

It's great to be back with y'all tonight. I missed you last week, we were down in Baton Rouge visiting family and we were having a crawfish boil for my 40th birthday during our class time last week. Even Bode, our youngest, got in on the action. He was fearless just jamming his hand down into the bucket and didn't cry at all when one got ahold of him.

But, I hope you enjoyed hearing from Voddie Baucham and learning more about the term he coined called, "Ethnic Gnosticism", and the concepts that he taught about last week help lay the foundation for all we're going to try and cover tonight. But I'm going to do my best to help you understand some of the terms and the ideas that are floating around in our culture currently. And hopefully demystify some of the things that are meant to be very vague and indefinable. Because as long as you don't understand what the enemy is up to, he has free reign to do as he pleases. As long as he stays hidden in the shadows he can be up to all kinds of no good, but if we can bring his schemes into the light and expose them to the truth of the Scripture and Jesus who is "THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE" they will lose their power completely.

So, that's our goal for tonight, *'Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."'*

John 8:31-32

Again, I want us to be very clear why we're studying this and who we are truly fighting. *'A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.'*

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.'

Ephesians 6:10-12

While there are men and women who are pushing these dangerous ideas. While the very goal of these ideas is to undermine the Gospel, destroy the foundation of Western Society which is our faith. Ultimately, our prayer, our goal, our aim for this class is for you to understand what's going on in the culture around us, so that you can fight back against the real enemy, with the express goal of rescuing as many people from the lies of the enemy as possible until Jesus comes again.

Prior to 2020 and the death of George Floyd, how many in here had heard of “Critical Race Theory, Intersectionality, White Privilege, White Fragility, Systemic Racism, Heteronormativity, etc...”? (Marxists share your vocabulary but not your dictionary)

I personally hadn't and it struck me how one case in Minneapolis that immediately had more to meet the eye than was being broadcast would suddenly cause our nation to turn on each other with vitriol and hatred that I had never seen before. How suddenly I and anyone who happened to look like me were instantly given a new original sin and a new label of “racist”, whether we had ever committed a racist act or even had a racist thought in our lives. And so that's what launched my research to try and understand what was happening all around us.

And that's what I'm hoping to share with you tonight. It is by no means exhaustive. In fact, this one topic itself could fill weeks of discussion. But I want you to get the highlights and understand what's happening in our society right now so that you can be like the men of Issachar, *'From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.'*

1 Chronicles 12:32

As I was learning more and more about Critical Race Theory and its origins in Marxism is when I discovered the interview with Yuri Bezmenov that I mentioned 2 weeks ago. And like I said, it seemed almost prophetic with what I was seeing happening. So, just to remind you of the 4 step process he was a part of with the KGB to destabilize nations so that socialism could take control. Here it is.

SLIDE - YURI BEZMENOV

And the normalization point is what we're seeing take control in the world around us. How suddenly these ideas and terms are everywhere around us and entering into our conversations and all of our interactions. But the church has always been at odds with the world. What is most disturbing and what we're trying to prepare against is these ideas entering into and gaining traction in the church and luring people away from the truth and the gospel.

So, before we can understand Critical Race Theory we have to understand Critical Theories themselves. Because Critical Theories can be applied to race, gender, sexuality, ability, age, even citizenship.

What is a Critical Theory?

SLIDE - CRITICAL THEORY

The first thing that always has to happen is there has to be an idealized vision for society. With Classical Marxism, it was a society where everyone was equal economically. “From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs.”

But for anyone to give up their existing society, you need the second piece. You have to show them just how bad their existence really is. You have to awaken the class consciousness to understand the oppression that they are living under. How there is an oppressive class, who has means to a special property, that has created an oppressive ideology as to why they have that property and the oppressed class does not. What the oppressed class needs to awaken to see through their lived experience, not objective provable facts, that this is indeed the case. So that, it will inspire social activism to not just reform but destroy, deconstruct, revolutionize, and “build back better.”

So, these are the key components of any critical theory and at the end we’re going to go through a couple different areas and show how to apply this.

So, let’s look first at a definition of CRT from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

SLIDE - CRT DEFINITION - UCLA

SLIDE - CRT DEFINITION - JAMES LINDSAY

So, both definitions refer to systemic racism as the oppressive ideology that has characterized and defined our culture. But how do you understand systemic racism? James Lindsay gave an amazing metaphor to help understand it.

SLIDE - PEDESTRIAN

Imagine you're driving through downtown and you pull up to a traffic light and stop because the light is red. Then a pedestrian starts to walk across the street. He passes in front of you but a car in the lane next to you speeds down the road and doesn't see him. They run the red light and hit the pedestrian. Now, in traditional thought, only the driver of the vehicle who wasn't paying attention to the light or the pedestrian crossing is at fault for the accident. And only the driver responsible would have to pay insurance, hospital fees, or in severe fatal cases maybe even serve jail time for the incident.

But if you apply the reasoning of systemic racism to the issue, here's how the incident would play out. Not only is the driver at fault responsible, but everyone who has ever benefited from the automobile industry is at fault. If you have ever worked for a car manufacturer, not necessarily the one involved in the accident, just any car manufacturer at all. If you've ever made parts that were used on cars, if you worked at a gas station or a store that sold oil, windshield washer fluid, wiper blades, etc. you were responsible for the accident. If you've ever ridden in a car and benefited from it taking you anywhere, you're at fault. If you live in an area that is outside the city and so you need to drive in to go to work or school or just to eat, you're at fault. If at any time a car has been used for your benefit in any way possible, you're at fault.

That is systemic racism.

SLIDE - CENTRAL PREMISES OF CRITICAL THEORY

1. **Social Binary:** Critical Theory through their influence from Marx said there were only two groups of people, the oppressor and the oppressed. The oppressors make up the superstructure of society and the oppressed make up the infrastructure of society. And they are trapped in a dialectical relationship where they are on totally opposing sides that share nothing in common but are interconnected because they live in the same society. So the superstructure and infrastructure combine to make the structure or system of society.
2. **Oppression through Ideology:** And the structure of society according to Gramsci was guided by an oppressive ideology he called the hegemony. Hegemony was the reason the uprising of the proletariat (working class) failed so we needed a counter hegemony. So, he said we'll come up with a new worldview, in this case CRT, to help people of color understand they're truly oppressed.

And this was a genius move in my opinion by the enemy. Marx focused on economic status that could change, especially in America, by leveraging your talents and hard work to earn your place (i.e. meritocracy). And Gramsci changed it to the culture, then the Neo-Marxists to something that absolutely no one has the power to control at all, the color of their skin. An immutable or unchangeable quality that each person possesses was used to divide them into either the oppressor or oppressed group from birth. Even though the largest disparity between any two people, of skin color, eye shape, hair, build, etc... is 0.012%.

3. **Lived Experience:** This is what Voddie Baucham talked about last week, that “I don’t need anyone to tell me you’re being racist, I know, if I’m a part of the minority group, I know when you’re being racist even if you think you aren’t.” It comes from W.E.B DeBois who said essentially that white people can only see the white world, but people of color have to live in two worlds and have a double consciousness. And so for white people to truly understand the world, you need to center the voices of people of color and other oppressed groups so that they can show you what’s really true about the world. And we’re going to come back to this thought in a minute, but if you follow this to its end, it leads down some very dangerous paths.
4. **Social Justice:** To have your eyes opened to systemic racism is the great awakening that CRT seeks. But coming alive to the true power dynamics that course through our world in racial terms means one begins to see many more unjust imbalances in the social order. Indeed once one becomes “woke,” one not only becomes an “antiracist,” but also an opposer of numerous other evils and a liberator of many other groups. One recognizes the “intersectional” nature of injustice, meaning that one discovers the causes of many underprivileged minority groups overlap.

The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.

Kendi, Ibram X. How to Be an Antiracist.

Derrick Bell is seen as the father of CRT and the grandfather of intersectionality through his Harvard Law protege Kimberlé Crenshaw. Her two papers: “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics,” published in 1989, and “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color,” published in 1991 lay the groundwork for these thoughts.

Here’s some visuals to help understand intersectionality.

SLIDE - WHEEL OF POWER/PRIVILEGE

SLIDE - “IS EVERYONE REALLY EQUAL?” Robin DeAngelo, Özlem Sensoy

This is where things get really dangerous. Because if you accept the claims of CRT, then you have to accept by extension the claims of intersectionality. The two go hand in hand. You can’t accept and see the systemic oppression of one group only by their race and not agree with the systemic oppression of any other of these marginalized groups as well.

That’s why when you used to go to the BLM website in their, “What We Believe” section there’s not a lot about racial oppression, there’s all these other things that come with it. And the crazy thing is, they took this down because they got so much heat for following exactly where the Marxist path leads.

SLIDE - BLM “WHAT WE BELIEVE”

Here’s where Premise #3 of all Critical Theories come into play. That’s how you end up where we talked about in the first week, going from “Sexism is a sin to there’s many paths to God.”

SLIDE - LIVED EXPERIENCE QUOTES

You might be inclined to agree with some of these claims and disagree with others. But if you accept the premise that the ‘lived experience’ of subordinate groups should never be challenged, which of these claims do you have to accept? **All of them.** If you’re going to be consistent, you have to accept all of them.

And so Marx’s goal is complete.

“Marx believed that the great moral problem of society could be reduced to the institutions of authority within society. He held that because authority by its very nature is oppressive, all authoritative structures and institutions must be destroyed. And when all decentralized divisions of authority have been dismantled, a globalized classless society must take its place in a new world order. In this new world order, people will no longer have to relate to each other as superiors and inferiors, rich and poor, leader and follower. Not until there are no class divisions, diversity, or hierarchical stature of authority will society be free of oppression. Only then will the world be rid of evil and experience utopia.”

“But most importantly, because our present institutions derive their delegated authority from God, these institutions (individualism, family, church, and state) must first be deconstructed and stripped of their authority in order to fully eliminate God from society. In fact, for **Marx, deliverance from the evils of capitalism cannot occur until all the traces of God are removed from this world.**”

Jeffrey Johnson, What Every Christian Needs to Know about Social Justice

Marxism

There is a special kind of private property called, “Capital”. The bourgeoisie has given themselves access to this special property. They’ve created an ideology called, Capitalism, that justifies why they get it and others don’t, that sets up a structure of society. The upper classes organize society around certain ideologies that Marx calls the superstructure of society while the lower classes make up the infrastructure of society with their hammer and their sickle. That structure of society is determinant that makes you see the world through this ideology that says you either deserve this access because you are part of the bourgeoisie or you are excluded because you’re meant to always be a part of the working class or proletariat.

And what is needed is for the working class to open their eyes and see that they’re being oppressed and throw off their chains and violently revolt.

Solution/Communism - The Abolition of Private Property.

Critical Race Theory/Race Marxism

There are certain white people from Europe who constructed the idea of race, so that they could give themselves access to a special kind of property called “Whiteness”.

Race - A misleading and deceptively appealing classification of human beings created by White people originally from Europe which assigns human worth and social status using the White racial identity as the archetype of humanity for the purpose of creating and maintaining privilege, power, and systems of oppression. (Lawrence and Keleher)

Lawrence, K., & Keleher, T. (Eds.). Proceedings from Race and Public Policy Conference 2004. Chronic disparity: Strong and pervasive evidence of racial inequalities. (p.1-6). Berkeley: CA.

White people and white adjacent people constructed an entire racial ideology called "White Supremacy" which explains why they have access to it and no one else does. The racial underclass are called people of color. Some of them have racial consciousness, and some of them don't. Some of them are acting white. There is a white superstructure and people of color infrastructure that are in a dialectical relationship. A dialectic is when two seemingly conflicting things are true at the same time. That dialectical relationship creates a structure of society that is inherently racist. That inherently racist structure creates structural or systemic racism.

Solution - Abolition of Whiteness

Antiracism - Awaken your racial class consciousness and begin the work of self reflection, self critique, and social activism. Seizing the means of production in society and they are going to enforce a state of equitable outcomes, "racial equity", that when it is realized becomes racial justice... or racial socialism, or Race Marxism.

Critical Gender Theory/Feminist Marxism

There's a special kind of property called being male it creates a structure of society called patriarchy that's enforced by an ideology called misogyny. It exists to keep men in the upper echelons of society and keep women out.

Queer Theory/ Sexual Marxism

Hannah Dyer published a paper called "Queer futurity and childhood innocence: Beyond the injury of development" where she said... "A lot of people think that queer theory is about creating stable LGBTQ identities especially for children. Nothing could be further from the truth! It is about keeping their identities fluid so that it's never stable." Queer theory is a war on the normal.

Postmodernism/ Post Structuralism/ Language Marxism

Neo Paganism

In this anti-order, there is no Creator, no divine design; no male or female; no script for sexuality; no God-designed family with a father, mother, and children; no need to protect and care for children at all; no Savior, Lord, or theistic end to the cosmos; and no judge of evil.

Owen Strachan, Christianity and Wokeness