

Critical Race Theory for Hopewell Network & HNI Leaders

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Colossians 2:6-15

“See to it”- be perceptive, discerning, having clear understanding

“Take you captive”- kidnap (remove you from your home), plunder (remove valuable treasures)

“Empty deceit”- void of morality, depleted of Holy Spirit’s power, hopeless

“Not after Christ”- Lit.- down into, fully dwelling in, depending on, trusting in

“Complete in Him”- filled; fully supplied with all you need

Isaiah 59:19

“Comes in like a flood”- a body of water, usually underground, that slowly creeps up and eventually engulfs (as opposed to a sudden rush of water, i.e., a tsunami)

“Lift up a standard”- to rush in and quickly bring to a safe place; to lift up and bring into the place of a higher & clearer perspective

CORE: Everyone has a **“philosophy”** (Lit.- “a love of wisdom”)—a **worldview** impacting how they see themselves and the world around them. In a cultural “whirlwind of worldviews” —it’s **crucial that we see the world through the eyes of Jesus**—having a **wise, Biblical worldview!**

KEY COMPONENTS of a BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW:

1. GOD’S TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE TRUTH

- His Word, the **Bible**, is absolutely accurate & timelessly true!
2 Timothy 3:16- “All scripture is God-breathed (infused with His substance/DNA).”
- **Holy Spirit** is “the **Spirit of truth** (reality)” (John 16:13)
- **Jesus** is “the Way, the **Truth**, and the Life” (John 14:6)
- **Father** is “the **only** wise God” (Jude 1:25)

Conclusion: If God alone is absolute truth & wisdom → everything that opposes Him is untrue!

2. SIN is our ULTIMATE PROBLEM and SATAN is our ULTIMATE ENEMY

*Romans 16:23- “The wages of (compensation for) sin is **death** (separation from God, one another, & even ourselves, i.e., identity confusion).”*

- **SIN** (rebellion against God) is at the root of all problems (*Racism, crime, abuse, etc.*)
- **SATAN** is at the root of all sin; a rebellious archangel who “only comes to rob, kill, and destroy” us (John 10:10).

3. JESUS is the ONLY WAY for our HEARTS to be RESTORED TO GOD

- We can’t earn our salvation (NOTE: Our attempts are “**dead works**” Hebrews 6:1; 9:14)
- There is “**no other name** under heaven...by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)

4. NO PROBLEM is greater than the POWER & PROVISION OF HEAVEN

- **Jesus' victory is epic—life-transforming and world-changing!**
- **Every problem** (at its roots) is a **human problem** and a **sin issue**. It must be **confessed!** It can be **forgiven!** And hearts can be **transformed!**
- **Healing** comes through **confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation—not** through **revenge!**

5. **God LOVES the WORLD—longing for everyone to RECEIVE HIM**

²⁶ From one man he made **all the nations (ethnos)**, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, '**We are (all) his offspring.**' (Acts 17:26-28 NIV)

- We **see** other people in light of **Jesus' perception of them!** ("**From now on we don't think of anyone from a human point of view**" **2 Corinthians 5:16**)
- As His representatives, we see redemptively and we seek passionately for others to **"Be reconciled to God!"** (**2 Corinthians 5:20**)

6. **WE are INFLUENCERS in the world**

- After Jesus said, "**I am the Light of the world,**" He told His followers, "**You (and you alone) are lights in the world!**" (**Matthew 5:14**)
- Lit.- "**You change the terrain! You bring Heaven's reality to earth! You reveal hidden things! You open eyes to My presence!**"
- We are gripped by the **conviction** that **until people meet Jesus—they live life without Him AND face a hellish eternity apart from Him!**

7. **In Jesus, we are OVERCOMERS**

"(In any situation) we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us!" (**Romans 8:37 NASB**)

- We expose and tear down demonic strongholds as we confront them in His name!
- We release His miracle-working power to heal and restore as we simply believe Him!
- We boldly walk in His declaration over us: "**Greater works than I have done—you will do in My name!**" (**John 14:12**)

SUMMARY:

Throughout Church history, we have responded to anti-Christian philosophies in one of three ways:

1. **CONFORM.** Replacing solid biblical principles with popular trends.
2. **ACCOMODATE.** Passively allowing new ideologies to erode what is true.
3. **RESIST.** Discerning. Aware of deceptive schemes of the enemy. Holding fast to God's Truth. Confronting lies.

CORE: Critical Race Theory is another subtle scheme of the enemy to undermine Jesus' Kingdom expanse on the planet!

Books by evangelical authors promoting CRT:

- *Divided By Faith*- Michael Emerson & Christian Smith
- *Prophetic Lament*- Soong-Chan Rah
- *White Awake*- Daniel Hill
- *Woke Church*- Eric Mason
- *The Color of Compromise*- Jemar Tisby

Here are some of CRT's key perspectives:

1. There is NO ABSOLUTE TRUTH

- Truth is subjective.
- Personal experience & narrative have ultimate credibility. (“The Bible says...” is irrelevant!)

2. SOCIETY determines IDENTITY

- We are purely the by-product of our culture
- God has no place or power in this worldview

3. There are 2 categories of people: the OPPRESSORS & the OPPRESSED

- America is systemically racist (from its inception) and is “irredeemably corrupted”
- White people are “inherently racist” (i.e., supremacists, oppressors by nature)
- People of Color are systemically oppressed (i.e., victims; unable to advance)

4. The only viable solution is REVOLUTION

- Dismantle the system—through any means possible
 - “Cancel Culture”—no forgiveness/reconciliation; prevail at all costs
 - Defund the police/Abolish private ownership of properties
 - “Critical” of History—focus on heartbreaks; ignore breakthroughs!
- “Victims” are morally innocent— “Oppressors” can never be fully pardoned

5. VICTIMS are the ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

- Their subjective experience must be believed without question—giving victims the right to control the agenda
- This worldview is predominantly godless; w/o hope for Divine intervention or Justice
- Only “victims” have the power to expose injustice & bring retribution/vengeance

RESPONSES:

1. RACISM is not just a “White” issue

- **RACISM (Def.)** is the belief that our **ethnicity defines us**. It also promotes the belief that **one ethnicity is superior to another**. Racism speaks with “broad stroke” **categorizing of a group of people—resulting in hatred, competition, and division**.
- Using this classic definition, **CRT is ultimately “anti-racist racism”**—sowing division through categorical vilifying & victimizing of others!
- **J. Lee Grady**- *“White Europeans mistreat white Gypsies. Some Indians marginalize other Indians from a lower caste. In Rwanda, members of the Hutu tribe slaughtered 600,000 of the Tutsi tribe in 1994. In China, the current government is brutalizing the Uygher people, a Turkic Chinese minority...as Martin Luther King stated in a 1966 speech: ‘The doctrine of Black supremacy is as dangerous as a doctrine of White supremacy.’”* (From *Christianity Daily*, June 22, 2021).

2. Ultimately, SIN is the ROOT ISSUE (of every issue)

- *“(God) has made from one blood every nation (ethnos) of humanity.”* (Acts 17:26)
- We are all created by God. Because of Adam & Eve’s sin—we have all been impacted by sin. Every human is capable of oppression and racial injustice!

3. RACISM is a SIN we can confess, be forgiven of, and ultimately overcome

- Jesus' 12 disciples were Jewish men—schooled (by their culture) to believe they were superior to all other ethnicities. The daily prayer (*"I thank You that I'm not a Gentile..."*). The Temple had a "wall of hostility" (Ephesians 2:14)—a literal "Jews Only" section—that Jesus "tore down" (Lit.- to release from every hindrance).
 - The Jew/Gentile divide is believed to be the most entrenched racism of all time!
 - The oneness between Jew & Gentile experienced by the 1st-generation Church is a testimony to Jesus' power to restore unity!
- The CRT "Woke" movement offers no hope of restored unity.
 - Denying Jesus' redemptive power
 - Ignoring the fact that sin was paid for and defeated at the Cross
 - Encouraging anger, division, and revenge—instead of a change of heart!

FINAL THOUGHTS

- God is calling us to move beyond criticizing culture & canceling culture—to creating Kingdom culture in the here & now!
- The supernatural love & forgiveness of Jesus is the ultimate revolution every heart longs for!
- We can no longer stay silent (*Psalm 115:17*)! Like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, we've been called to speak lovingly, listen attentively, pray fervently, and stand firmly! (*"Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."* - Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
- Fixing our eyes on Jesus, we carry His vision for the planet, summed up in Acts 17:26-28:
"From one man, Adam, he made every man and woman and every race of humanity, and he spread us over all the earth. He sets the boundaries of people and nations, determining their appointed times in history. ²⁷ He has done this so that every person would long for God, feel their way to him, and find him—for he is the God who is easy to discover! ²⁸ It is through him that we live and function and have our identity!"

Recommended Reading:

- *Why Social Justice is not Biblical Justice*- Scott David Allen
- *Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe*- Voddie Baucham, Jr.