



# **BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW!**

**Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!**

## **Critical Race Theory and the Church!**

**Acts 17:26-28**

**Topical Message #4 – S945**

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**Sunday Morning Service**

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# Critical Race Theory and the Church!

**Acts 17:26-28**

## Opening Comments

- Good morning – today we continue our series: **Worldviews: Aligning your view of the world with God’s Word!**
- We believe the church is to be a community of believers whose primary goal is to bring others into the community of God and also into a unity of faith in Christ Jesus in alignment with God’s Word
- And that last part is where there is a problem – in alignment
- If God’s Word, the Bible is true and the source of truth, which it is, then as Christians, our worldview should be in alignment with it
- This series is to help us all align our worldview to God’s Word and to help us stand on the truth out in the world so that those in the darkness might see the Light and have the same hope we do
- This morning we are going to look at what might be the most dangerous worldview our culture has ever seen
- But first, let’s pray!
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **Critical Race Theory and the Church!**
- It is important for me to start by saying that I believe that God’s Word is true – it is the source of truth
- That is important because the worldview we are going to look at today denies the existence of absolute truth and instead finds truth in shared experiences
- I believe the Bible is true
- For instance, it states that all humanity began and descended through a single pair of humans – Adam and Eve
- Turn to **Acts 17**
- After the flood, God rebuilt the human race through Noah and his small family
- All humanity can trace its ancestry back to Noah and one of his three sons

- In Genesis 10, the Holy Spirit describes the formation of the nations who descended from Noah's three sons **Genesis 10:32**

**These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.**

- 'nations were divided' – the divisions were not just geographical or ancestral – but also by worldview
- That was more than four thousand years ago
- The world has been divided by differing worldviews for a very long time
- But Paul says something in Acts 17 that tells us that is not how it is supposed to be
- Paul is a Jew, who has received Christ as his Savior
- He is speaking to non-Jewish philosophers in Athens, Greece
- **Acts 17:22-25**
- In a breath Paul tells them that God is sovereign, Almighty, and holy
- **Acts 17:26-29**
- 'He has made from one blood every nation'
- The Bible teaches clearly that God's will for this world is unity
- That was summed up for us in The Great Commandment **Matthew 22:35-40**

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, " *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" <sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And *the* second *is* like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*' <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

- The word translated 'nation' in Acts 17:26 is the Greek word 'ethnos' from which we get words like 'ethnic' or 'ethnicity'

**Ethnicity: the fact or state of belonging to a social group that has a common national or cultural tradition.**

- Another term that our culture uses is:

**Race: each of the major groupings into which humankind is considered (in various theories or contexts) to be divided on the basis of physical characteristics or shared ancestry.**

- As an example, I am ethnically an American – racially, I am Caucasian
- The Bible says almost nothing about race – but why?
- Look again at the definition of race 'shared ancestry'

- A biblical worldview of race is there is only one – the human race
- Any other divisions on the ‘basis of physical characteristics’ is unbiblical – Paul said as much **Galatians 3:26-28**

**For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

- As believers, we need to understand that we all share a common ancestry – we are all distant relatives
- And our differences in physical characteristics are irrelevant when it comes to God’s command to love your neighbor
- Racism is what results from ignoring our common ancestry and focusing on our physical characteristics – like skin color – and then assigning superiority or inferiority based on those differences of physical characteristics
- Your ethnicity and physical characteristics – like skin color – are sovereign providential acts of God – and they express no special value God has placed on you
- The only real value that any human has is the value that God has imparted to him
- Each of us is a divine image-bearer of God – regardless of ethnicity or race
- Up until a few years ago, very few people had heard of Critical Race Theory - CRT
- It is the worldview behind many of the things we see going on today
- CRT is not new – has roots in the broader worldview of Critical Theory that dates back to the time of Karl Marx
- That is why some will refer to it as cultural Marxism
- That offers a clue as to the dangers of this worldview

**Critical Theory analyzes all aspects of society through the lenses of structures such as race, class, and power, divides groups into categories of oppressors or oppressed, and proposes methods for pulling down oppressors and liberating oppressed.**

- On the surface CRT says that its intended goal is to end racism
- Which, if that were true, it would be a noble cause
- You have probably heard the phrase ‘systemic racism’

**Systemic Racism: Institutional racism, also known as systemic racism, is a form of racism that is embedded through laws and regulations within society or an organization.**

- CRT begins with the premise that all whites are racist
- CRT says that because whites have always been the largest segment of the population they have established systems, institutions, and laws that benefit whites more than non-whites for the purpose of maintaining white supremacy

**White Privilege: societal privilege that benefits white people over non-white people in some societies, particularly if they are otherwise under the same social, political, or economic circumstances.**

- CRT proponents say that because white people created the systems, institutions, and laws that those things are inherently racist
- The logical answer to this, if it is true, is to reform those systems, institutions, and laws
- People who have bought into the false religion of CRT don't believe it is possible to reform the systems, institutions, and laws
- The only solution is to dismantle those things and rebuild them from scratch
- That is where things like 'Defund the Police' come from
- It calls for a redistribution of power and wealth
- History has given this type of society another name – socialism
- Socialist societies always end up in suffering and violence – always
- CT and CRT is a divisive worldview that is being embraced by many and is taking on some of the characteristics of a cult
- September 2020, President Trump issued an Executive Order banning CRT based training to federal agencies and contractors
- January 2021, President Biden rescinded that executive order
- 17 states have either passed laws or trying to pass laws banning CRT from being taught in schools - California is not one of those states
- Parents, you have a right to know what is being taught to your children
- And if they are being taught that all white people, including white children are racists, then you need to act
- CRT is a false worldview that only serves to divide people along lines of race and offers no real solution to the problem of racism
- Racism is a problem, but CRT is not the answer

- In fact, CRT will only serve to amplify racism among all people
- CRT is meant to be divisive and seeks to inflame people's passions to rise up in open revolt against the oppressive systems and institutions
- Mainstream media and the large social media platforms have totally yielded themselves to this destructive worldview and are seeking to silence any opposing voices
- We used to be a society where differing viewpoints could be discussed
- Not anymore – Robin Diangelo's book *White Fragility* is the CRT textbook for silencing non-CRT voices
- Basic premise – whiteness = racism – we don't choose to be racist, we just are because we are white

**Determinism - the doctrine that all events, including human action, are ultimately determined by causes external to the will. Some philosophers have taken determinism to imply that individual human beings have no free will and cannot be held morally responsible for their actions.**

- As Christians we know that we have free will and that we are held responsible for our actions
- According to Diangelo, racism is so ingrained into our psyche that it is impossible for a white person to see their racism
- And the only people who understand racism are the victims of racism
- And according to her, someone like me is too fragile to confront my racism – she doesn't know me!
- They want people like me to be silent
- We cannot be silent – there is far too much at stake
- Those people who have accepted CT and CRT are 'woke'
- Sadly, there are woke socially minded churches and seminaries that are bowing down at the altar of CRT
- And by doing so, they are moving away from the power of the pure gospel
- Turn to **James 2**
- CRT is to be rejected and resisted in our culture
- It's answer to racism is to promote more racism – using evil to fight evil will never produce good, just more evil
- James, speaking to believers tells how to relate to each other
- **James 2:1**
- James says partiality is wrong

**Partiality: unfair bias in favor of one thing or person compared with another; favoritism.**

- The Lord said the same thing in **Leviticus 19:15**

**You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.**

- Our actions toward others ought to be based on what is right, not based on what they look like or how much money or power they have

- **James 2:2-4**

- Because we have a sin nature, evil thoughts are a real possibility

- We need to ask God to help us examine ourselves **Psalm 139:23-24**

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

- And if we do find any wicked thoughts, like racism – repent

- **James 2:5-9**

- As believers, there is no place for favoritism of any kind, including race

- There is only one race – the human race and we are to treat all people as though they are divinely created image-bearers of God, each equally loved by God

- One last verse and then I will pray **Romans 12:2**

**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

- CRT is an attempt to conform people into racially charged divisions

- It seeks to convince whites that they are racist oppressors regardless of their own personal actions – to produce guilt and shame

- It seeks to convince non-whites that they are helpless victims – to produce discontentment and resentment

- Guilt and shame were taken from us all at the foot of the cross

- And in Christ we are all more than conquerors

- Don't let this world tell you who you are

- You are a child of the living God; you were bought by the blood of the Son of God, and you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God

- CRT is evil, and the people pushing it have been deceived into believing it is good, they need our pity and prayers

- CRT will cause a lot of pain and suffering – be in prayer!

- But also, be prepared to stand on the truth and fight this evil worldview
- We ought to stand for equality and justice – based on God’s Word, not based on what the world says
- But we must never forget that the most important thing is the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Be who God made you to be, no matter what color skin He put you in, or what things He has or hasn’t given you in life – Be the you He created you to be! And that means daily allowing Him to conform you into the image of His Son, Jesus.
- You are a deeply loved, divinely created image-bearer of God – created for His glory, the blessing of others, and the growing of faith!
- **Prayer!**