

In the early church, intellectual arrogance was expressed by Neoplatonism and Gnosticism.

Neoplatonism is defined as:

Modified Platonism to accord with Aristotelian, post-Aristotelian, and eastern conceptions that conceives of the world as an emanation from an ultimate indivisible being with whom the soul is capable of being reunited in trance or ecstasy.¹

Gnosticism was a first-century development distinguished by the conviction that matter is evil and that emancipation (salvation) comes through knowledge.²

Each made its attempt to reconcile its ideas drawn from philosophy and science with Christianity. The tendency was to merge speculations from each with biblical doctrines: pseudo-intellectual arrogance.

The trend that was developed and codified over time is currently expressed by anthropocentric academic speculation.

When these efforts abandon divine revelation then the trend is to drift toward Luciferian ideas associated with rationalism and empiricism.

His strategies gradually drift toward universalism expressed in multiculturalism, internationalism, and socialist/Marxist theories. The current expression of these Cosmic Academy curricula is Progressive ideology.

Those that subscribe to these ideas develop intellectual arrogance since the curriculum is developed by the genius of the Dark Side absent any input from divine viewpoint.

The best example of this trend is the rapid drift of American culture away from the order and freedom supplied by traditional standards over to the despotism of Orwell's Big Brother.

¹ *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 2d ed., s.v. "Neoplatonism."

² *Ibid.*, s.v. "Gnosticism."

When pseudointellectual arrogance dominates a population, its followers are propagandized into becoming the pseudo-educated whose decision-making capacity is submissive to emotion rather than a knowledge of truth.

Observe the mind-set of the pseudo-intellectual who in arrogance assumes in ignorance that he is qualified to instruct others:

Luke 6:39 - "A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit?"

Romans 2:17 - If you are classified as a "Jew" and not only rely on the Law for salvation but also boast of your relationship to God,

v. 18 - and know His will and approve those superior things because you receive instruction from the Law,

v. 19 - and you yourselves are confident that you are a guide of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

v. 20 - a corrector of the foolish, an instructor of the immature, having a superficial form of knowledge and doctrine in the Law.

Romans 2:24 - "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

11. Christian Service. The dichotomy of converting legitimate production into a system of legalism.

For example, I could rightly say to the congregation that it is a part of the believer's ambassadorship function to present the gospel to unbelievers.

The proper way to respond to that idea is to be ever alert to the Holy Spirit's direction and prepared to deliver the message as He provides guidance.

It becomes Christian service arrogance if the motivation for doing so was to win God's approval, to establish a good relationship with God, to report back to the pastor what you did, or feel good about yourself.

Barna Group surveys often poll people of various demographics to learn of the group's attitudes toward Christianity, church, the Bible, etc.

One group recently canvased is Millennials, which William Strauss and Neil Howe categorized in their book, *The History of America's Future*, as those born between 1982 and 2004. Presently the termini would be between 33 and 11 years of age.

Millennials by percentage describe the Bible in the following ways: (1) 50% believe it is a story, (2) 38% as mythology, (3) 36% as symbolic, (4) 30% as a fairy tale, and (5) 30% as historical.

When non-Christian millennials see someone reading the Bible in public, 22% assume the person is politically conservative, 21% figure they don't have anything in common with that person, and 17% think the person is old-fashioned. Sixty percent have never read the Bible.

This is a group of unbelievers that is prime targets for evangelism. The effort to do so must be motivated by having an interest in the individual millennial's lost status and being aware of an opportunity to engage him or her in a conversation about their thoughts on Christianity.

Never aggressive or judgmental, a believer can guide the conversation in a way that shows interest in what the person thinks and allow the Holy Spirit to find the opportune way to introduce the gospel.

It is the accuracy of the presentation that is important; the Holy Spirit will either convince the person's free will or not. Either way, no pressure is ever recommended in case of the latter. The principle of free exercise prevails regardless of the response.

Personal evangelism is a part of Christian Service and should be a part of every believer's walk in the devil's world.

Be prepared to present the gospel to others but never do so for self-aggrandizement, to impress others, or to win favor with God. Application of doctrine and the power of the Spirit are the only things that impress God.