



Opposing Powers

October 24, 2021

RECAP OF POWER

Postmodernism Recap

Three Themes:

The Moral Mutation:

Creative Power Recap

Make something of the world for human flourishing

TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

James 3:13-18

Wisdom from ABOVE

1. How is power manifested?
2. What is power's source?
3. What is power's outcome?

Wisdom from BELOW

1. How is power manifested?
2. What is power's source?
3. What is power's outcome?

THREE KEY DIFFERENCES:

1. It denies universal moral truth claims.
2. It undermines our common humanity.
3. It lacks a vision for human flourishing.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

THE A-LIST

Tim Keller's Article: A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory

If you are looking for a good overview of Social Justice Theory, complete with a thorough biblical critique, this is the place to go. A thoughtful and disciplined summary. Click here for a [link](#).

***Playing God* by Andy Crouch**

Learn about how power can make human flourishing possible or about how it can destroy the image of God in people. This is a fantastic place to start, a strong recommend.

***The Coddling of the American Mind* by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt**

Rob recommends this book everywhere he goes. He has his whole family reading it. He believes every parent needs to read it. It's a book that explores what has gone wrong on college campuses in the past decade – why there is rising intolerance for opposing viewpoints and why students and professors are afraid to speak up. It also tackles topics like rising depression, political polarization, and cancel culture. Well researched, thoughtful, and illuminating. It's not a faith-based book, but don't let that stop you.

***Cynical Theories* by Helen Pluckrose and James Lindsay**

This book is a brilliant critique of Critical Theory. It is thorough and in-depth. It is not written from a faith perspective, but from two authors who are classic liberal thinkers. Still, their concerns and arguments against Critical Theory are valid, reasonable, and accessible to someone looking at it from a faith perspective. This book gets mentioned a lot by a lot of people. It's the "go to" book for this subject.

THE ALMOST A-LIST

***The Way of the Dragon or the Way of the Lamb* by Jamin Goggin and Kyle Strobel**

This book explores the biblical understanding of power, especially the Bible's vision of power in weakness. It examines how God's power is antithetical to the power of the world and includes interviews with prominent Christian thinkers.

***A Church Called Tov* by Scott McNight and Laura Barringer**

This book looks at what it takes to form a culture of goodness in our churches that will resist abuses of power, promote healing, and eradicate the toxic fallout that can infect Christian organizations.

***A Theology of Power: Being Beyond Domination* by Kyle A. Pasewark**

This is a DEEP philosophical dive that explores Foucault, Luther, and Tillich. If you really want to get lost in the nuances of postmodernism and theology....