

Critical Race Theory

Class Outline

How Does Holy Scripture Speak Concerning the Theory?

Purpose of this class: address the tenets of CRT with truth from Holy Scripture.

Review:

What Is Critical Race Theory?

1. It describes itself as a "movement" of scholars and activists.
2. CRT uses as a basis the postmodern assumption that race is a social construct.
3. Rejects norms for society derived from the Scottish Enlightenment: equality, theory, legal reasoning, enlightenment rationalism, and the neutral principles of constitutional law.
4. In the textbook on the subject, *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction* we are told "unlike traditional approaches to civil rights which favor incrementalism and step-by-step progress, Critical Race Theory calls into question the very foundations of the liberal order."
5. Dr. Voddie Bauchum describes the four tenets of the worldview of CRT as:
 - a. Racism as normative (systematic)... it's normal, everywhere and unavoidable.
 - b. Interest convergence (White people are unable to take righteous actions against racism unless it is in their individual interests)
 - c. Anti-objectivity
 - d. The social construction of knowledge.¹
 - e. "CRT teaches the only way to know truth, is to elevate black, marginalized voices and listen to their stories. People and their feelings

¹Martin, Stephanie, <http://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastors-articles/394150-voddie-baucham-critical-race-theory.html>, page 3.

become arbiters of truth, and anyone who disagrees with those feelings is either racist or has internalized racism.”²

f. Scholar Khiara Bridges outlines the tenets of CRT in this manner:

- i. Recognition that race is not biologically real but is socially constructed and socially significant. It recognizes that science (as demonstrated in the Human Genome Project) refutes the idea of biological racial differences. According to scholars Richard Delgado and Jean Stefaniec, race is a product of social thought and is not connected to biological reality.
- ii. Acknowledgment that racism is a normal feature of social thought and is embedded within systems and institutions, like the legal system, that replicate racial inequality. This dismisses the idea that racist incidents are aberrations but instead are manifestations of structural and systematic racism.
- iii. Rejection of popular understandings about racism, such as arguments that confine racism to a few “bad apples.” CRT recognizes that racism is codified in law, embedded in structures, and woven into public policy. CRT rejects claims of meritocracy or “colorblindness.” CRT recognizes that it is the systematic nature of racism that bears primary responsibility for reproducing racial inequality.
- iv. Recognition of the relevance of people’s everyday lives to scholarship. This includes embracing the lived experiences of people of color, including those preserved through storytelling, and

² Ibid

rejecting deficit-informed research that excludes the epistemologies of people of color.³

g. Terms are redefined, history is rewritten (1619 Project),
Narratives are more important than objective truth.

h. CRT also recognizes that race intersects with other identities, including sexuality, gender identity and others.⁴

Christians Response to CRT Based on Holy Scripture

What Is Our Identity?

✦ Our identity is that of one made in the "image of God"

Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them."

✦ Our identity is created by God and changed from of one "in the image of God" to "Son of God" by adoption through salvation by Christ Jesus.

Galatians 4:4-7 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

³ George, Janet, *A Lesson on Critical Race Theory*, Human Right, January 11, 2021

⁴ Ibid

- ✦ As Christians we have a "Salvation Identity" versus a "Creation Identity" That does not see station, sex, color or location.

Racism Exists, Racism is Normal:

- ✦ Man is fallen by nature and it is only by grace through faith that our sins have been forgiven.

2 Peter 1:4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine **nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of **sinful** desire.

- ✦ We are called to reject dismissing our brothers and sisters in the commandment found in the words of Christ:

Mark 12:30-31 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Convergence of Personal Interests:

- ✦ Christians are directed by scripture to be about the other regardless of personal benefit.
- ✦ "One another" is used 90 times in the New Testament

John 13:34 A new commandment **I** give to **you**, that **you love one another**: just **as I have loved you**, **you** also are to **love one another**.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore **encourage one another** and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Romans 12:10 **Love one another** with brotherly affection. **Outdo one another in showing honor.**

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works,**

Galatians 6:2 **Bear one another's burdens,** and so fulfill the law of Christ.

1Peter 4:9 **Show hospitality to one another** without grumbling.

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sin to **one another** and **pray for one another,** that you may be healed. The **prayer** of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Anti-Objectivity:

- ✦ CRT spawns' envy, division and power struggles based on the belief "racism" is written into law, structures and public policy.
- ✦ Christianity urges objectivity or freedom of bias in our culture.
- ✦ Christianity teaches:

Contentment - Philippians 4:11-12 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

Unity - John 17:21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Humility - Colossians 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

The Social Construction of Knowledge:

- ✦ CRT purposes to replace God's word with the word of humans as the basis of truth
- ✦ God's word is always true.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God^a may be complete, equipped for every good work.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Hebrews 8:10-12 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws into their minds,
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.
And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor
and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'

for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.
For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more."

So How Should We Live as Christians with CRT?

- ✦ Understand the tenets of this and other new social constructs as they relate to our faith.

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

- ✦ Understand that CRT has no place in the church.
- ✦ Fear not and stand firm: Exodus 14:13a And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord,
- ✦ PRAY - For the Church, for Christians and those who espouse the theory
- ✦ Don't forget that all have fallen short and need salvation that can only come through Jesus Christ:
- ✦ Proclaim the Gospel: Mark 16:15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
- ✦ DO NOT FEAR: Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell