



# Chronicles of Diversity

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Chronicles of Diversity  
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## Thesis 4: Moral Deists

We all know the story of Little Red Riding Hood and how her grandma was eaten by the big bad wolf. Sly Wolf then hid in grandma's bed to eat Little Red Riding Hood also. This myth of western European genesis clearly warns children not to venture, or live in the big bad forest not the safe village or all sorts of big bad animals enter wolf stage left demons, enter invisibly stage right and any other disastrous evil descends as a heavy fog will kill you and send you to be with Jesus before your time.

The great thing about story tellers is they never tell a lie! Unless of course the presuppositions on which the story is based are untrue. Then again story tellers have to sell books to make a living. In our 21st century world that is called spin, or breaking news, depending again upon your presuppositions of your paradigms of truth.

As the unshaven handsome southern California star, rode off on the horse into the sunset, wearing a kitsch t shirt and

hiking boots, so ended my odyssey with viewing all the serious documentary videos on the life of the wolf. One of these is needed to be used as part of my own odyssey to put together a seminar series on "Sheep to Wolves: The science to restore Christian ardor in the world." But as the star faded and the credits began to roll, I was struck with the thought, he just doesn't get it. In extension, we as members of western civilization just don't get it either.

In the four documentaries, the wolf cinematography was awesome, but it is really difficult to screw up pictures of wild animals in some of the most beautiful country in the world, when equipped with the best technology man has ever constructed. But the awesome came from God's creation, not from what the producers were doing with their wolf material. Some of that deals with natural truth, but most of the so called truth about wolves is biased strongly on the Little Red Riding



Hood paradigm. Any real truth about wolves and their populations either come from the oral tales of native peoples, or is science less than 20 years old. Furthermore, all that is wolf truth, comes to us from the big bad forest we recently visited in our introduction.

In order to hopefully sell some videos and other materials to recoup some of the cost of the productions, true science had to take a back seat to the story line of the reintroduction of wolves to the contiguous United States. Therefore, what we saw as a consequence, was a lot about what man can do to save the “natural” world, and a to a lesser extent the wolves themselves.

Last week we talked about how one prophesy dealt with how God was going to bypass his organized church and deal with Christians individually. Using as our emphasized verse Matthew 16:18: And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. We pointed out that the limitation in this prophesy is that at the present time the established church is the only community that the sheep have in which to congregate. We also saw that truly successful communities are built on team work with specific individuals performing specific group and individual tasks and not opiate consuming cheering masses filling the stands with noise and beer.

Of course with the mighty Seattle Seahawks victory in the National Football Conference Championship game last Sunday evening, the Puget Sound region now has the biggest opium fix in sports history. Whether that will ultimately be an area upper or downer, depends on what happens, on what has become the greatest holiday in America, SuperBowl Sunday.

When we started this series I made the comment that all American’s and really all people are born as moral deists. We are then indoctrinated by our culture, including our family and community structure, into a specific religious paradigm. Our country’s fathers incorporated and codified this moral deism in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. This is not because many were not Christians who wished to see a moral Promised Land established on

these American shores, it was because they didn’t want that theocracy, to be Methodist, if you were a Calvinist, and so on.

Wild wolves are very leery of people, but as the wolves documentaries show, this wildness is really a learned behavior which can be overcome if wolf puppies are taught that man is not an enemy but a friend. In that light, as the work done with the Sawtooth Pack shows, that while maintaining their wild wolf nature, they sort of adopt trusted people as strange looking community partners. Furthermore, many times when two lone wolves come together, they form, a pack or a family and over time that pack becomes related to other packs in the area. While each pack has its own territory there is not really a hostility over community boundaries. Contrary to popular belief, this is true competition not aggression.

This brings us to the wild nature of human moral deists. They remain very leery of Christianity, because every time they get close to a Christian, the first thing that happens is that the Christian mostly under the guise of evangelism takes out his Jesus rifle and takes a few shots at the moral deist’s life style. “If you don’t ask Jesus into your heart, and change your lifestyle to my line of morality, you are going to hell! Bang! Bang! Bang!” We operate the church much like we used to manage the range, with a bounty on dead wolf skins.

If you really do the research, as more moral deists have done compared to their Christian stockers, you will find out that the Christian lifestyles are really not that more moral than their non Christian counterpart. Sure there are people outside of the moral deist camp that are truly evil, but they inhabit an area of the village, just as in the real forest, where true Christians would never go, because of the entrance of demons and the disastrous evil fog.

Interesting, the codification of the Little Red Riding Hood tale into written form, closely follows the expression of evangelical Christianity into the form of revivalism. But before we get into that we must look at how the Reformation led to this off shoot first brand of Christianity.

Compared to Roman Catholic beliefs, the Reformers stressed the importance of a personal saving faith. As a general rule, they held the belief in the Biblical principle of the new birth, or being born

again, or as we would say today, in getting saved. They varied somewhat, and more so over time as their followers expanded upon the Reformer's doctrines, but they all distanced themselves from baptismal regeneration, as generally believed in Roman Catholic theology.

Christian paradigms will over time develop dogma to support their line of belief and also many times define words consistent with that dogma. For example, as a Protestant I believe that Roman Catholics, believe in grace and merit, while I believe in grace alone and progressive sanctification. By my definitions, both progressive sanctification and merit are manifest, or should be manifest, in similar works of Christian charity, or as James epistle would say "true religion." The difference between true Protestants and Roman Catholics is really about Christian regeneration and salvation.

Now both historic Protestantism and Roman Catholic doctrine are contrary to what has occurred in the rise and development of modern American evangelicalism. Calvin called the true gospel concept, "Guild, Grace, and Gratitude." Put in Lutheran terms, true teaching of the law and gospel, leads to an understanding that progressive sanctification is a work of God in which the "reborn" Christian can choose to follow or not. Lutherans would also say, contrasted with Calvinists, that pre salvation grace is resistible, but that leads us to the concept of predestination, which we will all fully understand in eternity.

I suppose it follows logically, that if the concept of rebirth is the most significant milestone of the Christian life, the means by which this decision is reached, is not as important as the decision itself. Therefore, any type of emotional program that will bring about that surrender of self to Jesus, is the most important work of the church. The great commission in essence is changed to leaving the Christian village and entering the evil forest to make converts to a Christian form of religion,

not to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Enter in Charles Finney the Presbyterian turned the revivalist guru of modern evangelicalism. Because historic orthodox

Christian dogma did not fit his methods of conversion, he had to write his own "Systematic Theology" to set a new course for Christian evangelicalism. The Second Great Awakening in upstate New York was evangelized by his techniques and to this day it is known as the "Great Burned Over Area." This area over a hundred fifty years later still has not seen much spiritual fruit since his emotion based work. Even in his lifetime, to his own admission, many of his conversions did not continue in the faith.

While I can't speak for the missionary endeavors of the rest of the country, the Protestant Christian missionaries of the Inland Pacific Northwest were very highly influenced by Finney's methodology. Therefore, you can see in the Colville Confederated Tribes, the Spokane's, the Nez Perce and other area tribes, a similar burned over religious landscape. As a consequence, pretty much everything Christian which remains is of a religious Roman Catholic bent.

Could it follow that the relevance of Christianity in many of the lives of our majority of moral deists stems from the fact that they have looked at the Christianity of revivalism and it is found wanting? The Christianity they have experienced is a death producing sterilization, rather than providing illumination and comfort. In other words, they are spiritual, but not religious!

The gospel according to revivalism many times subverts either Roman Catholic merit, or true Protestant progressive sanctification, substituting a means of working out your salvation by keeping your construct of the law. So instead of the law and gospel leading to gratitude in the path of true Protestant theology, you have a paradigm of law, gospel, more law.

Instead of the five solas of the Reformation: by scripture alone, by grace alone, through faith alone, by Christ alone, for God's glory alone, we now have an evangelical structure of: only scripture, temporal grace, faith as prosperity, Christ as relationship, and God's glory by your morality and good works. Put it all together and you have an abomination, utilizing selected portions, you have an anathema leading toward cultism or delusion and atheism.

Since Calvinist doctrine contrasted against Arminianism is the theological battle of the

American frontier, it is also the battle of the more orthodox Calvinists tensioned against the more Arminian revivalists. Hence, people almost exclusively move from revivalism and Arminianism to the structure of eternal grace found in basic Calvinism. The poor Lutherans not really being part of the American frontier church, are left with just their Book of Concord and the hopes that someday everyone will see the true light.

Looking in the online Catholic Encyclopedia [newadvent.org](http://newadvent.org) for their insights into the rise of the Calvinism and Arminianism debate you find an interesting discussion. Loosely paraphrased it says, Calvinism we understand and disagree with, Arminianism we also understand and disagree with, but neither no longer exists in England, what you find is out right Pelagianism, which we and all Christianity has condemned as a heresy for 1600 years. This online version was published in 1917 so it is now in the public domain. However, fast forwarding almost 100 years, what they said about jolly old England then, now pretty much defines all evangelicalism world wide.

So will God bypass the established church and make His adopted children into a benevolent, loving, wise wolf community, an organization that has something to say about God and His son to moral deists? Stay tuned for a possible new version of Little Red Riding Hood next week. This version more in line with the true nature of wolves and the Hood granddaughter.

## Our last 3 Chronicles:

Thesis One: No heavy lifting?; PDF link:

<http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/thesisone146.pdf>

Thesis Two: Movements; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/thesistwo116.pdf>

Thesis Three: Prophecy; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/thesisthree1186.pdf>