Weekend Review

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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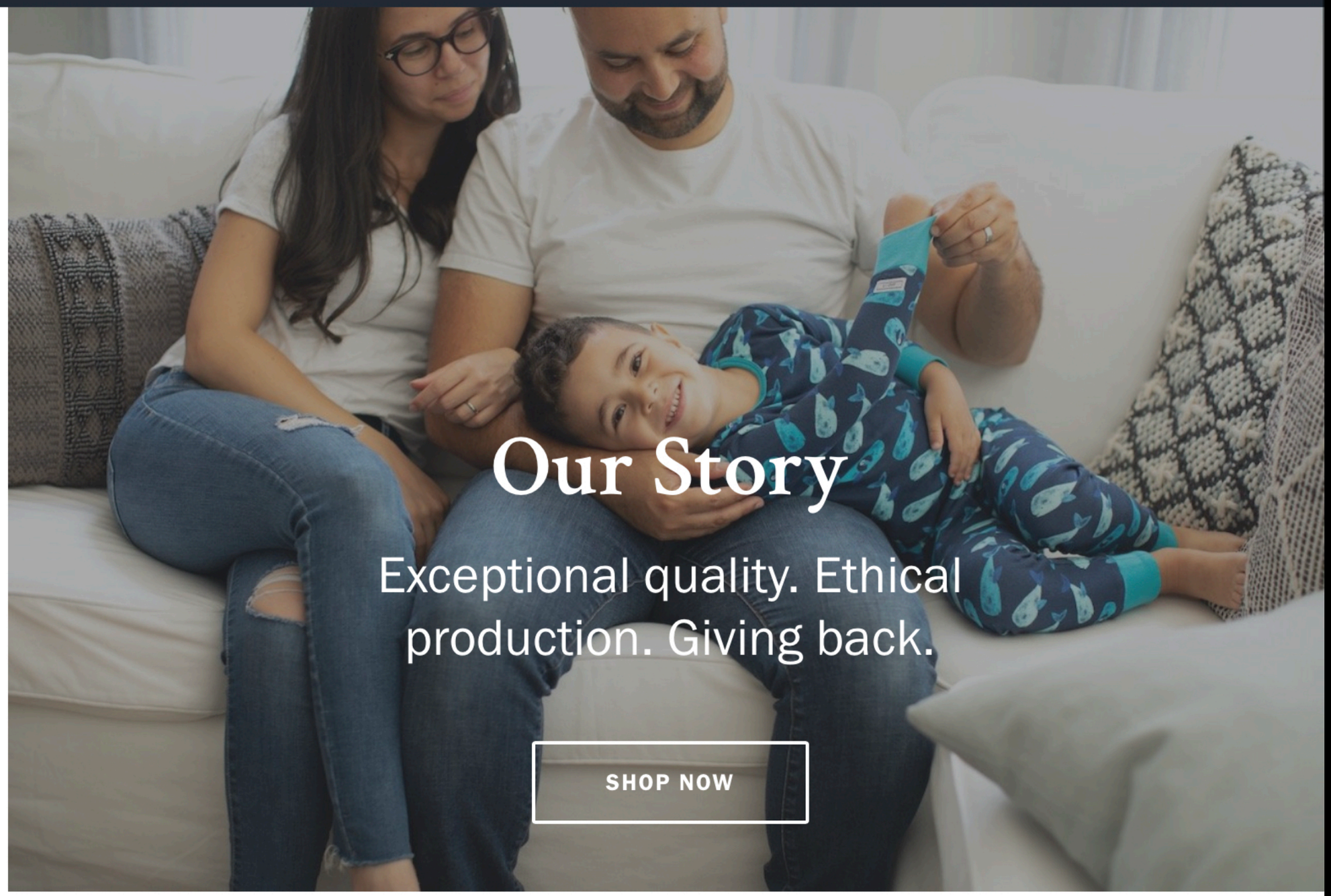
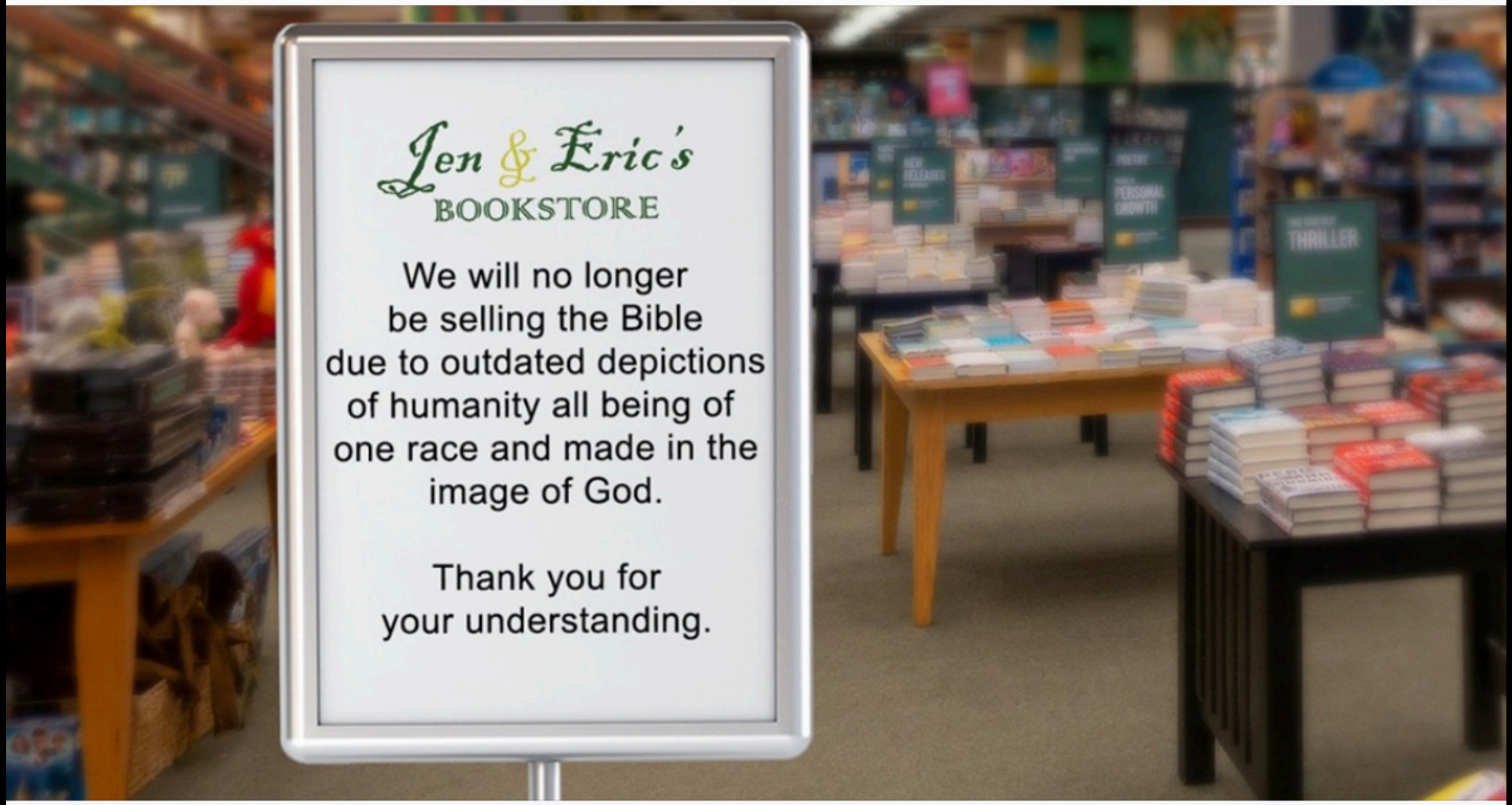
Holy Pals





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Bibles Pulled From Shelves For Outdated Idea That All Humans Are Of One Race And Made In The Image Of God

IDEAS

The Sexual Identity That Emerged on TikTok

Amid progress toward transgender acceptance, the social-media war over "super-straight" shows how not to resolve delicate questions about dating norms.

APRIL 7, 2021

Conor Friedersdorf
Staff writer at *The Atlantic*

THE LONGER SOCIAL-MEDIA shamers condemn preferences that the overwhelming majority of people share, the more inevitable the pushback. For many, Royce's meme was defensible precisely because it was couched as a plea for inclusion. "The fact that people are upset about this new sexuality being created is a little hypocritical coming from the folks who created abrosexual, demisexual, gerontosexual, gynosexual, intrasexual, kalosexual, multisexual, pomosexual, sapiosexual, and literally hundreds more," White said on YouTube. "Even though *super-straight* is a joke, the irony is that it's a lot more valid than a lot of those I just listed. Actually, all of them.

Abrosexual refers to an individual whose sexuality is changing or fluid. For example, someone could be gay one day, then be asexual the next, then polysexual the next. While it is possible—and even common—for a person's sexual identity to shift or change in some way throughout their life, an...

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YOU ARE VALID. WE ALL ARE.

≡ MENU

2017

Cupiosexuality

evangelical alliance
together making Jesus known

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Westminster
London
SW1A 2AA

15 March 2021

Proposals to end conversion therapy risk criminalising everyday church activities

Dear Prime Minister,

The Evangelical Alliance is the oldest and largest body representing the UK's two million evangelical Christians. Our membership includes more than 3,500 churches across the UK, tens of thousands of individuals and hundreds of organisations and charities. We have been contacted by a range of members expressing concern at the Government's position on conversion therapy.

We are deeply concerned at some of the practices that have been carried out which are categorised as conversion therapy, but also by the government's lack of clarity on the issue.

We recognise the role the church has sadly played historically in perpetuating stigma, discrimination and harm towards people because of their sexuality. We oppose abusive practices

categorised as conversion therapy, but also by the government's lack of clarity on the issue.

We recognise the role the church has sadly played historically in perpetuating stigma, discrimination and harm towards people because of their sexuality. We oppose abusive practices and the use of electro-shock treatment and corrective rape are clearly wrong and should be ended. However, such practices should already be banned or illegal and as such should be dealt with under existing policies and laws. Where such abusive practices are not illegal, we would welcome efforts to clarify or strengthen the law.

We note that the government has committed to end conversion therapy but has failed to offer a definition of it or set out clearly what is meant by this commitment. That is why, until this point, the Evangelical Alliance has not engaged publicly in this debate. However, recent high-profile campaigns and debates, including in parliament, have made it clear that many lobbying for change are seeking an expansive definition that would be highly problematic and which we could not support.[1] Proposals, as currently discussed, could have the consequence of restricting individual freedom and impinging on essential religious liberty - potentially criminalising Christians and common church activities. We would encourage the government to exercise caution.

It is vital in our society that individuals have significant freedom to explore and decide for themselves how their identity and practices relate to their sexuality. As a consequence, we oppose coercive practices that try to change someone's sexuality or gender identity against their will.

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[1]Ban Conversion Therapy definition: "Any form of counselling or persuading someone to change their sexual orientation or behaviour so as to conform with a heteronormative lifestyle or their gender identity should be illegal, no matter the reason, religious or otherwise – whatever the person's age." https://www.banconversiontherapy.com/the-letter

BAN 'PERNICIOUS' PRAYER – CALL

Moves to criminalise gay 'conversion therapy' are gaining momentum, exposing the potential for restrictions on how Christians respond to individuals struggling with same-sex attraction (SSA).

Nicola Laver

(LtoR) Kemi Badenoch; Matthew Hyndman; Dr Carys Moseley

One activist has even described the power of prayer as 'pernicious' and said the reach of the law must be extended to cover it.

Equalities minister Liz Truss has confirmed the government is to accelerate plans to end conversion therapies. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has acknowledged the issues are 'technically complex', and three members of the government's LGBT+ Advisory Panel have recently resigned, saying ministers are insufficiently responsive and are ignorant of the issues.

But campaigners are pushing for far-reaching legislation. A former missionary-turned-gay activist wants to criminalise pastors and others in the church who pray for or counsel individuals struggling with a gay lifestyle or SSA.

Writing in the *Independent*, Matthew Hyndman, who worked as a Christian missionary on Operation Mobilisation ship, *Logos Hope*, said that after a 'catastrophic coming out', his leaders demanded he undergo therapy. He added: 'Those who resist legislation against conversion therapy often resist the idea of a prayer or a pastoral conversation being subject to the scrutiny of law. However, if these things take place in an overwhelmingly homophobic or transphobic context the pernicious power of prayer must be dealt with.'

Conservative MP Alicia Kearns, who proposed the legislation, said in a debate that her proposed law 'does not prevent individuals from seeking guidance from faith leaders'. Kemi Badenoch, also an equalities minister, said: 'The government have been clear that we do not intend to stop those who wish to seek spiritual counselling as they explore their sexual orientation, but there will be cases when a line is crossed, where someone is actively seeking to change another's sexual orientation – an innate aspect of their personal identity – via coercion under the guise of spiritual support.'

Dr Carys Moseley, writing on the Christian Concern website, said: 'The biggest problem now in Parliament and the press is the total lack of real debate and critical analysis of this issue … LGBT activists know very well that sexual attraction is changeable. In 2014, the Department of Health held [an] event on banning "conversion therapy" with mental-health professional bodies. Dominic Davies, CEO of Pink Therapy, spoke at this. He said: "Sexuality can be quite plastic for many people," and that there are "plenty of examples … of sexual fluidity over a lifespan for many LGB and T people".'

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(Jose Luis Magana / Associated Press)

By THE TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD

APRIL 16, 2021 5 AM PT

A constitutional right to an abortion means a right to have one for any reason. That should also mean a woman can elect to tell her doctor — or not — why she wants an abortion.

But that's not what is happening in Ohio, where the state Legislature in 2017 passed a ban on doctors performing abortions when they know the woman is seeking one because her fetus has been diagnosed with Down syndrome or is suspected of having it. The law also made it a felony for doctors to defy the law.

That measure is just one of hundreds of unjustified restrictions that state legislatures have passed in the last decade to curtail a woman's right to an abortion up to the point when a fetus is viable outside a woman's body (roughly 24 weeks into a pregnancy). The Supreme Court guaranteed that right nearly 50 years ago in the landmark case of Roe vs. Wade and has upheld it multiple times since then.

Any restriction that makes it overly difficult to get an abortion or conflicts with the right to obtain one — such as limiting abortions to the first eight to 10 weeks of

Spotlight

How Critical Race Theory captured the Church

The anti-racism report is heavily influenced by subversive ideology

BY **GILES UDY**

"I'm ashamed of our history and I'm ashamed of our failure. There is no doubt when we look at our own

9:31 AM Sat Apr 24 19%

It is a damning analysis.

According to the report that I saw, the church's "existing foundations and principle theological frameworks entrench racial prejudice and white normativity across the church's traditions and its doctrinal teachings". Its "systemic and structural racism … derives its legitimation from certain theological foundations" which must be "redressed". These foundations are "Eurocentrism, Christendom (sic) and White normativity". They form "underlying theological assumptions" and "a prejudicial theological value system" that shapes "racial prejudice" in the "official teachings of the church", perpetuated by "predominantly white male theological perspectives and forms of knowledge". Its theology must be "decolonized".

The shocking set of accusations provokes two questions: where have these ideas come from? And where, more ominously, will they lead?

In fact, they all reflect the key concepts that are part of

Then, last December, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York appointed Dr Sanjee Perera as their new Adviser on "Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns" – i.e. on race and racism. Their press release linked her appointment with the Taskforce and Race Commission, in which she will no doubt play a major part. For her part, Perera has written of how the church has "long been steeped in a racialised agenda", and how its "patriarchal, heteronormative, ableist and racialised theology" has "justified slavery and Empire". Earlier this month she helped organise a conference with Reddie entitled "Dismantling Whiteness; Critical White Theology".

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I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

ROMANS 1:16