

Critical Race Theory & The Gospel

A 21V CHAPEL, APRIL 5 2023



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Worldview matters

▶ Christian Theism

- ▶ God is Real
- ▶ People are made in God's image (moral, rational, volitional, creative, etc)
- ▶ Creation, Fall, Salvation, Consummation

▶ Marxism:

- ▶ God does not exist
- ▶ People are either Oppressors or Oppressed
- ▶ Oppression, awakening, uprising/revolution, [utopia] OR [repeat the cycle]

Critical Theories



- ▶ Legislation Passes
- ▶ The desired effect is NOT seen (or things get worse)
- ▶ Why? Oppression!

CRT: Critical Race Theory

- ▶ Marxism + Critical Theory + Racial Issues
- ▶ Defines:
 - ▶ Power
 - ▶ Oppressor
 - ▶ Oppressed
 - ▶ Action steps

Why you'll like socialism and CRT...

- ▶ Sounds fair
- ▶ Clear categories
- ▶ Seems just
- ▶ Easy story
- ▶ Obvious solutions
- ▶ Seems semi-Christian



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Privilege

- ▶ What's in a name?
- ▶ Favor
- ▶ Lacking favor
- ▶ What favor is for

Nathaniel

Charlotte

Zhōu

Debyendu

Gugulethu

Fabiola

Eun-Gyeong

Ghiselle

Yves

Microaggressions

- ▶ What do you see?
- ▶ Negative Assumptive Stereotypes
- ▶ “I didn’t mean it...”

Intersectionality

- ▶ Life is actually harder if you have to deal with...
 - ▶ A foreign language
 - ▶ Negative bias
 - ▶ Non-majority appearance...all at the same time.

Systemic Racism/Systemic Bias

- ▶ Foundations on previous bias
- ▶ Persistent, negative outcomes

What CRT Get's Right

- ▶ Power and Oppression exist
- ▶ Privilege exists
- ▶ Microaggressions happen
- ▶ People CAN deal with multiple issues at once
- ▶ All systems will have some bias in them

What CRT Get's Wrong

- ▶ Power isn't all bad
- ▶ Oppression isn't black/white
- ▶ Privilege by itself isn't evil
- ▶ Victimhood is damaging
- ▶ Hatred, violence, and destruction of systems is counterproductive
- ▶ Not all bias is bad



Okay, so what does the Bible have to say about things like this?

A Biblical Worldview, revisited

- ▶ God made diversity
- ▶ We became “differencists”: people who use others’ differences to create unjust inequalities.
- ▶ Jesus came to unify diverse people
- ▶ God’s plan is for a global community of believers of every kind to worship Him

I'm fine. I'm not a part of the problem.

- ▶ Diversity reveals God
- ▶ Passive religion is dead
- ▶ Protect and promote the least of these

Should I feel guilty if I am white?

- ▶ Perhaps, but ...
- ▶ No, but...

Consider Philemon

- ▶ Philemon = slave owner
- ▶ Onesimus = slave
- ▶ Paul = Biblical example



What am I supposed to do? (I)

- ▶ Aim for community
- ▶ Aim for obedience to the Spirit
- ▶ Start with the circles you are in
- ▶ Don't expect to be able to unify with everyone

What am I supposed to do? (II)

- ▶ Move from bystander to ambassador
- ▶ Be courageous

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What am I supposed to do? (III)

- ▶ Check your biases; exercise your eyes!
- ▶ Dialogue; don't cancel

What am I supposed to do? (IV)

- ▶ Forgive
- ▶ Communicate
- ▶ Avoid victim mentalities
- ▶ Keep first things in first place

Pray For

- ▶ Realized Unity
- ▶ Clearer Purpose
- ▶ Increased Strength
- ▶ Bolstered Courage
- ▶ Spirit-lead Response

