Suicidal Empathy

The gods We Imagine—part 6

November 1, 2026

What is empathy? Secular; Christian

Empathy #1 (godly empathy)

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Psalm 85:10 "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other."

Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Empathy #2 (perverted empathy)

Western Civilization is now guided more by empathy than by principle.

- Parable of the Good Samaritan

*Luke 10:25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" **26** He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" **27** And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." **28** And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."*

***29** But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

***30** In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. **31** A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. **32** So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. **34** He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two denarii[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'*

***36** "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" **37** The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him. "Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

Application of empathy needs to be in concert with other virtues

Ephesians 4:15 Speaking the truth in love we are to grow up in every into Him who is the head, that is Christ.

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

John 7:24 Do not judge by appearances but judge with right judgment.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 If a man will not work, let him not eat.

Matthew 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

Titus 3:10 Reject a factious person after a first and second warning. After that, have nothing to do with them. [11] You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

Empathy, as it relates to the role of government

*Romans 13:4 For the one in **authority is God's servant for your good**. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, **agents of wrath to bring punishment** on the wrongdoer.*

*[5] Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. [6] This is also why you pay taxes, for **the authorities are God's servants**, who give their full time to governing.*

Proverbs 17:15 "Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—the Lord detests them both."

Leviticus 19:15 "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great but judge your neighbor fairly."

One of the ways Empathy #2 is destructive is it enables bad behavior.

Why is Empathy #2 such a powerful draw for secular people? Philosophical

*Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "**Let us make mankind in our image**, **in our likeness**, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

*27 So **God created mankind in his own image**, **in the image of God** he created them; male and female he created them.*

*Genesis 1:31 God saw all that he had made, **and it was very good**. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.*

- A god we imagine: intersectionality

- A god we imagine: Empathy #2

Why is Empathy #2 such a powerful draw for secular people? Personal

Romans 3:12 There is no one good, not even one.

- **The secular mortal sin**

- A god we imagine: ourselves

In our secular society, to affirm empathy (#2)
signals you are a" good person."

Conclusion:

Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for everyone to face judgment.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will renew you in His love;
He will exult over you with loud singing.

-Zephaniah 3:17

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.