

Book of the Month

March 2011

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

Saving Leonardo: A Call to Resist the Secular Assault on Mind, Morals, and Meaning.
Nancy Pearcey. B & H Publishing Group. Nashville, Tennessee. 2010.

Whether you agree with Nancy Pearcey's conclusions or not, you have to admit that she has spunk. Her purpose in writing this book is grandiose: to equip you to detect, decipher, and defeat the monolithic secularism that is spreading rapidly and imposing its values on your family and hometown (p. 10).

If you ever doubted that ideas have consequences, read this book! Pearcey takes the reader on a whirlwind tour of history revealing the profound influence philosophical ideas have had in the realm of science, art, literature and film. Above all, she examines how the fact/value split – the idea that we can have genuine knowledge only in the realm of objective facts while morality and religion are reduced to subjective values – has ushered in the reign of secularism causing destructive and dehumanizing conditions throughout civilization. Pearcey believes that “the strict separation of facts from values is *the* key to unlocking the history of the modern Western mind” (p. 25).

The author helps the reader to recognize that films, novels, paintings and architecture not only entertain and amuse - they indoctrinate! Artists are evangelists of the worldviews they espouse. While conservatives were intent on taking over the White House, secularists devoted their energies to taking over English departments on university campuses. Today the evidence would seem to suggest that it was the liberal secularists who had the more effective strategy. Pearcey's book invites Christians to rediscover the role of the artist and to get back in the game of influencing culture through the arts. “The only way to drive out bad culture is with good culture” (p. 268).

Pastor Stan Key