

Shepherding Through Collapse: A Letter to Christian Leaders

Dear Christian Leader,

After hitting “submit” on my final manuscript for *The Collapse Is Here*, I felt compelled to share a few thoughts directly with you who are on the front lines of leading the church during a crucial and difficult time. I hope my forthcoming book will open your eyes to a new, albeit sobering, reality. I also hope you make peace with the fact that you can’t unsee the truth. As you lead through the internal and external collapse, it’s going to require everything from you to help your family, community and congregation navigate what’s coming. The church is the hope of the world, and we are called to put that hope on display in moment where chaos and confusion reign.

To be blunt, I believe collapse will bring a spiritual, psychological,¹ biological² and informational war accelerating into a crisis of isolation, distrust, polarization, censorship³ and physical⁴ harm. Borrowing language from John 10, the flock is being encircled by wolves from every side, and as we follow in the footsteps of Christ, the Good Shepherd, we must be prepared to lay down our lives for the sheep. The time to be convicted, clear-minded, and courageous is now. The enemy wants us divided, but the strength of the church has always been in her unity in the essentials, and charity in the non-essentials. Together, we can be smarter, more informed and creative than if we try and go this alone.

The church has an incredible opportunity to shine as a city on a hill, even if the literal lights go out. Historically during such times, Christian leaders have held the moral high ground, rigorously pursued truth, offered an essential witness, provided a prophetic voice, and mobilized peaceful resistance to the evil threatening to overwhelm God’s design for human flourishing.

From William Wilberforce resisting the slave economy in Britain and Harriet Tubman's subversive underground railroad in the United States to Abraham Lincoln calling on man's better angels and Dietrich Bonhoeffer organizing underground seminaries and ultimately giving his life trying to save the millions suffering under Hitler's eugenics program, **I believe that time is again upon us to lead with courage through the collapse.**

As the founder of THINQ,⁵ an organization committed to thinking well about cultural issues, I'm very aware of how we have all been subjected to mass manipulation.⁶ Some players in media, big tech,⁷ and government have fomented dissent,⁸ and created vitriolic infighting that clouds our ability to see who the real perpetrators of the division are. These voices have used fear to drive conditioned behaviors that ignore reality, and contribute to long-term⁹ consequences, especially for the poor and marginalized.¹⁰ This is consistent with major totalitarian takeovers in the 20th century. While the mechanisms of control may be new, such as a technocracy built through systematized surveillance and artificial intelligence, the unfettered desire for power is the same, and without resistance, it could lead humanity to a devastating end. **It's time for the church to wake up.**

Whether you're skeptical of collapse or you've been discerning it all along, whether you're ready to take a stand or wondering if you could even make a difference—I'm here to encourage you that your faithful leadership isn't just nice to have, it is essential. You are not alone. Together, we can play a part in how the church continues to be a light and give witness to God's desire for human flourishing. **Here are the seven ways Christian leaders can faithfully lead through collapse** (with footnotes and links that allow you to take a deeper look should you be interested).

- 1. Stay Informed and Aware.**

Gather your information from trustworthy sources, including historical ones, that point you to original sources (not filtered opinions). Develop critical thinking skills and discernment of AI. Gain context and courage for the road ahead by discerning the agenda at play. Instead of reading news sites that tell you *what* to think, read timeless literature that teaches *you* how to think. Books like the following comprise a timeless cannon of literature that demonstrate how wrong ideas create disastrous consequences. See C.S. Lewis' *The Abolition of Man* and *That Hideous Strength* or Plato's *The Allegory of the Cave*. Read *Ethics* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Power of the Powerless* by Václav Havel, *The Captive Mind* by Czeslaw Milosz and *The Rape of the Mind* by Joost Meerloo, to become familiar with how mass manipulation led to the deaths of more than 100 million people in the 20th century.¹¹

For further learning about the collapse, listen to my 20-episode series of UnderCurrent on the THINQ platforms to better understand how the threat to freedom will present itself in the coming season and how to prepare and resist that future. To better understand technocracy and how science is being compromised, subscribe to the Substack of Dr. Aaron Kheriaty.¹² To get a broad picture of how our economy is being restructured for control, listen to Catherine Austin Fitts.¹³

2. Commit to Gather Consistently.

Get creative and commit to gathering consistently. Revisit Romans 13 for it is foundational ideas. The passage does not require submission to anything our government demands (see e.g., the Book of Daniel) especially when it violates individual conscience. Instead, it relates to our non-violent response to government overreach and how to operate with wisdom as a political and social minority. When you gather, teach boldly about all inhumane policies that violate God's moral law and enslave your neighbors. Help your people to see.

Explain what it means to suffer under political and societal oppression. Above all, create a spirit of unity underneath biblical authority, even when there is disagreement on how to navigate current issues with wisdom. Defend your brothers' and sisters' rights to disagree on approach as family. The evil one wants the true followers of Jesus divided, but our King will come to judge the just from the unjust. He requires we love one another despite different perspectives, and it is through this love, we will be known from the outside.

3. Create Space for Dialogue Around Current Issues.

The Church has a responsibility to fearlessly engage any issue of our current moment. Your people are desperate for their spiritual leaders to speak to the issues they are feeling concern about. But instead of feeling pressure to address every current issue weekly during Sunday services, create space for your people to have guided conversations that facilitate discussion on controversial topics outside of church services. This will equip them with discernment and wisdom and directly competes with other voices who are capturing their imagination every day of the week. Our organization has created a simple way for you to create local dialogue on these critical topics by hosting THINQ Local¹⁴ or encouraging your parishioners to host THINQ Dinners and guide your people through collective action projects¹⁵ together that keep them healthy and strong.

4. Recognize the Church is Designed to Exist as a Parallel Structure.

We serve a different king and operate under the rules of a higher kingdom. We don't ignore reality, but we also see the supernatural. We recognize the enemy's plans to destroy the blessing of moral agency, to deceive, to divide, to manipulate, to control, and to annihilate humankind. Together, we have the unique opportunity to build a parallel structure that supports

the wellbeing of our communities through the application of kingdom truths. It is more important than ever that we do so resolutely, as external systems collapse and people long for an antidote to the internal collapse.

Start now. Time is short and demands will increase exponentially in the days ahead. Whether it's a homeschool co-op, food distribution, community gardens, medical alternatives or providing mental-health counseling, the need is great and growing. The church can rise to its calling and provide for those in need in an era of destabilization. Let's be the kind of leaders that partner with God to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth and offer an alternative in the face of the enemy's plot.

5. Build Community Around the Study of Scriptures and Wisdom from Thought Leaders.

To withstand the relentless assaults of the enemy, we must renew our minds in community with others. Be creative and permissive on how this looks for those in your care. Prioritize the reading of Scripture over any other books. Gain courage and strength from studying how the early Church thrived as a minority in the midst of a persecuting, evil empire. Access content that helps your community think critically about our current context and inspire them to remain faithful, despite changing circumstances. Ask God for clarity on how to lead your family and your friends wisely.

6. Welcome the Broken and Evangelize the Fearful.

Sadly, the economic changes, uncertainty, loneliness, and physical suffering that come as a result of collapse will create personal crisis for many. They need a place where they can be comforted, hear eternal truths, meet their Savior, and to be invited into citizenship of a higher kingdom. The postmodern psychosis created by the constant use of fear and AI-generated

content will drive many to ask the most fundamental questions about God, life and heaven. Be ready to answer these questions and equip those in your care to evangelize. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Let's raise up more laborers who are making spiritual truth available to the lost, scared and confused.

7. Speak Up and Resist Tyranny.

This is the time for our voices to be heard. There is enormous hesitancy of many Christian leaders to engage policy issues for fear of ostracizing some or appearing “too political.” However, this void from the Church on matters requiring truth, discernment and direction allows evil to advance in our midst. It's past due time to assume the role and responsibility to which we are called, and to which we will be held accountable. As Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians, we may be in a time where the Church doesn't need more teachers, she needs more fathers. We must step into that role.

After collapse, the world is not going back to “normal.” The only hope of creating a better future for our neighbors relies on our ability to resist and create. As Christians, there are great historic examples of faithful Christians¹⁶ standing up for truth even at great risk to themselves. We need both, to resist rhetorically and to create new forms locally.

I realize my thoughts may seem like extraordinary responses to evolving societal change. But as you can see, I deeply believe that we are at a pivotal moment. We must not be lulled to sleep, but remain wise, keep our lamps filled with oil, and prepare the Church for the season ahead.

Why am I sharing this with you? It's my hope that those of us who are like-minded—or who at least question the narrative of the age—might become more connected and coordinated in the work of faithful leadership during the years ahead. **If that is you, consider being part of our**

THINQ Thought Leader Community that gathers monthly for ongoing learning and connection with other like-minded leaders who are responsible for leadership in the days ahead.¹⁷

Let's remain united and committed to helping one another see more clearly wherever we can. If you think my estimations are wrong, let's discuss that with mutual honesty and grace. I am eager to read more so that I can learn from you and those who shape your perspective.

Your friend and brother,

Gabe Lyons

President, THINQ Media

¹ *Mattias Desmet: Why Do So Many Still Buy Into the Narrative?* YouTube video, 1:14. Posted by Dan Astin-Gregory, September 21, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLDpZ8daIVM>

² *What Is the Fourth Industrial Revolution?* | Prof. Klaus Schwab. YouTube video, 3:13. Posted by Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, July 13, 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xUk1F7dyvI>

³ Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian. "The Fight against China's Protest Censorship." *Axios*, November 29, 2022. <https://www.axios.com/2022/11/29/chinas-covid-protest-censorship>

⁴ Bendell, Jem. "It's Not Too Late to Stop Being a Tool of Oppression." *Prof Jem Bendell (blog)*, November 21, 2022. <https://jembendell.com/2022/11/21/its-not-too-late-to-stop-being-a-tool-of-oppression>

⁵ Learn more at [THINQMedia.com](https://thinqmedia.com)

⁶ *Understanding Mass Formation with Mattias Desmet*. YouTube video, January 15, 2022. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VJ1QQHrV_0

⁷ Jayanta Bhattacharya. "Misinformation and the Ministry of Truth: Testimony to U.S. House of Representatives Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis." *Brownstone Institute*, November 18, 2021. <https://brownstone.org/articles/misinformation-and-the-ministry-of-truth-testimony-to-u-s-house-of-representatives-select-subcommittee-on-the-coronavirus-crisis>

⁸ Geir Moulson. “Germany Locks Unvaccinated Out of Public Life as COVID-19 Restrictions Tighten.” *AP News*, December 2, 2021. <https://www.apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-health-business-olaf-scholz-pandemics-9cacf1bb85822e55fd3ff92d1f0aa536>

⁹ Matt Richtel. “Surgeon General Warns of Youth Mental Health Crisis.” *The New York Times*, December 7, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/07/health/teens-mental-health-murthy.html>

¹⁰ Mélissa Godin. “COVID-19 Linked Hunger Could Cause More Deaths Than the Disease Itself, New Report Finds.” *Time*, July 9, 2020. <https://time.com/5864803/oxfam-hunger-covid-19>

¹¹ *Mattias Desmet: Why Do So Many Still Buy Into the Narrative?* YouTube video, 1:14. Posted by Dan Astin-Gregory, September 21, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLDpZ8daIVM>

¹² See Dr. Kheriaty’s Substack: <https://substack.com/@aaronkheriaty>

¹³ *Catherine Austin Fitts | Full Interview | Planet Lockdown*. Odysee video, posted by dutch-patriot, January 24, 2021 (or year of upload if different). <https://odysee.com/@dutch-patriot:a/Catherine-Austin-Fitts--Full-Interview--Planet-Lockdown:a?sunset=lbrytv>

¹⁴ See <https://events.thinqmedia.com/local-politics>

¹⁵ See <https://events.thinqmedia.com/digitalfast>

¹⁶ “*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*.” Westminster Abbey. Accessed February 26, 2026. <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-commemorations/commemorations/dietrich-bonhoeffer>

¹⁷ See <https://events.thinqmedia.com/church-leader>