

2022 2nd Qtr. Issues

(In reverse order)

June 24

John and Shane swivel to discuss the breaking news of the reversal of Roe v. Wade after the Supreme Court announced the Dobbs decision. Reading through the ruling in real time, John points out that Roe was never constitutional. Because Shane just had an opportunity to interview Ryan T. Anderson and Alexandra DeSanctis on their new book *Tearing Us Apart*, he talks about how abortion harms not only preborn children but entire cultural systems.

As John and Shane close, they reflect on the disembodiment of not only abortion but also of the message conveyed about a married lesbian couple in Disney's new Pixar film: *Lightyear*. And yet, recent research has once again shown that fathers are irreplaceable.

June 17

John and Maria discuss the 50th anniversary of the break-in at Watergate. Although Watergate marks the decline of American trust in political institutions—something we're seeing in the January 6 hearings, John points out that Watergate's best legacy was the redemption of Chuck Colson.

After Maria shares an inspirational story on Mary Slessor, a missionary in Nigeria, they continue their conversation from last week on why uncarefully parsing first-order and second-order doctrines can be risky. They end by talking about our God-shaped hole for meaning to the point that even an elephant recently had to be declared not a person.

June 10

John and Maria discuss the way some Christians are handling Pride Month. Notably, Maria asks John to explain the background of a publisher of Christian-based books, Eerdmans, and a list of books they've published to "help" Christians think about Pride Month.

Maria then asks John to comment on a recent post by journalist and commentator Ezra Klein who states that climate change is impacting the decisions of adults not to have kids. Maria offers some helpful thoughts on how we got to this place and why Klein's thinking and reporting isn't shedding light on the whole story.

In closing, John explains a new report from Harvard that purports scientists have reversed the aging in mice. An article on the report says that aging is a disease, and John critiques that phrasing and offers some ways the Christian perspective is wholly different, especially as it looks to redeem and restore life in a fallen world.

June 3

John and Maria reflect on recent claims that Judaism supports a pro-abortion agenda. They note a *Breakpoint* commentary with historian Glenn Sunshine dispelling this myth and explaining why it has picked up steam in culture.

Changing topics, Maria asks John to explain more about the cultural breakdown as we witness a rise in gun violence across the country. John maintains that gun violence is one of many examples of how our culture is in a crisis of meaning. He ponders how we've gotten here and what philosophers are saying.

Maria moves to discussing June as Pride Month. Referencing Carl Trueman on social justice and Pride Month, John explores areas the Church can engage our culture.

To close, John comments on a recent tweet showing public posters in support of reducing the stigma around drug addiction, encouraging recreational use of addictive narcotics.

May 27

John and Maria discuss the Uvalde shooting, working to understand the role of culture to respond to faltering character. Maria asks John about gun rights, and the pair discuss if freedoms become license and harm people. What do we focus on: the conscience or the constable?

Then, Maria asks John to comment on the Southern Baptist Convention's independent investigation by Guidepost Solutions on abuse allegations. The report exposes horrible actions and responses in local churches and the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention. Noting a recent *Breakpoint* commentary, John offers some insight.

To close, John asks Maria to comment on a recent article she penned in *Christianity Today*. Maria explores if a common accusation regarding abortion is factually true. Many note that if abortion laws pass, they will limit the types of services for mothers who have ectopic pregnancies and other pregnancies where a child dies in utero. Maria dispels these myths and explores some of the underlying medical community's thoughts and practices that undo these misconceptions being retold in public circles.

May 20

John and Maria unpack the stories of the recent shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Orange County, California. Rather than rest on the narratives, John provides a helpful way to consider the landscape and underlying ideas many are glossing over.

Then, Maria asks John for perspective on social media traffic around the recent *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue. Offering additional context, Maria helps us consider our culture's issue with objectifying women and the better way the Church can provide in this moment.

To close, Maria asks John for insight into a few *Breakpoint* commentaries from the week. John discusses how Russian art is important in this cultural moment, despite the call from some to cancel it in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. John also explains the scenario of a lesser-known phenomenon in charitable giving that could impact Christians looking to support biblically based organizations.

May 13

John and Maria consider the ethics surrounding protests, looking specifically at the public outcry over the leaked draft opinion of the Supreme Court.

The pair also considers how the war in Ukraine is sparking the consequences of the overpopulation myth many have believed.

And then to close, John unpacks the reason the Colson Center has selected *The Life Redeemed* as the theme of this year's Wilberforce Weekend.

May 6

Following a leak of a draft opinion from the Supreme Court, John and Maria explore the incredible emotion in the nation.

Afterwards, Maria asks John about the way Christians should respond to moves by the government to eliminate student debt. Is this a concept Christians should get behind? John and Maria explain the trappings of student debt forgiveness and how this proposal could impact society.

To close, Maria asks John to go deeper into some of the ideas he presented this week in a number of commentaries. Notably, John explains society's problem with forgiveness, touching on a question from Maria on whether forgiveness is a sign of strength or weakness. They finish by discussing the state of books for children, noting that many don't align with children's developmental stages and interest in social movements around politics, race, and gender.

April 22

Maria opens *BreakPoint This Week* asking John for some insight into who Chuck Colson was. It's been 10 years since Chuck Colson's passing following a final message at a Wilberforce Weekend in 2012. Highlighting attributes he remembers about Chuck, John explains the legacy he gave to the Colson Center.

Then, John and Maria explore how Florida is quickly becoming ground zero for the culture wars. John explains that a series of actions from the Florida Legislature and Governor DeSantis are causing sparks in the Sunshine State.

To close, Maria asks John about the significance of a college professor's day in court after the professor refused to call on a student using the student's preferred pronouns.

April 15

John and Maria discuss new findings in teen sadness and what it means for culture. They also discuss a recent podcast by Jen Hatmaker and what it means to misunderstand what church is and what church is for.

To close, John explains the landscape of a recent *BreakPoint* commentary on the roots of Easter. He shares how Easter is a pivotal moment in history that changed the course of humanity.

April 8

John and Maria talk about laws being created in anticipation of a gutting of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* based on the case in front of the Supreme Court, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

Switching to another new law, Maria describes one in Washington state that shrouds abuses from transgender individuals in prisons.

To close, John explains how unique it is that archeological findings continue to support the historical occurrences in the Bible. He points out that no other worldview highlighting a spiritual explanation for the world and humanity has as many archeological findings that support the faith's guiding texts.

April 1

John and Maria discuss the challenge in culture to toxic masculinity. This week the nation reacted to displays by Will Smith and Volodymyr Zelensky. John and Maria consider a recent commentary by comedian Bill Maher who challenges the view we have of masculinity and how we value it. In this vein, Maria asks John to comment on a recent HHS announcement to push so-called "gender affirming" surgeries on minors. John references a commentary by Maria on BreakPoint that discusses the role of women, and how the church has a unique place to affirm God's design.

Maria then asks John to comment on a recent BreakPoint where John discussed "The Declaration on a New American Future." The declaration opposes a movement in the 1970s under the banner of the Rockefeller Commission on Population Growth that looked at abortion as population management.