schaeffer and other right-wing Christians “proclaimed abortion as the key social issue of our time....”

“I, for one, am concerned that the Schaefferian over-simplification on the nature of modern secular culture has misled evangelicals into thinking they have the answers to the

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problems of our times.... The net effect of these developments has been to further divide an already badly divided evangelicalism.... The Schaeffers... linked biblical Christianity to an oppressive right-wing subculture that surely deprives it of vitality.”

[NOTE: “Moderates” are culture war pacifists who often regard Christian conservative activists as more dangerous than the neo-Marxist leftists and their religious allies who promote a radical secular, socialistic, sexual and racial agenda. ]

• Schaeffer’s response:

- ▶ He was a cultural conservative who upheld the principles of Natural Law.
- ▶ FS: “Right-wing” groups such as the Moral Majority at least offer a healthy alternative to the virtual monopoly that secular/humanistic liberals hold over our major cultural institutions.



“We must realize that regardless of whether we think the Moral Majority has always said the right things or whether we do not,... they have certainly done one thing right: they have used the freedom we still have in the political arena to stand against the other total entity [i.e., secular humanism.] They have carried the fact that law is king, law is above the lawmakers, and God is above the law into this area of life where it always should have been. And this is part of true spirituality....

“The Moral Majority has drawn a line between the one total view of reality and the other total view of reality and the results this brings forth in government and law. *And if you personally do not like some of the details of what they have done, do it better....*

“It is not too strong to say that we are at war, and there are no neutral parties in the struggle. One either confesses that God is the final authority, or that Caesar is Lord.”

## The Summa

### Tributes.

- A visionary cultural apologist.
- James W. Sire: Francis Schaeffer was “the Jeremiah of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.”
- C. S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer were perhaps the two most influential Christian thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- President Ronald Reagan: “He will long be remembered as one of the great Christian thinkers of our century.”
- Billy Graham: “He was truly one of the great evangelical statesmen of our generation. He was no ivory tower intellectual, but had a deep love for people and a profound commitment to evangelism. More than virtually any other thinker, he had keen insight into the major theological and philosophical battles of our time.”

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- *Christianity Today* (1997): “When Francis Schaeffer first appeared on the American scene in 1965, evangelicals hardly knew what to make of him.”

Despite his conventional education and early ministry, he became “no ordinary fundamentalist preacher. He and his wife, Edith, had lived for ten years in a student commune they had started in the Swiss Alps. When he lectured, he wore an alpine hiking outfit – knickers, knee socks, walking shoes. By 1972 he had added to his already singular appearance long hair and a white tufted goat’s-chin beard....

“During the next two decades the Schaeffers organized a multiple-thrust ministry that reshaped American evangelicalism. Perhaps no intellectual save C. S. Lewis affected the thinking of evangelicals more profoundly; perhaps no leader of the period save Billy Graham left a deeper stamp on the movement as a whole. Together the Schaeffers gave currency to the idea of intentional Christian community, prodded evangelicals out of their cultural ghetto, [and] inspired an army of evangelicals to become serious scholars....

“The Schaeffers showed an extraordinary ability to identify with the issues that concerned the student generation of the 1960s and early 1970s....

“Francis also thundered against the middle-class sins of the evangelical churches. He challenged evangelicals to adopt a ‘revolutionary’ mindset.... He insisted that American evangelicalism was too individualistic....”

- J. I. Packer: “Francis Schaeffer was an amazing man – intellectually brilliant and set on truth, emotionally intense, devoted to God and compassionate; like Jeremiah, perplexed by the world, not because he didn’t understand it but because he did.”
- Os Guinness: “I have never met anyone with such a passion for God, combined with a passion for people, combined with a passion for truth. That is an extremely rare combination, and Schaeffer embodied it.... Francis Schaeffer was quite simply the most brilliant and compassionate face-to-face apologist I have ever met.”
- Chad Owen Brand: “For me, the 1970s were virtually bookended by Francis Schaeffer. I read *The God Who Is There* in 1972 and my intellectual life was transformed.... I had the overwhelming sense that I had crossed over into a new world.... and it convinced me that it was possible not only to make a credible case for Christianity, but that it might also be done in an attractive and compelling format. Schaeffer was the first apologist I ever read, and his impact on my thinking was profound.... As helpful as he was as a teacher to me when I was eighteen years old, now I read him as a prophet.”
- Ben Mitchell: “When I reflect on the formative influences on my Christian life, I have to credit Francis Schaeffer as one of my most important mentors.... [H]is work has shaped my thinking and my ministry in ways I am sure I do not fully realize....  
 “His legacy is not primarily his intellectual contribution to the Christian faith.... Schaeffer’s greatest gift... was to provide a strategy and the courage to invade a culture of hopelessness and meaninglessness with a credible message of hope and meaningfulness....

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“Schaeffer will be remembered as the person under God who motivated Christians to trace the history of ideas, discover the mind of contemporary culture, and penetrate it with a fresh, relevant, precision engagement aimed at transformation. He will be remembered as a Christian, in the very best sense of the term.”

- David Virtue: “Schaeffer’s insights and his drive for a firm foundation for Christian belief will endure even in the face of watered-down theology and clerics who compromise in the face of withering cultural scorn. The biblical worldview that Francis Schaeffer fought so valiantly for will have to be recaptured if it is to reshape the postmodernist landscape into which we have all now plunged.”
- David Bebbington: “Schaeffer taught evangelicals how to understand their world, exerting a profound influence over the next generation of young leaders.... His ministry at L’Abri had persuaded him of the need to discern how alternative worldviews had interacted over time with the Christian faith. He led the way, long before it was fashionable, in analyzing culture.”
- Chuck Colson: “Francis Schaeffer was one of the great prophets of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.”
- Richard John Neuhaus: “Some of our best friends were formed in crucial ways by Francis Schaeffer and his L’Abri community in Switzerland. For many evangelicals, Schaeffer, an astonishing autodidact, made accessible a large part of the history of Western thought construed according to his distinctive Christian vision. In the evangelical community, his influence was possibly only second, albeit a very distant second, to that of C.S. Lewis.”
- John Fischer: “Schaeffer was the evangelical conscience of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.... He understood the existential cry of humanity trapped in a prison of its own making. He was the closest thing to a ‘man of sorrows’ I have seen.”
- Richard Winter: “Had I not been so helped by Francis Schaeffer’s teaching, I wonder whether I would have survived psychiatry. In so many ways he helped me to build a firm foundation and framework within which to develop a Christian mind in the academic discipline and the therapeutic practice of psychiatry.... I saw, for the first time, how important worldviews are in shaping life and thought.”
- Donald Williams: “Schaeffer has never been replaced by another voice of equal stature.”

*“To live faithfully and effectively for Christ in contemporary ‘post-Christian’ America, it is imperative that students and adults alike read, absorb and interact with the thoughts, the insights and the challenges they will encounter in the writings of two modern sages: C. S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer.”*

— Jeffrey Breshears in *Francis Schaeffer: A Retrospective on His Life & Legacy*

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