

Nihilism, Inevitable or a Pass Through?

Season 3, Episode 3

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Questions for reflection and/or group conversations

1. More and more it seems that society struggles to describe what the common good looks like. Without that consensus, how do we handle disagreements? Can a community be healthy when people can't agree on basic truths?
2. What is the difference between trying to defeat an opponent's ideas versus trying to destroy or demean them personally?
3. The United States is currently (October 2026) in the campaign cycle for midterm elections. Campaign ads flood the media. Have you noticed how many of the ads focus on the other side has wronged you? Why is that kind of anger so powerful and addictive?
4. How can you actively resist the pull of hopelessness and despair in your daily life? What are some small, practical ways to practice solidarity when the world around you feels like it's pulling apart?
5. Do you think Christians in the United States are being persecuted more today than in previous eras or are they just losing preferential treatment? What reasons could you offer in support of your belief?

You can find the article on "Nihilism" referenced in the podcast [here](#).

Resources for further study (mentioned in podcast)

Hunter, James Davison. *Democracy and Solidarity: On the Cultural Roots of America's Political Crisis*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2024.

Meacham, Jon. *American Struggle: Democracy, Dissent, and the Pursuit of a More Perfect Union*. New York: Random House, 2026.

Meacham, Jon. *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*. New York: Random House, 2018.

Frank, Barney. *The Hard Path to Unity: Why We Must Reform the Left to Rescue Democracy*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2026.