



PROTESTS: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." —Elie Wiesel

Protestors have opened *Pandora's Box* in the past two years.

First there were the protests across the USA after the killing of George Floyd. Those were cheered on by the left.

Then there were the January 6, 2021 protests when pro-Trump supporters broke into the Capital Building. That was cheered on by folks on the right.

Now there are the protests by the Canadian truckers that are spreading across Europe and the USA, cheered on by those tired of COVID restrictions.

So what do you think? Which protests are good, or bad, or ugly? It probably depends on which side of the political, social, or religious divides you're on. But, the bigger question is, "Which side is God on?"

Protests, Grandparents and Grandkids

Legacy Imperative is producing this hot button series to help grandparents build bridges across generational divides in politics, social issues, and, most importantly, faith and values.

And nowhere will you see that divide more pronounced than in the protests of the past two years. After the George Floyd killing, hundreds of thousands of mostly young Americans took to the streets across America. They shouted, "Black Lives Matter" and "Defund the Police." In Minneapolis, roving gangs of youths burned businesses and a police precinct headquarters. In Philadelphia, crowds looted stores. In Portland, Antifa destroyed Federal buildings, and in Seattle, they took over several blocks of

the city, declaring it a sovereign nation. In Washington DC, they destroyed Federal property and set fire to a church, as they marched on the White House.

The liberal media portrayed these protestors as champions of justice. The right generally condemned them. Surveys show that Millennials and Z's supported the 2020 street protests, and older folks found them disturbing. Predictably, 69% of Democrats and only 39% of Republicans viewed these demonstrations favorably. [Floyd Protests Are Backed by Most Americans as More Say Racism Isn't Taken Seriously Enough](#).

On January 6, 2021, as the Senate met to certify the election results and declare Joe Biden President, thousands of protestors, convinced that the election was stolen from Donald Trump, gathered on the Mall. Later, many went to the Capital Building where they spontaneously moved as a human wave into the building itself, breaking windows and running amok in the corridors. Congressional members hid in terror, and the certification of the election was disrupted. In the aftermath, Americans were largely appalled. The mainstream media called it an insurrection. On the one-year anniversary of the Capital Building takeover, Vice President, Kamala Harris said that it was on a par with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the 9-11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Towers. [Kamala Harris speech: January 6 will 'echo' in U.S. history like Pearl Harbor, 9/11](#)

In the intervening months, the national attitude about the so-called "insurrection" had changed. A January 4, 2022 Pew Research study showed that the attitude about it has dissolved into the usual political and generational divides, with Republicans and old folks seeing it as less serious than Democrats and young people. [A look back at Americans' reactions to the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol](#). To some it was good, to others it was bad, and to most it was just plain ugly.

And now comes the Canadian truckers protests in Ottawa. A convoy of truckers shut down a vital bridge between Canada and the USA over the requirement that truckers must show proof of vaccination, but frustration has been boiling over for the past two years. The Council on Foreign Relations has a great article on the genesis of this protest that is spreading across Europe and threatens to cross the borders into the U.S. [file:///Canada's Trucker Protests/ What to Know About the 'Freedom Convoy'](#). American politics has crossed the border into Canada. Republican Senator Ted Cruz calls the truckers "heroes" and "patriots" who are marching for freedom. According to a February 11, 2022 *U.S. News & World Report*, liberal pundits are comparing the Canadian truckers' shutdown of Ottawa to the January 6th takeover of the Capital Building by Trump supporters, and are warning that it will ricochet back on the U.S. with devastating economic effects. [American Politics at Play In Canada's 'Freedom Convoy' Protests](#).

It seems that protests are becoming more common in a nation that is more polarized than ever before. They come from the right and left, the old and the young. So does the violence and destruction. The Antifa thugs shut down Portland and Seattle. Fed-up anti-vaxxer truckers shut down Ottawa and closed down a bridge carrying vital supplies to the U.S., further exacerbating the supply chain problem that is harming our economy.

And, here's the issue for conservative grandparents. We can't condemn Antifa and BLM protesters for their destructive behavior and support Canadian truckers for theirs. Our children see it as inconsistency at best, and hypocrisy at worst.

A Good Word for Protests

- 1. Peace and Justice.** [Ephesians 6:4]
Martin Luther King: "A riot is the language of the unheard."
- 2. Injustice in the Bible.** [Matthew 21:13; 10:34]
- 3. America and Protest.**
- 4. Protest and the U.S. Constitution.**

Biblical Warnings about Protests

- 1. Don't take the Law into your Own Hands.** [Romans 12:19]
- 2. Solitary Protest is Great Bravery [and more Biblical].**
- 3. Protests shouldn't violate God's laws.** [Acts 19:38 & 39; Matthew 7:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4]
- 4. Protests shouldn't deprive people of their rights while we are fighting for others.** [Philippians 2:3&4]
- 5. Rioting is never Right for a Christian.** [Proverbs 15:1&18, 25:15; Romans 12:18; Romans 1:32]