

Christianity and Hot Button Issues

Biblical and Cultural Challenges Christians Must Face

#8 – What is Wrong with Black Lives Matter?

I. Exploring the Components of the Issue

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a loosely organized protest movement that started in 2013 after the deaths of Travon Martin and later Michael Brown and Eric Garner. Many of the key leaders of the movement have embraced Marxism and Critical Race Theory (CRT) as the basis for its protesting the deaths of young black men with criminal records.

Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a radical leftist ideology that has incubated in academia for several decades. It finds its roots in (1) Marxist theory via Critical Legal Theory (early 1970's) that seeks to dismantle what it considers unjust legal systems of oppression; and (2) radical feminism (1960's) that seeks to dismantle male hegemony. CRT seeks to identify and dismantle the power structures and intuitions of society that oppress marginalized classes of people. It has infiltrated every level of society including education, corporations, military, government, entertainment, and the church.

CRT is also an underhanded rejection of the Civil Rights Movement. Furthermore, it is not just an ideology that seeks to reorient the way people think about race, it is part of the broader Neo-Marxist worldview that seeks to reshape the whole world by displacing the Western-Judeo-Christian worldview. Thus, it directly conflicts with Biblical Christianity by adopting a radically different authority, worldview, and moral values. The sinister nature of CRT hides behind terms like *social justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, unity*, etc. that masks the deeper agenda that is actually unjust, ironically racist, and fosters disunity. It seeks to create a new elite hegemony while claiming the disunity and social unrest it creates as further evidence of racism and White Supremacy.

Marxism – Largely associated with the thinking of Karl Marx (1818-83). It teaches that all societal conflict is class conflict, between oppressors and oppressed, upper classes and lower classes, haves and have-nots, slave-owners and slaves. At root, all conflict is economic. In particular, capitalist systems of oppression, at the hands of rich capitalist classes, are the enemy of society. Any time the oppressor class gets richer it is always at the expense of the lower classes. For change to take place, there must be a radical reordering of society. The means of production must be stripped from the capitalists and given to representatives of the poor (government entities). Religion is seen as a drug-like instrument (opiate) of the oppressor classes to fool the lower classes into thinking that change is not necessary. Thus, religion (i.e., Christianity) is the barrier to change. At the root of these systems of oppression are institutions like the family, church, and values such as hard-work and individual achievement. The social structures of society derive their authority from Christianity in the Western world, therefore Christianity must be dismantled. Thus, Marxism, at its root, is atheistic.

Neo-Marxism in the late 20th and 21st century has broadened its focus beyond the traditional Marxist focus on economic oppression to include all forms of systemic oppression. Among many neo-Marxist thinkers in the 20th century, the writings of the Antonio Gramsci (Italian Marxist) in the 1930's have profoundly impacted the Cultural Marxist movement behind CRT. The agenda of Cultural Marxism is to undermine every traditional institution in Western culture to foster a cultural revolution similar to the Maoist Revolution in China.

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Woke – A term often used broadly as a synonym for leftist/ liberal/ progressive ideology. Specifically, the term arose to mean someone who is ‘awake’ to social injustice, social inequity, and the power structures and institutions that cause these oppressive conditions. Wokeism in the strict sense embraces the principles of CRT. If a *woke* person is part of the oppressor class, then they recognize their unjust status of privilege (e.g., White Privilege) that causes the problem. If they are of the oppressed class, they rightfully demand privileges in lieu of the oppressive privileged classes.

Racism – Historically racism has meant the conscious and/or specific acts of mistreatment of ethnic groups by one or more individuals of another ethnic group (e.g., communities or societies). Racism in CRT indicates systemic racism built into the institutions and worldview of the dominate culture that purposely or even unconsciously discriminates against marginalized people (e.g., People of Color – POC) and privileges the dominate group (namely, white people). It is said that we live in a culture dominated by White Privilege and White Supremacy. White people are racist simply because they belong to the dominate culture, but they often don’t realize it. Thus, a POC is oppressed even if they do not experience specific acts of racism. Racism is endemic to the culture they live in. Furthermore, because they are POC, it is not possible for them to be racist. Likewise, white people are racist whether they commit specific acts of racism. Furthermore, a white person cannot escape their racism. They are marked, as it were, with a scarlet letter for the rest of their lives.

Microaggressions – A form of racism that includes unintended statements or acts that are nonetheless racist. Cultural appropriation can be included here. White people are to appreciate black culture (e.g., Black History Month) but if they like it too much and try to mimic it then they are treading upon sacred ground and engaged once again in racism. It becomes a catch-22.

Anti-racism – The only antidote for white people, is to do the work of anti-racism, which amounts to continuously admitting your white privilege and deferring to POC. You must repent of your whiteness. Furthermore, white people are complicit in all previous forms of racism like slavery, Jim Crow laws, etc. They suffer from perpetual guilt that requires perpetual penance.

Note how this has been absorbed even in Christian thinking. For example, in 2020 Dan Cathy (son of Truett Cathy, founder of Chick Fil A) publicly said all white Christians need to repent of their racism. Then he got down on a stage to shine the shoes of Christian rapper Lecrae. This event took place shortly after about a dozen chains of the restaurant suffered vandalism over a weekend BLM protest. He said white people should not condemn the behavior of black people when they destroy others’ property. Instead, he said, “[My] plea would be for the white people, rather than point fingers at that kind of criminal effort, would be to see the level of frustration and exasperation and almost the sense of hopelessness that exists on some of those activists within the African-American community.” In other words, black people must have an outlet to express their frustration over their oppression even if it involves criminal activity.

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Other Anti-Racism Proposals:

- **Defund the Police** – Police are on the front lines of systemic racism.
- **Decriminalize behavior** – This extends to many marginalized offenders. Marginalized criminals should be released or not even arrested because they have been oppressed and need room to express that frustration through various criminal acts.
- **Reparations** – For descendants of slaves. White people are complicit in the guilt of their forefathers. Not only that, Thabiti Anyabwile, a well-known black evangelical, said white Christians are complicit in murder of MLK. Note also the misuse of Deut. 5:9-10. Successive guilt of future generations is not in view here, but the long-term impact of sin.
- **Segregation** – Creating special spaces for POC only so they don't have to experience racism.
- **Re-education** – Showing how America is founded as racist nation. For example, 1619 Project.
- **Violent Protest** – Antifa and BLM protests that include destruction of property and looting.

Intersectionality – The complex set of identities that intersect in oppressed, marginalized persons with regard to sex, race, gender, class, etc. and how systems of oppression discriminate against such people. The more categories/ identities/ statuses that intersect a marginalized person's overall identity (see right column below) will determine how oppressed they are. The opposite is true for privileged persons to show how much of an oppressor they are (see left column below).

Privileged Identities	Marginalized Identities
1. White	1. Black
2. Rich	2. Poor
3. Male	3. Female
4. Heterosexual	4. LBGTQ+
5. Christian	5. Atheist
6. Over-achiever	6. Under-achiever
7. High IQ	7. Low IQ
8. Thin (Beautiful)	8. Fat (Ugly)
9. Able-bodied	9. Disabled
10. Capitalist	10. Socialist

(Add views of marriage, family, roles of men & women, use of objective reason versus subjective feelings, respect for authority, ownership, competition (winner-loser dichotomy), etc. In other words, values that largely come from Judeo-Christian/ Western culture. See "Aspects & Assumptions of Whiteness and White Culture in the United States" produced by the Smithsonian Institute.

Standpoint Epistemology – Standpoint epistemology is a kind of Gnosticism, meaning the possession of special or exclusive knowledge. The possession of true and valuable knowledge increases with the greater number of underprivileged/ marginalized statuses one can claim "intersects" with one another to form their overall identity. The fewer underprivileged/ marginalized statuses that intersect a person's identity the less important and valuable is their knowledge in speaking on matters of justice, race, sex, gender, economics, etc. Their knowledge,

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wisdom, insight, etc. has been tainted by systems of oppression and their privileged experience means they cannot meaningfully speak to the important issues that affect marginalized peoples.

Cancel Culture – The justification for cancel culture derives from the infiltration of standpoint epistemology. It effectively shuts down debate on these matters because those who oppose CRT show their privileged bias and therefore listening to them has no value. A white person can never understand what it means to be a POC. However, this is a catch-22 because anti-racism says you must listen to and try to understand the plight of POC, but you can never truly understand their plight. If you say you have gained some understanding, then you are racist. So white people are in a lose-lose situation.

DEI – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

- **Diversity** means that you have marginalized people well represented in your organization, business, etc. and you provide extra resources to secure such individuals often at the exclusion of those that have privileged identities (see Intersectionality above).
- **Equity** means allocating resources to marginalized peoples in order to achieve equal outcomes. Equality means leveling the playing field so that each person has equal opportunity to succeed. These notions are discouraged. The older notion of an “equal opportunity employer” is a product of systems of oppression (i.e., white privilege/ supremacy) and must be done away with.
- **Inclusion** indicates that your organization or business makes marginalized peoples’ values front and center and that those people have equal or greater access to important roles in the organization or business. Merit based promotion is racist/ prejudiced. Quotas are good.

ESG – Environmental, Social, Governance.

Devised by elites in conjunction with the WEF (World Economic Forum), The World Bank, BlackRock, and other entities to rate corporations based on three metrics. Higher scores afford corporations more access to banking and investment opportunities and benefits.

- **Environmental.** Endorse environmentalist goals such as Green New Deal (elimination of fossil fuels, plant-based diets, etc.)
- **Social.** Embrace DEI policies for employees/ workforce.
- **Governance.** Board of directors and key leaders of the corporation are represented by diverse and marginalized peoples. In other words, they maintain the distinctive goals of DEI.

Influential Books

Ibram X. Kendi, *How to Be an Antiracist* (2019 – 25k+ amazon reviews 4.7/5).

Robin, DeAngelo, *White Fragility* (2018 – 40k+ amazon reviews 4.5/5)

Michael Emerson and Christian Smith, *Divided by Faith* (2000). Most influential book introducing CRT into evangelicalism. The Gospel Coalition’s 2016 recommended reading list on racial division.

Eric Mason, *Woke Church* (2018).

Jemar Tisby, *The Color of Compromise* (2019). Tisby has partnered with Kendi promoting CRT.

James Cone, *A Theology of Black Liberation* (2010)

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II. Biblical Critique

Col. 2:8 – “See to it that no one takes you captive with philosophy and empty conceit.”

Racism

Scripture condemns hatred (Matt. 5:21-26) and partiality (James 2:1-13) regardless of social, ethnic, or economic status. However, having power to oppress others is not an essential definition for racism, because people without any power to affect others can harbor hatred in their hearts. Furthermore, moral responsibility in Scripture is always tied to the intentions of the heart (Gen. 6:5; 1 Sam. 6:7; Prov. 16:2; Jer. 17:9-10; 1 Cor. 4:5). People instinctively know this is true, but because the cultural ethos has redefined racism and labels anyone that criticizes the redefinition as racist. The intimidation factor (cancel culture, etc.) has effectively silenced and gaslighted the masses.

Biblical Justice vs. Social Justice

Biblical Justice is based on a Biblical ethic rooted in God’s righteousness. Social justice operates on a different ethic promoting sexually deviant lifestyles, feminism, abortion rights, downplaying hard work, intellectual pursuits, development of useable skills and knowledge, etc. There is an emphasis on tolerating all forms of morality that undermines Christian values and ethics. It is said these ideas further the ends of capitalism, but they also produce thinking that opposes the new ideology. This is why we see a de-emphasis on testing standards. Everyone’s a winner and capitalism is based on winners and losers. Subsequently, white people have become shamed with false guilt causing them to get on board to save themselves from getting canceled and losing their corporate clout.

Other Theological Problems

- 1) *Defective Doctrine of Humanity*: everyone is equally made in the image of God. One race, not many. We are the human race. There are multiple ethnicities but one race. We all have same genetic material that is diversely put together to emerge with unique characteristics. No two people are the same, and yet we are all the same.
- 2) *Defective Doctrine of Sin*: Whiteness (skin color) is not a sin. CRT actually commits sin of bearing false witness. Sin in Scripture is confined to thoughts, words, and actions not ethnicity.
 - Furthermore, the key to effective anti-racism is to discriminate against white people, thereby engaging in reverse racism. Again, showing favoritism or partiality is denounced in Scripture (Exod. 23:3; Lev. 19:15; James 2:1, 9).
 - Promotes anger and victimhood. CRT marches under the banner of tolerance, but has no tolerance for a significant segment of society.
- 3) *Defective View of Gospel*. CRT’s prescription for salvation has no grace for white people, only continual acts of penance. White people can never be free from guilt (Rom. 8:1).
- 4) *Rewards Vice and Decries Merit/ Virtue*. This completely undermines Biblical ethics and values.
- 5) *Corrupts True Justice*. Makes justice **distributive** (give resources to those who do not earn them by taking from those who did. Redistribution of wealth) instead of **retributive** (rendering to each what they deserve (Rom. 13:3-4). Rejects “the laborer is worthy of his wages.” The mantra is equality of outcome, instead of equality of opportunity (no more equal opportunity employers).
- 6) *Promotes Division*. Seek to divide ethnicities, sexes, etc. See Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:13-18; 4:1-6; Rev. 5:9; 21:22-27.

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Resources

Books:

- Owen Strachan, *Christianity and Wokeness: How the Social Justice Movement is Hijacking the Gospel—and the Way to Stop It*.
- Voddie Baucham, *Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe*.
- John MacArthur & Nathan Busenitz, eds., *Right Thinking for a Culture in Chaos*

Websites:

- Christopher Rufo: christopherrufo.com and his email newsletter: rufo.substack.com
- James Lindsey: newdiscourses.com
- Michael O'Fallon: sovereignnations.com
- Virgil Walker & Darrell B. Harrison: Just Thinking Ministries – justthinking.me
- Larry Alex Taunton: larryalextaunton.com

Articles:

- Kevin DeYoung's critique of reparations. See file: DeYoung_Reparation.pdf on KBC website.
- "Aspects & Assumptions of Whiteness and White Culture in the United States" produced by the Smithsonian Institute. See KBC website.