

Talarico Theology

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For Discussion: James Talarico Has Crazy Ideas About God And The Bible

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<https://dailycaller.com/2026/03/04/james-talarico-crazy-ideas-god-bible/>

Also For Discussion: The Passion of the Talarico

(https://michaelsmith.substack.com; March 5, 2026)

<https://michaelsmith.substack.com/p/the-passion-of-the-talarico>

Who is James Talarico?

Democratic state Rep. James Talarico of Texas is a former public-school teacher who is currently attending a Presbyterian seminary. He defeated Democratic Rep. Jasmine Crockett of Texas in the March 3rd Democratic primary for the United States Senate seat held by Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas.

- He has made some pretty off-the-wall comments about the Bible and God during his political career.

How can Talarico's claim that "God is nonbinary?"

In a 2021 state Legislature debate on legislation to restrict child sex change operations...

Talarico said. "The first two lines of the Bible, the first two lines of Genesis, use two different Hebrew words to describe God. One is the masculine Hebrew noun for divinity, the second is the feminine Hebrew noun for spirit. God is both masculine and feminine and everything in between. God is nonbinary."

What is the flaw in Talarico's claim that God is non-binary?

God is not subject to human categories of gender. The Bible teaches that God exists in three coequal Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). The plural language in Genesis ("*Let us make man in our image*") points to the trinity of God, not to human gender categories.

- Male and female are aspects of God's image reflected in humanity (Genesis 1:26-27); they describe how humans were made, not God's nature.
- We must avoid forcing human social categories onto the divine being.

How should we deal with the masculine and feminine grammatical references to God?

These differences are about relational personhood within the Godhead, not about human gender identities.

When Scripture uses masculine grammatical forms for God, that reflects revelation and covenant roles, not a limitation of God's essence to human male biology.

- Grammar matters. In the original languages the gender of nouns and pronouns follows linguistic rules... For example, the Greek word for "spirit" (pneuma) is grammatically neuter, yet New Testament writers sometimes use masculine pronouns for the Spirit. That switch is a linguistic phenomenon, not a metaphysical claim that God changes gender.
- So, we should avoid reading modern sociological ideas about gender into the text.

How does Talarico use the Bible to justify abortion?

Talarico claimed during a July 2025 appearance on "The Joe Rogan Experience" that the Bible took an explicitly "pro-choice" stance on abortion, citing the first chapter of Luke...

Tarico said: "God asks for Mary's consent, which is remarkable. I mean, go back and read this in Luke. I mean, the, the angel comes down and asks Mary if this is something she wants to do, and she says, 'If it is God's will, let it be done. ... Creation is one of the most sacred acts that that, that we engage in as human beings. But that has to be done with consent. It has to be done with freedom.'"

What is the flaw in Talarico's claim that God asking Mary's permission justifies abortion?

I re-read the reference Talarico cited... God does not ask Mary her permission... He sent an angel to reveal to Mary what was going to happen. Mary simply expressed her affirmation that she was accepting the plan of God.

- And even if God did ask Mary for her consent (which He did not), this had to do with the conception and had nothing to do with giving her a green light to terminate her pregnancy.
- It is a real stretch to make this about God being OK with abortion.

What does the Bible have to say about abortion?

The Bible clearly points to conception as the beginning of human life...

- Samson said, *“I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb”* (Judges 16:17). He refers to his unborn self as having already been what God planned him to be—a Nazirite.
- David says, *“You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb”* (Psalm 139:13). Here we see David referring to himself as a person in the womb.
- David also said, *“Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them”* (Psalm 139:16). David is saying that God had all of his days planned out for him while he was still in the womb.
- God had a similar plan for the life of the pre-born Jeremiah: *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations”* (Jeremiah 1:5).
- John the Baptist recognized in his spirit that he was in the presence of the Messiah from inside the womb: *“when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit”* (Luke 1:41).

What happens when Scripture becomes a tool for advancing contemporary progressive politics?

Christianity begins to resemble secular humanism dressed up in religious language.

- Human reasoning becomes more important than the revelation of God in Scripture.

How does James Talarico reflect the spirit of Antichrist?

According to Michael Smith: “If I could create the living embodiment of Satan on earth, he would look just like Talarico, a leftist caricature of a Christian, smug, self-righteous and generously quoting Bible verses to justify his political positions.”

What is the problem with Talarico quoting the Bible?

The problem is not so much quoting of the Bible, but the heretical interpretations of those verses.

- Talarico is a “progressive” Christian, which is to say he is not a Christian at all.

What is “progressive Christianity”?

“Progressive Christianity” has been celebrated by its advocates as a natural evolution of the Christian faith.

- According to this view, the church is simply adapting to new moral insights and social realities, much as it has done throughout history.

How is it misleading to think of “progressive Christianity” as the evolution of the faith?

“Progressive Christianity” is better described as divergence from the faith, not evolution.

- It is a very prominent manifestation of apostasy.

How has progressive Christianity departed from the core tenants of Christianity?

For nearly two thousand years, Christianity has rested on a recognizable set of core beliefs. Christians across centuries, continents, and cultures have disagreed on many secondary questions—church governance, liturgy, the finer points of theology—but they have largely shared a common foundation.

- That foundation includes belief in the divinity of Christ, the authority of scripture, the reality of sin, the need for redemption, and the resurrection.
- Christian fundamentals were not invented by modern evangelicals, they were articulated early in the church’s history and affirmed in statements such as the Nicene Creed and the Apostles’ Creed.

How does progressive Christianity deviate from the fundamentals, the essentials of Christianity?

Progressive Christianity increasingly treats fundamental Christian doctrines not as defining truths but as optional metaphors.

- The resurrection becomes a “symbol of hope.”
- The divinity of Christ becomes an “inspirational idea.”
- Sin becomes a social construct rather than a condition of the human heart.
- Salvation becomes collective political improvement rather than reconciliation with God.

If fundamental Christian beliefs are no longer essential, what exactly is a Christian?

Advocates often insist that Christianity has always evolved, pointing to past moral developments such as the abolition of slavery or the expansion of civil rights.

Did Christianity evolve to advocate for the abolition of slavery or for expanding civil rights?

These examples do not demonstrate doctrinal abandonment; they demonstrate moral application.

- Christians argued against slavery because they believed human beings were created in the image of God.
- They fought for civil rights because they believed in the equal dignity of souls before God. The underlying theology remained intact.

How is progressive Christianity quite different than when Christians argued against slavery?

The underlying theology is being reinterpreted to conform to modern secular assumptions.

- It is compromising with the culture.

Where interpretation attempts to understand a text within its original framework, today's reinterpretation changes the framework itself.

- This sounds like deconstructionism... stripping all meaning from a thing and reassigning a meaning that better supports a preconceived agenda.

Why is compromising with the culture a problem?

It reveals an unhealthy love of the world...

1 John 2:15 – *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

How do progressive Christians justify their reinterpretation of Scripture?

They often claim they are simply reading Scripture through the lens of compassion and justice.

- But compassion and justice were hardly invented in the 21st century.
- They have redefined compassion and justice to reflect today's cultural mores.

How has modern political ideology influenced progressive Christianity?

The problem is not that progressive Christians emphasize moral concern for the poor or marginalized - Christianity has always done that - the problem is that modern political ideology increasingly determines which parts of Scripture are emphasized, which are ignored, and which are redefined beyond recognition.

- When that happens, scripture ceases to function as an authority. It becomes a symbolic resource that can be reshaped to match whatever the current cultural consensus happens to be.

How does progressive Christianity resemble secular humanism more than traditional Christianity?

The moral framework is no longer grounded in divine revelation but in contemporary (and malleable) social values.

- Ethical goals like equity, inclusion, and social justice are defined primarily by modern political discourse.
- Government policy becomes the primary instrument for achieving those goals.

The language may remain Christian, but the underlying worldview is largely secular and politicized.

- Thus, progressive Christianity is not a development of Christianity so much as a religiously flavored version of modern progressivism.

From where should we get moral truth?

Progressive Christians sincerely believe that moral truth is best derived from human reasoning and evolving social consensus.

- But that approach is fundamentally different from the historic Christian claim that moral truth is revealed through God and preserved in Scripture.

What is the problem with making biblical doctrine conform to the culture?

Once doctrine becomes infinitely flexible, Christianity is reduced to a spiritual vocabulary for contemporary political goals.

- miracles become metaphors, sin becomes sociology, and salvation becomes public policy
- Christianity loses the very elements that once distinguished it from other moral philosophies.

How is progressive Christianity better described as apostasy than an evolution of Christianity?

What is happening is not the organic evolution of Christianity. Evolution implies continuity with the past.

- What we are seeing instead is a gradual departure from the beliefs that defined Christianity for centuries and the replacement of those beliefs with politically useful narratives.
- A faith that replaces its historic doctrines with modern secular assumptions may still call itself Christianity but whether it remains Christianity in any meaningful sense is not a hard question to answer.

What is the prophetic significance of progressive Christianity?

Certainly, it is a clear manifestation of apostasy...

1 Timothy 4:1 – *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons*

It is also a *form of godliness* that is devoid of the power of truth that will manifest itself *in the last days* (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

What application do we see from our discussion today?

- Progressive Christianity is simply compromising with the culture.
- Progressive Christianity is one of the more obvious manifestations of apostasy... more evidence that we are at the end of the Age.