

Work, Research, & Witness in a Secular Age

AnCon Postgraduates Conference, 2019

Part 1 How we got here

Introduction

Exercise: The path to here

The common sense story:

- a. The story we tell
- b. The impact of that story
- c. Flaws in the glass

Revising the story:

- a. A different history
- b. A change in conditions
- c. An Immanent Frame

‘For the first time in human history a purely self-sufficient humanism came to be a widely available option. I mean by this humanism accepting no final goals beyond human flourishing, nor any allegiance to anything else beyond this flourishing. **Of no previous society was this true.**’

Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age*, 18.



Table #1: Summary of Common Sense v Revised Theory of Coming to a Secular Age

The Future of Faith		
The Current Experience		
The Foundation		

The Self that Secularism Built: Identity and purpose in a Secular Age

Table # 2 A Brief History of You

	1519	2019
Family		
Death		
Community		
Work & Role		
Life Choices		
Natural World		
Moral Reasoning		
Negative emotions		
Source of your identity		

Conclusions: Work, Research and Witness in a Secular Age

Part 2: A theology of making culture

Introduction:

- a. Stances toward culture
- b. Making culture
- c. Christians and culture

ACT 1: Creation

Genesis 1:26-28

- a. *Increase*
- b. *Fill*
- c. *Subdue*

Genesis 2:

ACT 2: Insurrection

Genesis 3

Genesis 11

ACT 3: Redemption

Genesis 12:1-3

Israel's Mission Statement: Exodus 19:5

¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

Genesis 2:19-20

Israel's failure

Jesus

ACT 4: New Creation

Revelation 21-22

Seven Conclusions:

1. Humans making culture was always the
2. Human culture is fallen, therefore
3. The fall has affected everything, but
4. Israel's purpose was to win the nations to God, not to
5. Nothing is
6. "The place where you _____ is the place in which you can _____."
7. You. Are. Here.

Conclusions: