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Senior Seminar

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Take Back What's Mine

In my project Take Back What's Mine, I address the problem of lack of low self-esteem. Specifically, I target the lack of confidence laid into the foundation of those who grew up in the Evangelical Christian Church.

At the core of the Christianity that I grew up with were these two Core Tenets:

1. You are bad
2. You deserve death

These core principals lead to an unhealthy procession through life. The belief that one is extremely small and dispensable, only worthy as a vessel in the Hands of God, leads to crushed dreams. We find ourselves not searching for our deepest desires, but in searching out God's Will in our life. This may lead to positive results, but only if our lifegoals happen to align with other Christian principles i.e. if our dreams

1. Do not require much money
2. Serve God directly
3. Help those with Christian-y needs

Building onto the Core Tenets, Christianity has told me that money is the root of all evil, and so it should not be sought out. It has taught me that we owe God our lives, so we should make our work include, if not solely consist of, expanding the kingdom as much as possible. Our lives

are to be consumed with evangelizing or teaching Christian doctrine in whatever capacity possible. Lastly, it told me that we are to help the poor and needy. What this implies is that, unlike this project, we are not to dig deep and find specific problems in any people groups we would like to serve. Since we deserve death, no one should be focused “minor” needs for people who lives are “fine”. Ultimately, we are only to help those who suffer from physical impoverishment or unGodly souls.

This creates a terrible cycle as one generation believes they have to save souls, and they impart that onto the next generation. There is little talk of finding your passion, being happy in life, or thinking up creative solutions to any problems you can point out. Instead, we are told to evangelize and indoctrinate. If this is not working in full-time ministry, you are to (at the very least!) dedicate your life to doing as noble of work you can for as little money you can survive on.

Although life is supposed to be full of hope as a Christian, most who adhere to the religion do not particularly enjoy sharing the Gospel with others or teaching the Word themselves. This is because, deep down, many know that there is something not quite right with this religion. If this were not true, then why are we not sharing?? If people were truly sold on the idea that their lives are significantly better with Christ, if they were truly sold on the idea that everyone’s life would be significantly better with Christ, then they would be sharing feverishly! Take these projects as a counter example. Once we have a product that we truly believe works, we share it eagerly because we have no doubt that, whatever the cost, our product or service is worth it. It is life changing, and the customer or client will not regret giving up any or everything to get it. But with Christianity, we are acutely aware that our product doesn’t quite fit the clients or customers around us.

I have spent quite a bit of time showcasing my argument against Christianity, but convincing anyone to leave the faith is not the goal of this project. Although I now believe that the religion is extremely toxic and have a hard time saying that it is truly helpful to anyone, my goal is not to “Un-Christianize” people. Instead, my project is for those who have recognized the inconsistencies between what they were taught and what they know to be true and so have left the faith. My project is for those who are no longer Christian, but who are still held back in life because of the limiting beliefs ingrained in them. My project is for those suffering from religious trauma.

The content of my work is self-help. It addresses the themes of feeling you have to keep yourself in a box, stay meek and mild, follow the rules, push away money, ignore the emptiness you find in communities, feel unworthy, push away money, never take things into your own hands, and never publicly claim that you will achieve your largest dreams. I provide my target audience of “ex-vangelicals” with the relief from trauma and the benefit of strength to achieve their dreams. The medium for my product is song. I have crafted an EP to get my points across, and this format is extremely important in service my clientele. While people could be equally inspired by a song as they would be by a speech or a book, it would be less powerful for me to use an alternate medium because neither writing a book nor giving a speech is my biggest and baddest dream in life. When I speak my truth, it is doubly powerful when I live my truth as well. People need not only be told that their dreams are possible, but they need to see that their dreams are possible from those who go before them.