2026-07-08 - Club Grubbery - David Haskell

[00:00:00] **Graham Hood:** One, and welcome to another episode of Club Grubby, and great to have you back on John.

[00:00:20] **John Larter:** Thanks, mate. Great to be here.

[00:00:22] **Graham Hood:** I think, uh, it goes without saying that, uh, and I believe people will see what we're talking about at the end of this interview, that this is a far reaching interview that addresses the elephant in the room and it needs to happen.

[00:00:34] **Graham Hood:** It will be controversial, but it needs to be controversial because we are spending our lives trying to avoid controversy. And as we do that, we allow, we allow realms and, uh, and certain evils into our society, which is bringing us down and it's time to address that. And joining us is, uh, David Mill Haskell from Canada.

[00:00:55] **Graham Hood:** He's a journalist, he's an author, he's a university professor, [00:01:00] and he's a man who's daring to take on, um, the government of Canada and the governments of the world in Western democracies. And, uh, it's great to have you on, David.

[00:01:11] **David Haskell:** It, it's a real pleasure. Gentlemen, I'm looking forward to this.

[00:01:14] **Graham Hood:** We want to, uh, I'd rather you unpack your background, give us an idea of your career and what you've done and, and, uh, and we'll unpack that and then we'll get into what I think is gonna be a pretty profound conversation.

[00:01:26] **Graham Hood:** So tell us about David Miller Haskell.

[00:01:29] **David Haskell:** Well, my, uh, my professional gig is I'm a professor at a public university in Canada. My area of research is sociology of religion, and my specialty is Christianity and culture. And when I, when I look at these things, what I do is I look at them statistically, quantitatively so that from the data, we're able to make predictions from the variables.

[00:01:53] **David Haskell:** We're able to see what travels together. And I've been doing this for 20 years, two [00:02:00] decades before that I, I was a professional journalist. And, uh, I think that serves me well as an academic. It means when I write, I tend not to be too flowery, uh, or too, too scholastically opaque. Even scholastically opaque is a bit of an opaque term, but I, I try to make it easy for people to understand.

[00:02:21] **David Haskell:** And I've got this book out that, uh, is really 20, 20 years of me looking at the data related to Christianity and coming to a revelation myself and saying, wow, this stuff really works. This, this, uh, this Christianity is unique among all worldviews. It is unique among all religions. And, uh, the data is what I bring.

[00:02:49] **David Haskell:** So, so my book, and I know we're gonna be talking about it, is really just me a actually humbling myself. Uh, you wanted me to tell you a little bit about myself, and about 10 years ago [00:03:00] I moved from being a pretty liberal Christian. So I would call myself a conservative Christian. Now a believing Christian, now a Bible believing Christian now.

[00:03:11] **David Haskell:** Yeah. But about 10 years ago, I would've been a, a liberal Christian. Uh, no, I definitely was. If you look at my writing, I, I wrote a book 15 years ago, and in it I say, you know, I disagree with many of the tenets of the Christian faith. I said, uh, those who are more conservative, I think that they've got it wrong.

[00:03:31] **David Haskell:** Things like, uh, same-sex marriage. I said, I was a supporter. I actually had debates where I would bring in more conservative theological, uh, seminary professors and, and we would debate, and I would say they were wrong. Anyway, about 10 years ago, I started looking at the culture. I started looking at the data, and I had to take a big dose of humility because I saw that to the extent that people [00:04:00] across the west embraced traditional Christian norms and values, they flourished.

[00:04:07] **David Haskell:** And to the extent that they didn't, it actually led to greater levels of depression and that the societal level to ruin. So eventually you, you have to say, maybe this thing is divine. Maybe I, I have to be not so inclined to getting invited to all my swish dinner parties and, and instead concentrate on what the truth is.

[00:04:28] **David Haskell:** And so,

[00:04:29] **Graham Hood:** yeah,

[00:04:29] **David Haskell:** that in a nutshell is, uh, where I am today.

[00:04:33] **Graham Hood:** Yeah, that's a great opening, uh, opening comment from you and a great, uh, I guess expose of where we find ourselves at the moment. The book is called, uh, Christ or Collapse, the Case Against Godless Government. And boy, are we seeing that at the moment.

[00:04:47] **Graham Hood:** There's a line in a movie that, uh, resonates with me and I, I quote it often. Uh, when I, when I speak, uh, I'm fairly active in the liberty of conscience movement. I'll be going to Michigan in August to speak at a conference [00:05:00] over there on Liberty of Conscience. And the line is from the movie, uh, kingdom of Heaven.

[00:05:05] **Graham Hood:** It's a movie about the, uh, crusades in Jerusalem. I think it takes place in the 11th century. And two nights are having a discussion about religion. And I want to draw this distinction because we're, we'll be mentioning God today, but we're, I really get that we're not gonna be talking that much about religion because it's all about, it's all about God.

[00:05:25] **Graham Hood:** And the line in the movie one night says to the other, I put no stock in religion, in the name of religion I've seen the lunacy of fanatics of every denomination be called the will of God. What God requires is here and here. And whether we choose to be good or not good, we'll be touching on certain ideologists ideologies today.

[00:05:46] **Graham Hood:** I'm sure that will, that could, that could cause offence if that does cause offence, examine where your offence comes from. It's really important that we do this. We're not here to condemn people. We're not here [00:06:00] to persecute people. In fact, the opposite. We're gonna be talking about issues that need to be discussed so we can end that and bring us to, um, a better place in government and a better place in our societies.

[00:06:12] **Graham Hood:** We know for a fact that cultural Marxism is about demoralisation and destabilisation and then normalisation. And we're seeing that happen in buckets. Now, the best way to destroy a Western Christian based community is to destroy the family. And the best way to do that is destroy the men. And in so doing, we have a situation now where politicians are arguing over the fact that men cannot become pregnant.

[00:06:40] **Graham Hood:** And what is a woman we have degenerated to a dangerous place. And to indicate and underscore that, I wanna share a video with you and then we'll lead into the conversation. Now, before I share this

video, I want to say that if nudity offends, then don't watch. But if nudity offends, [00:07:00] maybe we should watch.

[00:07:26] **Speaker 4:** Too.[00:08:00]

[00:08:03] **Speaker 4:** These are kits. Are these your kits? Are you okay with the nudity?

[00:08:12] **Speaker 4:** Their AR marketing and there.

[00:08:16] **Graham Hood:** How far, how far do we need to go? How far do we need to sink? And what does it take to get average people to see that we are going down a pit and unless we address these issues, there's not much future for society the way we knew it. Uh, David, what are your thoughts on what you've just seen?

[00:08:36] **David Haskell:** Well, my thoughts are this is where you end up when you abandon moral absolutes. So from about the 1960s on, we had this cultural revolution that began to say that any kind of moral stand was oppressive, uh, especially a moral stand rooted in Christianity. And to take that, take [00:09:00] that idea, you actually had to stop looking at the success of the west, the unique success of the West, all through history from for 2000 years.

[00:09:10] **David Haskell:** And you had to rewrite history and say, these ideas, these moral absolutes that came from Christianity are oppressive. Uh, they are not inclusive. Uh, and, and somehow they're detrimental to society. And enough people were convinced of that. And now we have a situation where a mother will bring her child to watch nude men walk in front of them.

[00:09:39] **David Haskell:** And, and, and so Graham, I would point this out, uh, in my book in chapter six and also in chapter 10, I go through the psychology of, of grooming essentially. And how do you get children to not, [00:10:00] not be afraid of threatening men, men who are sexual predators? Well, you expose them to this kind of behaviour. You expose them to men not walking by nude with their genitals exposed, and then they become so normalised to that kind of behaviour.

[00:10:22] **David Haskell:** They don't know that they should react with caution and fear. And so we, we've never been at a spot like this in the West where parents now bring their children willingly. It's almost like, and, and I talk about this again in the book, it's like a form of negative cognitive behavioural therapy.

So if your, your listeners are familiar, if you want someone to overcome a fear, you expose it, expose to them, to that fear in gradual incremental.

[00:10:59] **David Haskell:** Uh, [00:11:00] ways. Well, this is exactly what's happening there. In that kind of gay pride parade, these children are exposed incrementally until they will no longer have the natural caution that a child should have. And this is what happens when you abandon the moral absolutes of Christianity. People, people don't, don't have a moral compass on their own.

[00:11:23] **David Haskell:** Uh, in fact, and I'm gonna get theological, we tend to gravitate to either what's easiest or what's most pleasurable, but that's not what's most beneficial.

[00:11:33] **Speaker 4:** Yeah.

[00:11:33] **David Haskell:** And my book brings case after case and study after study, showing that to the extent that you will gravitate to the norms and values of Christianity, you actually find greater flourishing.

[00:11:45] **Speaker 4:** Yeah.

[00:11:45] **David Haskell:** Anyway, uh, my reaction to that video is horror, but also I think it's a wake up call that no, where were the men trying to shut that down? I suppose they're, they're, uh, [00:12:00] rightly afraid of being arrested. It's amazing what you don't get arrested for. Yeah. You don't get arrested for walking nude in front of children, but if you tried to stop them, you'd be put in jail.

[00:12:10] **Graham Hood:** Yeah. Well, that's the line of the interview.

[00:12:13] **John Larter:** Hmm.

[00:12:14] **Graham Hood:** Johnny, what were your thoughts, mate?

[00:12:16] **John Larter:** Well, you know, I, I, I think we're probably only a fortnight away from that being an interview process for, uh, story time at the local library readings. I mean, that's, that's, that's where we're heading. Uh, you know, which one will we pick out to read, uh, today down at the, the local council library.

[00:12:32] **John Larter:** Uh, that, that's how mad it's got. And, uh, you know, I think David summed it up perfectly. I mean, we're, we're, we're arresting old,

old, uh, old ladies, uh, at, at war memorials for protesting about, uh, the freedom in relation to, uh, not having a vaccine. Uh, you know, we're pepper spraying them and we're, we're, we're thrashing them to the ground and, and police are holding them down by the neck.

[00:12:57] **John Larter:** Uh, but yeah, you know, as you [00:13:00] say, uh, these people are marching down the main street. I mean, in, in anyone's, uh, terms that, that, that is arrestable. I mean, that, that is, uh, conduct that should never be, uh, put on show, uh, in, in public. It's absolutely outrageous. Uh, and to think that, that, that is, uh, an acceptable norm just is alarming.

[00:13:22] **John Larter:** And the governments are just, uh, you know, they're, they're, they're allowing it. And, uh, the police should be given an order as to why they weren't arrested. Uh, they should be questioning the police as well. I mean, you, they'll, they'll arrest you for swearing at a rally. But you know, this, this stuff's just going down the main street of your, your, your local town.

[00:13:44] **David Haskell:** I don't think you're gonna find a better testimony for, for my book. So my book is called Christ or Collapse, the Case Against Godless Government. And I think people are slowly beginning to understand that [00:14:00] you actually need to have a moral code, a moral framework that is going to guide your laws. We were sold this bill of goods that said that, well, freedom should be our only law and more freedom is what needs to happen.

[00:14:16] **David Haskell:** And Christianity, by the way, is all about freedom.

[00:14:20] **Speaker 4:** Absolutely.

[00:14:20] **David Haskell:** But it also respects the common good and, and when you get these two outta balance, that's when you're going to see things like nude men walking in front of children, getting them acclimatised to this kind of behaviour so that they shut off their natural instincts to fear and caution.

[00:14:40] **John Larter:** And where's the hierarchy of the churches? Absolutely silent. Uh, you know, of the major churches you like the, where, why aren't they calling that out? I mean, that, that, that should be, uh, an instant press conference. Uh, and they should be there front and centre saying, uh, this is unacceptable.

[00:14:59] **Graham Hood:** [00:15:00] No, I think that,

[00:15:00] **David Haskell:** John, you really hit it.

[00:15:01] **David Haskell:** Yeah.

[00:15:02] **Graham Hood:** I think that, uh, that video clip took place in North America somewhere, uh, I'm assuming the United States, but it could have been Canada. The way Canada's going now, and I'm sure we're gonna touch on that in a moment. Um, but we, we have just seen a gathering of, uh, of religious leaders in the White House with President Trump talking about the upshot of their investigation into religious freedom in America.

[00:15:27] **Graham Hood:** And they have just made it so that you, even if you question the narrative around church and state, you can be severely penalised just for talking about church and state. So that's now been outlawed in America, which is a really concerning thing. Uh, most people, most people have always viewed the church as the moral, the moral arbiter of things that government do, and the means by, by which they're held to account in a Christian democracy.

[00:15:55] **Graham Hood:** But we're now seeing that, that, uh, under threat as well. But they're [00:16:00] arguing about that while allowing what we've just seen in their cities and towns, right? That's really where we need to look.

[00:16:07] **David Haskell:** And I don't know the details on what just happened in the US with their religious expression that, that what you're just talking about, Graham, but, but what I can say is that in my book, I'm very clear about what Christianity has, has always put forward as what the relationship should look like.

[00:16:29] **David Haskell:** And, and in my book, and no Christian ever argues for theocracy, by the way. So we have the autocracies across the world and they're in Muslim majority countries, and they will compel belief and they will punish those who do not believe correctly. Christianity has never been about that. We, we always have had a very healthy tension, and here's how we've understood church and state.

[00:16:57] **David Haskell:** We have said we [00:17:00] don't need the church to compel belief.

[00:17:03] **John Larter:** Yeah.

[00:17:03] **David Haskell:** But we do believe that Christian norms and values must influence government. This is, this has been uncontroversial in the west. So even the way that I describe it in, in my book, I, I say I am not about theocracy, but I am about restoring traditional conservatism.

[00:17:25] **David Haskell:** So I express it as a political project more than a religious revival. Although I'm a Christian myself, and I really believe that Christianity leads to flourishing at the at the individual level.

[00:17:38] **John Larter:** Yeah.

[00:17:38] **David Haskell:** At the societal level. What I say is we, we, we have to first recognise that there's no such thing as a neutral law.

[00:17:47] **David Haskell:** All laws are going to moral signal. They're gonna say, this is right or this is wrong. So let's, let's take a look historically and empirically and let's come to a decision [00:18:00] about what moral framework produces the best results. And when we do that, and I do do that, I show Christianity in terms of its norms and values are unmatched.

[00:18:13] **David Haskell:** So then moving from that, where I show study after study that Christian norms and values lead to the best results both individually and societally, then I say, okay, this is a rational choice. This isn't a metaphysical choice. You don't even need to be a Christian. You don't have to make a leap of faith.

[00:18:31] **David Haskell:** But you do have to make a leap of logic. And what you need to do is be rational. And the rational choice is, let's have a moral code that leads to the greatest benefits. But this can be a political project. And I call that political project traditional conservatism, which is the norms and values of Christianity at work and governance.

[00:18:54] **David Haskell:** But it isn't compelling belief. Big difference here.

[00:18:58] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[00:18:59] **David Haskell:** It's [00:19:00] acknowledging that every law is going to have to have a moral framework. So let's choose the one that actually gave maximum freedom to people while ensuring maximum common good. And there's only one, only one. Uh, ideology, political framework.

[00:19:15] **David Haskell:** Worldview that does that, and it is Christian norms and values. So, so that's the rational choice.

[00:19:22] **Graham Hood:** I just wanna highlight what I see as, as Christian norms and values and why they're important and why they work if we take religion outta the context.

[00:19:30] **David Haskell:** Sure.

[00:19:30] **Graham Hood:** Um, um, I, I look at the 10 Commandments, for example, on which are based the laws of every Western democracy.

[00:19:39] **Graham Hood:** They're based on the 10 Commandments. The first four are about honouring God, and the last six are about looking after each other, loving your, your neighbours, you love yourself. I liken those to the, the page in the front of the manual of the new car I just bought. And I'm looking at the manual thinking, wow, this, this new car's got all these features.

[00:19:58] **Graham Hood:** Let me examine all these [00:20:00] features. But before I do, I better read the preface. And the preface says, if you operate your vehicle in accordance with these 10 basic operational principles, you will get the best performance and the maximum life outta that vehicle. That's the way I view the laws of God.

[00:20:16] **Graham Hood:** That's what they're designed to do. They're designed to give us a design for living, and we need to embrace them as such. Now as you rightly said, you don't have to be a Christian to see the benefits of those laws. And what I want to say to ultra, ultra conservatives who wander around condemning everybody who, who don't behave the way that they feel they should.

[00:20:37] **Graham Hood:** That's not Christian either. There's a, there's a, there's a balance in there that requires us to think things through, and we must think it through on the basis that life is a journey of character development. Every day. We should be better than the day before. And the other thing is that, that, uh, it's not our job to condemn and everything about Christian principles still has that freedom to choose.[00:21:00]

[00:21:00] **Graham Hood:** But when you choose a certain way, there are consequences. And that's, that's what that's all about. So I've had a lot of, uh, gay people, gay guys come up to me and say they hate the L-G-B-T-Q movement because it puts a spotlight on, on their lives that they don't want put there. They understand that they have differences, they understand that they're living a different way.

[00:21:23] **Graham Hood:** They're choose, they're not choosing to live a different way. It's just the way it happens. Nobody will ever be able to understand it or work it out. I don't think anyone can. But we are in a position

where we can say, you, you, you have the ability to choose, but that, that must not be allowed to impact on others in society.

[00:21:44] **Graham Hood:** What we do behind closed doors is what we do behind closed doors. I mean, I would not, I had an addiction to pornography David years ago. Thank God that's over. But I would not sit in a public space with a computer watching pornography on a train, for example. [00:22:00] I have, we all have our burdens. I had mine, I still do have burdens.

[00:22:06] **David Haskell:** But you, you've really nailed it. And, and this is the genius of Christianity, the genius of Christianity is that because it does not compel belief, but it realises that a moral code must guide society. Christians for 2000 years have figured out how to make this work, and you can go and, and, and it's always about, this is the public sphere and this is the private sphere.

[00:22:32] **David Haskell:** And Christianity has been very careful about what it wants to regulate in the public sphere for the common good and what it will allow in the private sphere because it wants people to have freedom of choice on God doesn't want robots. God wants people to make choices. He wants them to make the right choices.

[00:22:52] **David Haskell:** He wants them to look at the evidence and make the right choices. But we, we have gotten it wrong when we've tried [00:23:00] to mix those two. And, uh, just give you an example, and again, this comes from, from, uh, chapter 10 of my book where I'm looking at the advanced theology of this. Back in the 8, 8, 8 hundreds, late eight hundreds, the, uh, king of England was Alfred the Great, he's the only British monarch to have the great put after him because he really figured it out.

[00:23:25] **David Haskell:** And what he did exactly as you've said, he said, I'm gonna create a common law code for, for my unified kingdom of Anglo-Saxons, which was proto England. And he says, I'm gonna begin with the 10 Commandments. And what I wanna do is I want to take those moral ideas because they are moral absolutes that have worked.

[00:23:49] **David Haskell:** And I don't wanna put my own ideas in. And this is what we're going to do to govern our public sphere. We're gonna take these moral commandments. And then [00:24:00] later on, you see John Calvin come along and he says, what we want to do is recognise that Christianity is going to reinterpret how we do this law thing.

[00:24:12] **David Haskell:** We're gonna take anything. That was the moral law. And it still stands, even Jesus himself says, we're not gonna abandon the moral law. But we've gotta understand that the ceremonial law, which was you can't eat shellfish, you can't eat pork, that's no longer, that's no longer gonna be a applied. And as far as the civil law goes, which was the punishments that were metered out under the Mosaic law, under the Israelites, that's not gonna apply either.

[00:24:43] **David Haskell:** It can be instructive. But we don't have to stone somebody anymore. But we don't say what they're doing is right. So Christianity found this incredible balance between the public sphere, the private sphere, [00:25:00] and it said, we're not gonna say anything that God has always said was immoral. It stays immoral. We still don't sanction it.

[00:25:07] **David Haskell:** We still don't make government support it. We certainly don't celebrate it. But at the same time, we are no longer bound by the civil code, the Mosaic civil code that says we've gotta go and stone somebody or something like that. Christianity has had this beautiful, beautiful tension where it allows maximum freedom with maximum common good.

[00:25:28] **David Haskell:** And as my book points out, up until the 1960s, we really did well with this and it led to the greatest flourishing of any nations, uh, that we've ever seen in history.

[00:25:40] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[00:25:42] **John Larter:** Yeah, I mean, one of the, one of the easiest examples, OO of this, at a very low level, I mean, even for people who aren't Christians, I mean, how many people these days would give up a seat on a bus or a train for an elderly person or a, or, exactly.

[00:25:55] **John Larter:** I mean, it's, it's just very simple, isn't it? I mean, you're in the Kiewit, uh, that's [00:26:00] supermarket. You've got a trolley full of stuff and somebody's behind you that, that's got three items. Do you, do you let them go before you? I mean, it's just the decent thing to do, uh, but it's just, uh, it's gone.

[00:26:13] **David Haskell:** And, and when you say it's gone, John, you know, then we have to look and we say, okay, what would it take to bring that back?

[00:26:22] **David Haskell:** And, and I'm, I'm gonna kind of straddle the fence on this one because obviously someone who is raised in the Christian tradition knows they have to put others before themselves.

[00:26:34] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[00:26:35] **David Haskell:** So that begins to translate into behaviours like giving somebody the seat on the bus. But at the same time, let's say that somebody, and this is back when I was a kid, if you weren't raised in a Christian home, you still got got those Christian messages at school.

[00:26:52] **David Haskell:** It wasn't that you were fo they weren't forced on you, but you still heard them. And that did have an impact. I mean, [00:27:00] if you look at the sociological data, and I do the, the, the countries that had the highest social trust where you had the least amount of shoplifting, where you had the highest levels of, uh, contracts that would be honoured even on a handshake where you would have wallets returned without any money missing, there was a strong, there still is a strong correlation between those places that had embedded Protestant ideology, Christian Protestant norms of value.

[00:27:37] **David Haskell:** I'm not trying to slight the, the Catholics. They just, they tended not to do it at the level of the household. Very often. O often Catholics would, uh, do it more. It was more at the level of the parish. But when you brought it to the level of the household where parents were doing something like the catechism, which is instruction in the faith Bible study, which is more common among Protestants, it had an effect.[00:28:00]

[00:28:00] **David Haskell:** Uh, even today, the highest level of trust in societies are found in, in those nations that were decidedly Protestant in their outlook, whether it's Scandinavia or the United States, uh, parts of Canada. Yeah.

[00:28:13] **Graham Hood:** Yeah. Well, we see that, uh, you know, the, the, the USA for example, was founded on, on, uh, on the, on the basis of escape from persecution, Christian religious persecution, religious persecution, not Christian persecution.

[00:28:29] **Graham Hood:** And, and that, that nation has flourished under those principles that you talked about. But that nation is now degenerating, uh, because of the new norms that we're accepting Protestantism is, is virtually dying. It's dying in front of our eyes because of, of, uh, of what would you say compromise that's been taking place for the last 500 years since it's surfaced?

[00:28:52] **Graham Hood:** You, you talked about it all started changing in the 1960s. What was the catalyst for that change, in your opinion? [00:29:00]

[00:29:01] **David Haskell:** So the catalyst really is multiple threads that come together. And in chapter six of the book, I go into this in detail, but one of the things that was particularly problematic for Christianity and its decline was this project of higher biblical criticism.

[00:29:22] **David Haskell:** So higher biblical criticism started in Germany in the 1880s, 1890s. And essentially it was saying that the Bible is not historical. The Bible is outdated. The ideas and convictions of doctrine can be abandoned. Uh, it's a, these things are metaphor. They're metaphor, they're, there's some quaint nice ideas, but for the most part, modern people should abandon the ideas that are uncomfortable.

[00:29:52] **David Haskell:** So that then gets picked up in the seminaries, and it begun, begins to be taught to most of the main lines. [00:30:00] So the main line where your older Protestant denominations and even many of the Catholics also began to accept this. Well, the, the irony is that around 1980, it became clear that many of the ideas that were being promoted by biblical higher criticism were just terrible ideas.

[00:30:21] **David Haskell:** The, the histor. The historicity, the truth of scripture since the 1980s has been proven again and again, the, the factuality of scripture is better known now than it ever has been. Someone wanting to believe in traditional conservative Christian doctrine has never had it better than now, because those ideas have been vindicated through archaeology.

[00:30:49] **David Haskell:** They've been vindicated through, through textual criticism. The conservatives are actually on the academic strong side. But back then, back then, [00:31:00] in the late 18 hundreds into the 19 hundreds, they weren't. And so you begin to see people lose confidence in their Christian faith. They wouldn't, they wouldn't assert it any longer 'cause they felt that it was wrong, that it was a myth.

[00:31:16] **David Haskell:** So they began to draw back. They say, oh, well it might be comforting for me, but. Obviously these ideas aren't rooted in history. They're not rooted in science, therefore I won't promote them. So that was the one, that was the one chink in the armour. But then after World War ii, we see this second thread. It becomes the notion that strong belief leads to authoritarianism.

[00:31:43] **David Haskell:** Strong belief leads to dictators. Strong belief will lead to, to societal ruin. And, and this is coming out of a particularly, uh, in the US some higher, uh, academic like Harvard had its, uh, social science [00:32:00] team. Parson Kott was one of the guys, uh, Gordon Alport. And they were saying that strong belief is a dangerous belief.

[00:32:08] **David Haskell:** And they, they begin to promote this idea of a, what became known as the post-war consensus. And the post-war consensus, as it, as it applies to the social sphere, was that we need to get rid of strong religious conviction and replace it with a, a conviction that multiculturalism should be the strongest value, inclusiveness should be the strongest value.

[00:32:38] **David Haskell:** And governments began to buy into this because they said, well, we don't want another World War ii. We don't want another dictator like Hitler to rise. And the academics and others were saying, well, that's what you get if you've got strong conviction. But again, that has proven to be false. In the same way that fire [00:33:00] can be really dangerous if it's, if it's not controlled, it can burn down a house.

[00:33:06] **David Haskell:** It can burn down a forest. That same fire can be used to heat a home, to cook food, to give, to give warmth and fellowship around a big bonfire where people gather. That is the same with strong religious conviction. It can be an incredible force for unity and good. So they threw the baby out with the bath water.

[00:33:30] **David Haskell:** So now we take these two ideas. Christians begin to feel that their, their particular beliefs are no longer justified because of higher biblical criticism in that project. And it's worked. Its all, all the way through by the time the 1960s come. And then also coming outta World War ii, we're told, don't have strong convictions.

[00:33:50] **David Haskell:** Instead, put your faith in something like pluralism and, and just freedom. And, and nobody [00:34:00] can disagree with this. It was almost, and let me put it like this, it was almost the case, uh, a reverse of the idea. If you stand for nothing, you'll fall for anything. They switched that around that. If you don't stand for anything too strong, everybody will get along.

[00:34:17] **David Haskell:** But we now know that unless you have very concrete moral codes guiding a society, society can't hang together. And, and if other people come into your country through mass immigration who do have a strong moral code, they now have the advantage because they are not going to

embrace pluralism. They are not going to embrace this idea of, of let's just forget our strong convictions and get along.

[00:34:47] **David Haskell:** They're going to say, we'll use your system of tolerance against you. And that was shown as well. So those are the threads that come together, Graham, that really led to our [00:35:00] churches, our clergy, and even Christians in general, taking a backseat and saying, well, I won't, I won't try and bring forward my moral code any longer.

[00:35:12] **David Haskell:** And it was to the detriment of everybody.

[00:35:14] **John Larter:** Hmm. It's interesting you say that, um, because we've got a politician here, Pauline Hansen, uh, who gave a speech. She's on the rise. Uh, she's very conservative. Uh, she's been around for quite some time, but never really got more than 5% of the, uh, the vote. But it's gone up to 30.

[00:35:33] **John Larter:** Uh, and, and the conservative party here is on the, uh, is on the nose, uh, as, as it's the, the labour party, the left-leaning, uh, communist party. Um, she spoke about a monoculture, uh, and that multiculturalism wasn't, wasn't essentially, uh, working. And if you, you come here, you can bring your culture and you can bring all that stuff.

[00:35:54] **John Larter:** But if you want to come to Australia, you are Australia and, uh, otherwise go back. [00:36:00] Uh, is that essentially what you, you you're saying we need to embrace?

[00:36:06] **David Haskell:** Yeah, I, I'm, I'm saying that we have to do what, what Christian nations did before the 1960s, and this is rooted in Christian doctrine going all the way back to the New Testament.

[00:36:20] **David Haskell:** Uh, we, we see its best expression in people like Thomas Aquinas. So Thomas Aquinas actually spoke about immigration and, and he was basing his ideas on New Testament and Old Testament scripture. And he said, first of all, you, you need to realise that there are three types of immigrants that are gonna come.

[00:36:41] **David Haskell:** There're gonna be those that are just sojourners. They come and they go, uh, there are gonna be those that come and want to stay. And if they are those that want to stay, then you better make sure that, that, that, and this is quoting the Old Testament book of Ruth, that their, your people become their people.

[00:36:59] **David Haskell:** And [00:37:00] your gods become their gods, or at least your, your moral code based on your gods become their moral code.

[00:37:08] **Speaker 4:** Mm-hmm.

[00:37:09] **David Haskell:** And then he said, and then there's a third group of people who are so antithetical to your moral code that you should never let them stay. And this is Thomas Aquinas talking about this in his, uh, theo, the, um, his Summa Theological.

[00:37:26] **David Haskell:** So Christians have known this and Christians applied this. Now, Christians have always had, again, Christianity is about, uh, attention and a paradox that works when Jesus says, the greatest must be the least. When you wanna find your life, you've gotta lose it. Uh, uh, he was, he was brilliant. Well, he was divine.

[00:37:48] **David Haskell:** But even in this, Christians have always known we are to assist those who are suffering through no fault of their own. That's exactly what we're supposed to do. But at [00:38:00] the same time, we're also supposed to recognise that we are worse than heathens if we don't take care of our own family and community.

[00:38:09] **David Haskell:** And the way that you do that is by making sure that you can provide for your own family and provide for your own community. Because if you can't, then all charity stops. If you don't have a strong family, the family can't create excess. And I mean, excess in financial, uh, supports, if you don't have excess in financial supports, you can't do charity.

[00:38:32] **David Haskell:** So really, Christians have always lived in this tension, like, let's make sure that we are taking care of our community and our families so that we can be a benefit to the world. But as soon as you don't follow those particular doctrinal points, everything begins to fall apart. And then nobody benefits.

[00:38:53] **David Haskell:** Instead, society has, doesn't have enough to go around and you go into debt and, and, [00:39:00] and you have tension. So back to your point though, the, the Yes, absolutely. The notion within Christian Nations has, has always been both from Old Testament and New Testament models, that the idea is if you're gonna stay here, then you're going to follow the laws of, of our Christian nations that are formed through the Christian Moral Code.

[00:39:21] **Graham Hood:** I think, I think one of the most damaging factors in, uh, in recent decades. Has been, uh, from un, which undermines the integrity of Christianity, has been the covering up and the actual sexual abuse of children by clergy that's been predominant. The coverups have been worse actually, and than the, than the initial abuse.

[00:39:41] **Graham Hood:** And, uh, uh, my wife and I have been heavily involved in being advocates for people, victims of sexual abuse because she was one as a child within the church that really has under undermined the integrity of this entire Christian ethos. Um, and I think it's important to state here that anyone who abuses [00:40:00] children or even thinks of abusing children is not Christian.

[00:40:02] **Graham Hood:** They may claim to be Christian, but they're not Christians. So they, we have to make that delineation. How much impact do you think, or how much support has that given the liberal left wing movement in, in its, um, in its thriving to allow people of minority groups to flourish the way that they are?

[00:40:21] **David Haskell:** Well, whenever I talk about these things, Graham, I, I always go to the quantitative data because I, I, I know that people are looking for reasons to say, ah, you are intolerant, you are a bigot.

[00:40:38] **David Haskell:** So I'm just gonna, I'm gonna say, based on the quantitative data, we are making terrible decisions. Our governments are making terrible decisions.

[00:40:48] **John Larter:** Yep.

[00:40:49] **David Haskell:** So we, we could look at the quantitative data that's coming outta the uk. If you look at, at the uk, about 6%, six to 10% of the population [00:41:00] is Muslim. About 64% of the terrorism charges are Muslim, even in the United States today, and this is Pew Research, uh, and they're a, a nonpartisan group.

[00:41:12] **David Haskell:** Out of the, out of the Washington DC Pew Research Group, they have surveyed American Muslims. 8% believe that suicide bombing is a legitimate form of political activism. 8%. So I, I then I look at, um, the work done by Ru Koopmans, who's a sociologist outta the Netherlands, who did a survey, uh, of how well Muslim immigrants across Western Europe were integrating.

[00:41:44] **David Haskell:** And he found that a majority, a majority, and it might have been 60%, I know it's a majority in my book, I give the exact figures in chapter seven, but a majority say that the laws of Islam should take [00:42:00] precedence over the laws of their land. They also say, and the majority, and it might be 60, more than 60% say that they feel that the West is out to destroy them.

[00:42:13] **David Haskell:** So if these people living in your country believe that they should not, the majority believe they should not follow the laws of that country, and the majority say, I think that this particular country is out to destroy me and my people. That is a really terrible combination. And I, I simply point this out by saying we have become suicidal in our empathy.

[00:42:42] **David Haskell:** And, and, uh, it's gad sad who really coined that phrase, GAD sad. He's a, he's a Canadian, uh, he's now living in the States, but he wrote a book, suicidal Empathy. We are, we are Dying to Be Nice. And Christianity, when it is properly applied to [00:43:00] governance has always had the remedy for this. It has always balanced mercy against justice.

[00:43:07] **David Haskell:** It has always balanced grace against truth. And, and we've now, because of our rush to progressivism and our rush to cultural Marxism, we've, we've abandoned what would've been the common sense of our ancestors who said, wait a minute. God wants us to be compassionate, but God also wants us to be wise. And, and we've lost that.

[00:43:33] **David Haskell:** And again, so many things are rooted. The success of the West really is rooted in Christian norms and values. And if we want to get back to that success, we've gotta get back to those norms and values.

[00:43:44] **Graham Hood:** Well, love isn't always meant to be nice, is it? Sometimes you've gotta practise tough love for the good of the people you love.

[00:43:49] **Graham Hood:** Mm-hmm. You have to say, you have to say things how they are and call people out. Johnny.

[00:43:55] **John Larter:** Do you think, uh, David, in terms of a, a, a reset, um, [00:44:00] where, where is, um, in, in, in relation to COVID, uh, and, and religion, uh, and, and medicine, where do you think we're at in relation to that? Is it an opportunity, uh, going forward, uh, that, that we've been given to build those communities?

[00:44:18] **David Haskell:** That is a really astute observation, John. I think that COVID was a blessing in many ways.

[00:44:25] **Speaker 4:** Yeah. Yeah.

[00:44:26] **David Haskell:** In that it, it showed us what our governments are capable of. In Canada, our government was willing to freeze the bank accounts of people who disagreed with them. Uh, across the west. Our governments were willing to fire people because of their religious convictions.

[00:44:45] **David Haskell:** Uh, and, and our fellow citizens were willing to support that. And so that, that was a blessing because it showed us really what society is capable of. And then secondly, it made [00:45:00] people, uh, and, and in many cases, well from, in most cases, Christian men and women, they began to become more brave because they had to be.

[00:45:11] **David Haskell:** Mm-hmm. And so that too was a blessing. And I look at that and, and I think that there's this old proverb that said, if you ever pray for revival, expect revolution. Yeah. And the idea is that it, it is when you have nothing else but to rely on God. That, that you see leaders rise up. And by the way, I, when I say revolution, Christians are not people who go and take up arms.

[00:45:42] **David Haskell:** What we do is we will fight defensively. We will, but we are the people who actually say, let's use every means possible. Every political means, every peaceful means possible. That's who we are, that's what we're instructed to do. But when it comes down to being forced against our [00:46:00] will to do something that God does not require, or being stopped from doing something that God does require, then we become, we are actually given the permission to resist.

[00:46:13] **David Haskell:** But uh, and, and I think that even in that kind of thinking, COVID made us realise, uh, at least Christians in the population, we've gotta begin thinking about these things again. Uh, and, and again, I know I'm plugging my book all the time, but it's been my life for the last two years as I wrote it. I looked into Protestant resistance theory and, and in chapter 12 of my book, I go through step by step saying, here is what our ancestors looking at scripture, looking at.

[00:46:44] **David Haskell:** Christian doctrine said, these are the signs when you can finally stand up to your government. And I think that's really valuable to know that we have a path even in that direction to say, here's what we have to

bear. Here's when you [00:47:00] can finally take a stand. And, and, and, and by stand I mean where you actually say, we'll go against the government.

[00:47:06] **David Haskell:** We're not there yet, by the way.

[00:47:09] **Graham Hood:** We're not far from it though. But, uh, tell us in terms of that, uh, tell us about the C nine bill. We know it's been passed in Canada, and what does that, what does that mean to the nation and to Christians in particular?

[00:47:21] **David Haskell:** Right. Well, for your, for your listeners, I, I know that Australia is not far behind Canada, but in Canada we have this bill C nine that was just passed.

[00:47:32] **David Haskell:** It has not received Royal Ascent yet. It, that, that's just a rubber stamp. It's the Governor General will sign and give the royal ascent. So it's virtually been passed. It, it's not enacted without the royal ascent, but that's coming. But it's called the Combating Hate Act for short. And, and that's incredibly ironic because it actually will promote hate against Christians.

[00:47:57] **David Haskell:** Yeah. So what this act does is it [00:48:00] makes building an argument from scripture illegal if that argument offends the LGBT community or other non-Christian religions. So in the past in Canada, that kind of speech was protected, if you wanted to say, the doctrine of Christianity teaches that homosexuality, homosexual practise, uh, should not be celebrated.

[00:48:28] **David Haskell:** Um, equally, we, Christians would always say, we don't want to see harm done to homosexuals, but we don't want to see it celebrated in the public sphere because our doctrine tells us that it is, it is not beneficial to society. Well, you used to be able to make that argument, but now, potentially under C nine, it could be the case.

[00:48:52] **David Haskell:** We don't know yet because it hasn't been ruled out and it hasn't been tested. That making that kind of argument could put you in [00:49:00] jail or, or have you find into bankruptcy because the protection, the prote, so what was removed was a protection. And the protection was in our criminal code. And our criminal code said, if you built your argument based on Christian scripture and doctrine, you, you were okay.

[00:49:16] **David Haskell:** That protection is gone. So making those arguments now could, could be very detrimental to you. And the thing about that is I just produced a book that has chapter after chapter that is very offensive. It's civil,

it's respectful. It says we must be compassionate to everyone, but it's still quotes scripture to make arguments in favour of the Christian position, the conservative Christian position.

[00:49:46] **David Haskell:** Now, I don't just leave it with a theology. I then bring the empirical evidence to show that the theology actually is vindicated by the empirical evidence. But I'm not protected any longer.[00:50:00]

[00:50:01] **Graham Hood:** You were heading that way in Australia. John, we're there. We're there.

[00:50:06] **John Larter:** I think we are for sure.

[00:50:08] **Graham Hood:** We're already there. I wanna

[00:50:11] **John Larter:** go

[00:50:12] **Graham Hood:** for go, John. No, mate. Go. Please.

[00:50:14] **John Larter:** I, I was just gonna ask about, uh, your, uh, involvement, David, in the academic, uh, freedom and scholarship, uh, uh, foundation. Is, is that something new?

[00:50:24] **John Larter:** We've got something similar here, Australians, for Science and, and Freedom. And I, I see parallels with the, uh, professor GG Foster, uh, who, who's an economist at the University of New South Wales that, uh, is essentially, uh, one of the leads in this is, is it, uh, are, are they similar organisations, do you think

[00:50:44] **David Haskell:** They are.

[00:50:45] **David Haskell:** So we have a, a, a Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship. And I, I'm a active member in that we have the Heterodox Academy, which was started in the United States. We had, uh, Jonathan Het was sort of the spokesperson for [00:51:00] that. We have, uh, on my, even on my own campus, we have, uh, a faction for that. Um, uh, I'm, I'm not as active in that.

[00:51:10] **David Haskell:** I do attend, but um, some of my colleagues are running that. We have the Free Speech Union, uh, which again, our, it started in the uk, but we have a branch in Canada. But I'll tell you, John, we, we have so

few academics who believe in conservative values or even classical liberal values. These groups don't do very well.

[00:51:38] **David Haskell:** Uh, in the United States, you might find that such groups do better because about 50 per percent of the people, at least the general population, are right-leaning the, and because 50% of the population are right-leaning in the United States, you'll get a slightly higher concentration of academics who are also right-leaning.

[00:51:59] **David Haskell:** But [00:52:00] in Canada, the latest data would suggest that fewer than 5% of professors are, are in any way, right-leaning. And even then, it's moderate Right-leaning. Like I am an aberration. If I say that I am a conservative Christian or a traditional conservative, I'm, I am. If I had a party for all the academics, I'd be the only one blowing the horn.

[00:52:28] **David Haskell:** Right. It's just, uh, so, so I don't see. A lot of hope in Canada for some kind of restoration of the universities because they've been overtaken by people who, who the surveys say, want to see me fired, and they will actively work to make sure people like me don't get hired. And they're doing a great job of it.

[00:52:55] **David Haskell:** So, uh, we, we do have some organisations, [00:53:00] they aren't very, uh, well ascribed. We don't have a lot of membership and I don't see a good future for universities generally.

[00:53:08] **John Larter:** And do you get much blowback from the hierarchy in your university for, for your stance?

[00:53:14] **David Haskell:** Uh, I, I don't. Not recently. Uh, I have in the past.

[00:53:22] **David Haskell:** I, I am protected by tenure. And I think one of the things that have been, uh, fairly beneficial for me is that I really, really stick close to the data. And so, even though my university has been overtaken by cultural marxists, by people who really do not value empirical evidence, there still is a public perception that universities should honour factual evidence.

[00:53:50] **David Haskell:** And so that has worked in my favour. So my, myself and a few colleagues, we fairly regularly will challenge our universities, [00:54:00] uh, both our home universities and larger universities. When they make statements about systemic racism, they'll make claims related to systemic relation, uh, racism that just aren't founded.

[00:54:11] **David Haskell:** They'll make, uh, claims about gender ideology that simply aren't founded in the science. And so we will challenge them and we do it with a fair amount of impunity. Now, that said, uh, I have had, I've been, I've been brought before the Diversity and equity office, the, the Diversity and Equity Police in my university.

[00:54:33] **David Haskell:** I've had students try to charge me, and the process itself is part of the punishment. But, but again, so far truth has been an excellent defence. But I don't know how long that will be the case. Uh, certainly if you offend, that seems to be the only thing that matters. Now, it doesn't matter that you offended by quoting something empirically valid.

[00:54:59] **David Haskell:** Uh, [00:55:00] it will be just you made people upset, therefore, you must be punished.

[00:55:05] **John Larter:** Yeah.

[00:55:07] **Graham Hood:** Back in, back in March last year, I had the great privilege of appearing and talking on stage with Charlie Kirk before his assassination, uh, in Phoenix, Arizona. And, um, I, I got to speak to him for a couple of hours, um, in the green room, and we were having a really good conversation and he really made an art form of showing up, uh, institutions of higher education as have become institutions of higher indoctrination.

[00:55:35] **Graham Hood:** And I guess in many ways, that's where he met his end in a university, just highlighting those things. Um, if, if, if our thought leaders of the future are being indoctrinated in such a way, how do we bring about a change that's going to mean something?

[00:55:53] **David Haskell:** That, that is all about chapter 12 of the book, Graham, because I, I really say [00:56:00] what needs to happen.

[00:56:01] **David Haskell:** I don't think our universities can be transformed, for example. So we therefore need to make a parallel university. We need to start training our own children again, in our own institutions. We, we need to, we need to realise that most of our culture has already been taken over and they don't like us. Like if, if you are a, a conservative, and even worse, if you are a conservative Christian, they really are hostile toward you.

[00:56:29] **David Haskell:** And, and again, these are not my opinions. I, I quote a study that was done by Sam Rimer and uh, George yy, where university professors were asked, how do you feel about conservative Christians? And

over 50% said their ideological enemies to be opposed. That's how they feel about their students who are conservative Christians.

[00:56:53] **David Haskell:** And, and imagine over half of them said that probably it was much more, but only [00:57:00] half were willing to tell the truth about it. So in that kind of environment, someone will not be treated fairly. And you've already mentioned they're gonna be indoctrinated. So what's your choice? Create something new. And here's, here's what is the benefit of that though?

[00:57:18] **David Haskell:** And it has always been the case, the seeds of their own destruction are found within progressives. And in the left, if you do not embrace truth, whether it's empirical truth or even biblical truth, you can't hold it together. Uh, here's a, here's a good example. If you wanna look at communities that dissolve most rapidly, they are communities, uh, sorry.

[00:57:49] **David Haskell:** If you wanna look at communities that resolve, that dissolve most rapidly when there is no coercive force where people are just left, they're not forced at gunpoint, [00:58:00] it's left-leaning communities. Studies have been done with communes, studies have been done with kibbutz. And to the extent that they embrace progressive ideology, they just don't last, they collapse most quickly.

[00:58:14] **David Haskell:** On the other hand, if you look at communities that last the longest, they are and, and stay together willingly without coercion. They're conservative Christian communities. And you can look at old order Mennonites, you can look at, uh, the Amish and the Hutterites and the Duke of Bos Kobos. And what they have is they have the principles of Christianity applied in a way, mostly in, in a way that is peaceable and not coercive.

[00:58:49] **David Haskell:** And they can, they stay together for hundreds of years. So my point would be in this, that the left eventually just falls apart of its own doing. You can [00:59:00] go to the French Revolution robes, Pierre. He, uh, he is the, is the head of the tyranny, and then he gets his own head Cho chopped off. Yeah. You look at the, the revolution in the Soviet Union where the leaders of the revolution become the victims of the revolution and they just can't.

[00:59:19] **David Haskell:** And the only reason the Soviet Union stayed together is they, they make walls so you can't get out.

[00:59:26] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[00:59:26] **David Haskell:** You know, so the left itself is not sustainable. And so, so if someone who is a Christian conservative says, what should I do, start building. Because eventually you will become the, the, the dominant because you've got the, the norms and values that are sustainable, and they also lead to the greatest flourishing.

[00:59:54] **Graham Hood:** It's a long-term view, but it, it needs to be started now. Professor Gigi Foster, who John has [01:00:00] quoted, is a great friend of this programme. She started doing that. She started a, an alternative university. Um, beautiful. Yeah. And, and, uh, we also have a law professor, uh, who's doing the same thing here in Australia, uh, setting up a new, a new, uh, university of Law based on normal Christian principles.

[01:00:22] **Graham Hood:** So we have a work to do, don't we?

[01:00:24] **David Haskell:** We do. And, and we have to realise that every other generation. Was able to see that nothing happens quickly. Uh, they past generations would look at the cathedral and they'd know that they're three generations in and it's still not finished. Like I'm thinking of the Middle Ages right, where it would be hundreds of years before the cathedral is finished, and that would become an object lesson mm-hmm.

[01:00:54] **David Haskell:** For everyone knowing that we really are, are in this for the long haul. [01:01:00] God works in thousands of years, not in months. So if, if we're willing to know that, or we're willing to accept that we have to be part of a project that might last beyond us, that's a good start. But not only that, it's, it's like there will be great satisfaction in the creation.

[01:01:21] **David Haskell:** There will, there really will be.

[01:01:23] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:01:23] **David Haskell:** The people who do this, they, they, they find greater satisfaction because they created something. Yeah. And that they can leave to their posterity.

[01:01:34] **John Larter:** Mm-hmm.

[01:01:35] **Graham Hood:** Wow.

[01:01:36] **John Larter:** The media, the media's obviously a problem, David, and you, you've got a background in it. Your, your book through a lens darkly.

[01:01:42] **John Larter:** I mean, h how many times do you think that's been studied, uh, at a university, uh, teaching, uh, journalism,

[01:01:51] **David Haskell:** not often. Uh, thanks for mentioning it John. So, uh, 2009 I wrote a book called Through A Lens Darkly, how the News [01:02:00] Media Perceives and Portrays Evangelicals, evangelicals are Conservative Protestants.

[01:02:05] **David Haskell:** And, uh, I looked at about 11 years of national news and the evidence of manipulation was just striking. So much so that I was able to do statistical analysis and say, look where conservative Christians talk about their, their belief in traditional marriage, or talk about their belief in the sanctity of life.

[01:02:29] **David Haskell:** In those stories, there is the greatest evidence of purposeful misattribution, purposeful misinformation, making things up that just didn't happen. And so this is, this is really, Christians need to realise that we talked about them making their own universities. They actually need to make their own newspapers.

[01:02:53] **David Haskell:** They need to make their own television stations. Yes. Uh, they, they really, they will not [01:03:00] be able to have accuracy of their message. Apart from finding their own communities again, it, we are back to the spot that the pilgrims and the Puritans found themselves in, in the six, late 16 hundreds. Well, mid 16 hundreds in England.

[01:03:18] **David Haskell:** This is nothing new, right? This is nothing new.

[01:03:21] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:03:22] **David Haskell:** We have had governments that were oppressive in the past. The, the Puritans saw it in the 16 hundreds. The Americans saw it in 1750s into the 1760s. And we just have to know that it's nothing new it, but each time greater, greater thriving comes, good things come from it.

[01:03:47] **David Haskell:** There's a pruning, but then there's a blossoming as well.

[01:03:51] **Graham Hood:** Yeah. You mentioned the Amish community and, uh, um, I had an opportunity to spend a day with an, with an Amish [01:04:00] community in Tasmania. It was amazing. It was beautiful. I've never seen a, a family flourish and function so nicely. Um, but even the, even the Amish

community, as conservative as they are, they do allow their boys at the age of 18 to go out and experience the world and have a couple of years where they get to make a decision whether they come back or not.

[01:04:20] **Graham Hood:** So I saw a documentary in the USA of, of just such a process where young, uh, Amish men were sitting on the bullets of their Ford Mustangs, smoking cigarettes in parking lots, watching each other do burnouts. But the majority of them still came back to the faith. They still came back to the family and said, yeah, tried the world.

[01:04:39] **Graham Hood:** Don't much like it. I mean, that, I'm saying that because I wanna, I wanna underscore what real Christianity is all about. It is about choice, but choice with consequences. And the consequences are there for our good. That, that's clearly evident. And that's, that's the way I've been able to live from atheism into Christianity.

[01:04:58] **Graham Hood:** And I'm seeing a lot [01:05:00] more people in the world leaning towards Christian, um, hate the word ideology because there's nothing left in society that they trust anymore. What is left. And, and many of them are turning to Jesus Christ. And in the course of our, uh, journey of activism in Australia, we baptised 400 people into Christ.

[01:05:19] **Graham Hood:** Wow. Um, and, and so we're, we're seeing this upsurge of people right under our noses who want to know more and how we present that can be, can be life changing. Um, and there's a real balance in all of that. And I think conversations like this only go to support that and help. But, um, we do have to rebuild.

[01:05:41] **David Haskell:** And, and the thing that you've pointed to Graham, is that it's never been, there's never been such a striking contrast.

[01:05:51] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:05:51] **David Haskell:** We literally have politicians who cannot define what a woman is.

[01:05:57] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:05:58] **David Haskell:** And so the average person looks at [01:06:00] that and says, there is no truth out there anymore. And so they begin looking for truth.

[01:06:07] **David Haskell:** I'm not getting truth from my politicians. I'm not getting truth from my media. I'm not getting truth from my, my scholars. Where is truth? And they, and they begin looking and they say, why is that community, that Christian community who are embracing this 2000 year old message, why do they have such high levels of joy?

[01:06:27] **David Haskell:** And they do. By the way, in my book in chapter three, I show that there is no greater life satisfaction. That's the term that sociologists use than those people who are conservative Christians across the west. Yeah. They, they are. They have the most, yeah. When you look at the strongest families, unmatched Christian, conservative Christian couples, unmatched for children with pro-social behaviour.

[01:06:52] **David Haskell:** So these are behaviours like volunteering, um, compassion. You can't beat [01:07:00] children in a Christian family. So they look at this and the proof is in the pudding.

[01:07:06] **Speaker 4:** Yeah.

[01:07:06] **David Haskell:** And they say. They keep telling me that that's not true, and yet the success is there. And so they're trying it out. And what a wonderful thing that is because the empirical evidence vindicates the theology.

[01:07:22] **Graham Hood:** We have a home church group called Church Without Walls and people from all denominations, and even some people who don't believe in God come to it and they enjoy the fellowship. And I can tell you, I used to party hard when I was an atheist, but I've never had more fun and more fellowship and more warmth than in that setting where people come together under the name of Jesus.

[01:07:43] **Graham Hood:** It's just been amazing.

[01:07:45] **David Haskell:** I people absolutely

[01:07:46] **Graham Hood:** amazing

[01:07:47] **David Haskell:** people who are, are not churched people who are atheist. They are so pleasantly surprised. Yeah. That what they've been told about conservative Christians is not true. Uh, if, [01:08:00] if someone is truly a follower of Christ, they want the best for you, no matter who you are.

[01:08:04] **John Larter:** Yeah.

[01:08:05] **David Haskell:** And, and they, they have enough trust in the Holy Spirit, in God's goodness that they know they don't have to pressure you. And so these are, these are, uh, I wanna go back the, the Amish for a second just because this came to mind. Do you know that every 20 years, the, uh, Amish population doubles?

[01:08:27] **Graham Hood:** Wow.

[01:08:29] **David Haskell:** Uh, and you know how they do it?

[01:08:31] **David Haskell:** They simply teach their kids. They teach their kids, uh, how, how the, the doctrines of the Christian faith love each other. Um, love your family. Work hard, be honest. And, and I think it was every three weeks they have to start a new colony in the United States. Now that that same growth rate is, uh, found by Muslims in North America and the [01:09:00] uk.

[01:09:00] **David Haskell:** So there's a competition going on.

[01:09:03] **Speaker 4:** Mm.

[01:09:03] **David Haskell:** Among conservative people. Uh, one thing that I would say is a, and I love the Amish people because they do live out their faith, but one of the drawbacks of the Amish is most of them will not commit to political activism.

[01:09:18] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:09:18] **David Haskell:** And as a result, they become people who are acted upon instead of people who take action.

[01:09:25] **Graham Hood:** Mm-hmm.

[01:09:26] **David Haskell:** And, and I think that that is a problem. So, so I would like people, especially c Christians, to mimic the behaviours of the Amish insofar as they pass on their religious traditions and their love to their kids. Perfect. But then you also have to be willing to go into the world, and you have to have a bold message.

[01:09:53] **David Haskell:** And, and part of the, this idea of my book is that you can have a bold [01:10:00] message because when Christian norms and values become the values of your nation, everybody wins. Even the non-Christians, there will always be restrictions, but Christianity has figured out

how to maximise personal freedom with those restrictions that still ensure maximum common good.

[01:10:25] **John Larter:** Yeah.

[01:10:26] **David Haskell:** And, and if anybody would say that's not true, I would say why does everybody wanna come to the Christian nations, those nations that were founded through Christian norms and values, why are there no lineups to the majority Muslim nations? Why is it that people raised, born and raised in majority Muslim nations, their prime areas of immigration are the uk, Canada, Australia, and the United States.

[01:10:58] **David Haskell:** Why is that? [01:11:00] And, and again, those are not, I'm not making that up. I've got the stats in my book.

[01:11:06] **Graham Hood:** It's,

[01:11:07] **David Haskell:** uh, interesting and it's because there're Yeah,

[01:11:09] **Graham Hood:** it's interesting. Um, in back in the eighties, I was in, uh, in Tolu in France, uh, when Gaddafi was bombed. Uh, I was over there learning to fly an Airbus and, um, it was, it was really interesting the culture in France.

[01:11:25] **Graham Hood:** There was a large Muslim population in France then, and I, I remember a lot of, uh, stuff was surfacing about Gaddafi at that time. And I saw an interesting documentary where he was interviewed and he said, he predicted that by the year 2030, France itself will be a Muslim country. And he was encouraging Muslims to go to Europe and out breeded Christians.

[01:11:48] **Graham Hood:** And he said, we will eventually have a majority enough that France itself will become a Muslim country by 2030. And he said that in 1985, I think it was. Um, [01:12:00] we see that, we see that as, uh, coming to coming to fruition right now. And getting back to what you said about the Amish, my friends, uh, Gregory and Bethany, who are the Amish people in Tasmania, they had a thriving engineering business.

[01:12:14] **Graham Hood:** They were doing very well financially, living in the world at not as Amish people, but as Christians. And they were, their life was so threatened and their six children, they felt, were so threatened by the fact the way that they were living, they decided to just close up shop, go to Pennsylvania and spend 10 months living in a community of faith.

[01:12:34] **Graham Hood:** And that's what they did. They spent 10 months in the Amish community and they said, we don't have the same Amish beliefs. In other words, we're not members of the Amish church, but we live their lifestyle. They still conduct church and they, they conduct a normal Christian Church and people in the local area come, but their lifestyle is something to see to behold.

[01:12:55] **Graham Hood:** It's just magnificent. I've never witnessed anything like it, it was like paradise on [01:13:00] earth. Uh, they're not, they're not impacted or affected by the garbage that we are impacted by. And that isolation, I guess, while, while it tends to be insular and keeps them from activism, people who have a look at that society see it as something to emulate as well.

[01:13:15] **Graham Hood:** So in a way, do you think they might be active in bringing about change just by the way that they live?

[01:13:22] **David Haskell:** 100%. 100%. They, they are definitely doing something right, and they're making a positive contribution. And their example as well as their successes, they can't be denied. But at some point, something else that can't be denied is there is going to be a reckoning.

[01:13:44] **David Haskell:** Uh, there, there will come a time where, because there always comes a time incidentally, when there's not going to be enough and the people who are succeeding are going [01:14:00] to have a knock on their door from the people who aren't succeeding. And, and it, it's at those points that you need to have probably not a, not a pacifistic worldview.

[01:14:14] **David Haskell:** And, and again, this is not my area of expertise, but there's, um, another Canadian David bets and he's at university, no, King's King's College, uh, London. And he is an expert on civil war. And mostly he looks at Civil war in the uk, uh, or extrapolates models it. And he is saying that we're, we're basically very close to some kind of internal conflict in the UK and even in other spots across the west.

[01:14:51] **David Haskell:** And it's during that time that people who don't have a community but also don't have [01:15:00] a defensive strategy, they're really gonna be on the losing end. And again, I I'm not trying to be reactionary. I'm not trying to, yeah. Uh, I, I, I, I'm certainly, but I'm a realist and there's never been, there's never been a point in history where a society didn't collapse and then there were, were two sides or more.

[01:15:25] **David Haskell:** And when the, when that happens, you, you'd like to think you can be defensive at least. And I think that the Amish are at a disadvantage in that

[01:15:36] **Graham Hood:** sitting ducks.

[01:15:37] **David Haskell:** You know, I hope that never happens. I hope that we come to incredible solutions and we are all able to talk through our differences. But, but the survey data says that's not gonna happen.

[01:15:49] **David Haskell:** And even the data in the enclaves that we see in the UK and in certain parts of France, Malmo and Sweden says that that is not [01:16:00] the trajectory we are on.

[01:16:03] **Graham Hood:** Well, it's a battle between good and evil, isn't it?

[01:16:08] **David Haskell:** But you have to be able to admit there is good and evil. That's right. So this actually takes us back to the very beginning of this conversation.

[01:16:15] **David Haskell:** You have to be able to say that man walking naked down the street is evil, or at least that action is evil. You have to be able to say that. You have to get rid of this notion that well, just maximum freedom is, is the highest good. No. We have to get back to this spot where we knew that there was a moral absolute and we knew that there was a good and there was an evil, and we had a government that was willing to promote the good and to restrict the evil.

[01:16:47] **David Haskell:** And, and there will be judgement . Yeah. At one point, Graham, you said that Christians, uh, are people not, maybe they're not judgmental or something like that. And, and [01:17:00] again, with everything within Christianity, there's a balance, a, a balance in the theology. So Jesus actually, he does say, do not judge others when you are a hypocrite.

[01:17:13] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:17:14] **David Haskell:** Unless you be judged. Do not judge others when you are a hypocrite. But he does insist that once you have what, what's often called the mind of Christ or the, the, when you are following his teachings, you are called to judge, uh, not by your standards, by, but by God's standard.

[01:17:35] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:17:36] **David Haskell:** Because that is the only thing that can correct evil in society.

[01:17:41] **David Haskell:** It, it is absolutely right to say we should not put our standards, but to the extent that we can look at what God has said we should do. You mentioned the 10 Commandments.

[01:17:53] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:17:53] **David Haskell:** They worked and they continue to work.

[01:17:55] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:17:56] **David Haskell:** And so we shouldn't be ashamed of that. We have the receipts. [01:18:00]

[01:18:02] **Graham Hood:** Well, uh, we could go on for hours and, uh, I hope that we can get you back.

[01:18:08] **Graham Hood:** Uh, there's a couple of other podcasts in Australia that I'd love you to get involved in. Um, so we'll talk

[01:18:14] **David Haskell:** after. I, I would love it if you, any, any doors you can open. I, I am eager to let people know that there really is a solution to the problems that that's, we've said some negative things today. Mm-hmm.

[01:18:26] **David Haskell:** Or we've touched on, not, not we haven't been negative, but we've acknowledged there is negativity in the world, but there is actually a solution. And, and it is not a compelled solution. It's a solution that can be arrived at through rational choice. And so I, I would really relish the opportunity to tell people about that.

[01:18:46] **Graham Hood:** Absolutely. And for those of you who've been watching this, and I ask you to reflect on the video that we showed at the beginning, it was distasteful. I, I thought long and hard through the night about whether we showed it or not, but I believe we had [01:19:00] to do it. I want you to ask yourself the question. I want you to imagine you have a split screen in front of you, and on the left hand side of that screen, you have the video that we showed earlier of nude men parading in front of children down the main street of a, of what looked like a reasonable American town to me.

[01:19:17] **Graham Hood:** And on the other side, I want you to take your mind back to a scene that might have happened in the, in the earlier part of the, uh, 20th century where you see a, uh, a bunch of, uh, beautifully dressed family members filing into a church for a service. Which one of those scenes appeals to you and gives you the greatest warmth?

[01:19:39] **Graham Hood:** And if, if you find that the latter is the one, then you need to make some decisions about where you're going in the world. That's, that's the way I see it. I, I think we've gotta look at what's good and what's evil and what has the propensity to bring more evil. And we've gotta, we've gotta stand up against that.

[01:19:55] **Graham Hood:** Johnny, any final comments?

[01:19:58] **John Larter:** Oh, no. Only, uh, [01:20:00] David, it'd be good if you just let everyone know where, where they can access your book, um, and, and direct 'em to it. I think that'd be, that'd be good.

[01:20:08] **David Haskell:** Well, thank you very much for that, John. Yeah, so the book is called Chrysler Collapse. Uh, the quickest way to get it in Australia would probably be on Amazon.

[01:20:18] **David Haskell:** Amazon will deliver it, uh, right to your door. The, uh, hard copy, uh, I don't think is available in Australia, but the paperback is, uh, if you wanted the audio book, it's available through Spotify and, uh, not through Audible, but through Spotify, and also from the, the publisher, college Press ebook two. And, uh, if, if people are, uh, interested in just, uh, the day-to-day stuff, I'm on X as D, Millard Haskell.

[01:20:48] **David Haskell:** My, my middle name is Millard. Uh, and so d Millard Haskell on X, which was formerly Twitter. But I would encourage, especially if somebody is, uh, a, a Christian [01:21:00] or even on the fence, maybe they're just a seeker. This book doesn't call you to, to put your, to check your mind at the door. It really is just saying, based on the balance of probabilities, based on the balance of evidence, based on the rational choice, which way do you want to go?

[01:21:17] **David Haskell:** Is it gonna be Christ or collapse?

[01:21:21] **Graham Hood:** Pretty hard to say it. Uh, not, not going down that road. And, and, uh, the book's insightful. I'm definitely gonna get a, a copy of

that and, uh, I'm sure we'll get some insightful reading out of it. Um, we always close with a prayer. David, are you comfortable to close this with a prayer?

[01:21:36] **David Haskell:** I'd love to. I'd love to. Yeah. Yeah,

[01:21:38] **Graham Hood:** please do.

[01:21:40] **David Haskell:** Father God, we know that you are in control, and we thank you for being in control and having, having a plan for us. And even though tonight we were talking about the things that are going wrong, it is all working toward [01:22:00] your plan. Lord, give us the courage to speak the truth, because that's really where the solution begins.

[01:22:07] **David Haskell:** Just to have the confidence to say what is true, what is true, and found in your word. Help us to be bold, knowing that when we speak that truth, we are being most loving. Let us not be shy about the truth or about that love. And for those who have heard tonight, anything that maybe, uh, was, was something that made them uncomfortable, help them pursue it.

[01:22:31] **David Haskell:** Lord, open their eyes. Send your spirit ahead.

[01:22:33] **Graham Hood:** Yeah.

[01:22:34] **David Haskell:** So that they will also pursue the truth. Thank you Lord, for just the, just the, the wonders that you give us in this world because there's so much good and you just want us to have more. Good. We thank you. Praise you in Jesus name. Amen.

[01:22:50] **Graham Hood:** Amen. What a wonderful prayer.

[01:22:51] **Graham Hood:** Thank you so much, David. Now, uh, for me, the, the, the memorable line outta the whole interview was, uh, suicidal empathy, dying to [01:23:00] be nice. Yeah. Um,

[01:23:02] **David Haskell:** well, that, that is Gad sad. That is gad sad. He, he has been, he is a brave man. He has done the work as well. I mean, uh, and there are good people much like yourself, both you, Graham and John.

[01:23:14] **David Haskell:** I mean, you, you've taken a stand and, and so you become the model for others to follow. And isn't, isn't God good in that way, that when you lose your life, you find it. Yeah. Again, the paradox, the truth of that paradox,

[01:23:33] **Graham Hood:** yeah. In 2006, I was gonna kill myself as an atheist. I, I saw no reason to go on. And since finding Christ at that time, I've, my life's never looked back.

[01:23:42] **Graham Hood:** It's exploded with relevance. And I, um, it's hard to see any other way to live now. So look, I just want to thank you so much and um, and, uh, we'll talk to you after we stop recording. But Johnny Lader, you've often been heard to say,

[01:23:57] **John Larter:** you just couldn't make this stuff up.

[01:23:59] **Graham Hood:** You couldn't [01:24:00] make this stuff up. And don't forget Australia, what you did yesterday got you to today.

[01:24:04] **Graham Hood:** And I think a motto we can all hang on to is the only time we should ever look down on anybody is when we're helping them up. Let's try and live by those standards and get our nations back. Get our families back. Get our faith back. Thanks for watching us, and we'll see you next time on Club Grubby. Bye for now.