

Racism, the Critical Race Theory, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, part two¹

- **Racism** – According to the American Heritage College Dictionary, racism has two meanings. First, “The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others” and second, “Discrimination or prejudice based on race.”
- **The Critical Race Theory**² – “An ideology that divides the world into oppressed groups and their oppressors and aims to liberate the oppressed. Sometimes called *Cultural Marxism*, CRT borrows concepts from classical Marxism dividing the world into the *haves* and the *have nots* and attempts to right the wrongs of previous generations through a redistribution of wealth and power.”
- **The Gospel of Jesus Christ** – “The Gospel is the good news that through Jesus’ perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection, sinners by grace, can be forgiven, reconciled to God, and made perfectly righteous by repenting of their sins and placing their faith in Christ alone.”

Review: Some Foundational Truths

1. Foundational Truth: If we claim to be gospel-dominated, then we should be increasingly anti-racist (Ephesians 2:13-16).
2. Foundational Truth: The practical unity (spiritual, racial, ethnic, etc.) that the Gospel creates is designed for display through the beauty of the church (Ephesians 3:6; 4:2-3).
3. Foundational Truth: Racism, prejudice, and favoritism are serious sins (James 2:1-9).

Review: What does Critical Race Theory Teach?

1. CRT divides people based on color, money, and now, sexual orientation.
2. CRT views truth as changing, non-absolute, and experience-based.
3. CRT wants dominant groups, particularly white people, to own their collective guilt.
4. While not a new concept, CRT’s strategy is to promote active “social justice.”³

¹ See part one for a list of resources I used to help prepare this study.

² Explaining CRT, Steven Harris says Liberation “theology... put into ordered speech the meaning of God’s activity in the world, so that the community of the oppressed will recognize that its inner thrust for liberation is not only *consistent with* the gospel but *is* the gospel of Jesus Christ. Liberation theology has been broadened today to fit a myriad of other causes – from feminism to homosexuality to environmentalism.”

³ Social justice stresses the redistribution of wealth and power through whatever means necessary, whereas biblical justice emphasizes the conformity to God’s Law, especially in regard to the right treatment of people

How the Critical Race Theory Conflicts with the Word of Christ's Grace

1. CRT loses sight of the fact that God's image in each man and woman is our positive, essential unity (Genesis 1:26-27).
2. CRT warps our representative headship in Adam or Christ, making our essential identity our skin color or ethnicity (Romans 5:12-19).
3. CRT promotes a system of performance-based righteousness as the solution (Ephesians 2:11-22).
4. CRT destabilizes truth, making it experiential rather than absolute (John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16).
5. CRT is uncritically susceptible to other groups that are not compatible with Christianity (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Hebrews 13:4).

Romans 12:9-21 and Beauty of the Life in the Gospel

1. Beginning with Christ's Love.

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

2. Serving with Christ's Heart.

¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

3. Responding and Caring like Christ.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

4. Forgiving like Christ.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

5. Trusting like Christ.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

How to Pursue Racial Justice & Unity

CRITICAL RACE THEORY V. THE GOSPEL

	Critical Race Theory	The Gospel
In a Nutshell:	A view that examines society through the lens of power, dividing people into oppressed and oppressor groups	The good news that Jesus, through His death, burial, and resurrection, offers hope and life to lost sinners.
Core Problem:	Whiteness; systems that oppress people of color	Sin; man's rejection of God's good rule
The Solution:	Become woke, do the work, be anti-racist	Jesus, repent of sin, allow the Spirit to change us
The Goal:	Utopia, everything being equitable. (We can accomplish this by our own efforts.)	Unity with God and each other through Jesus. (Utopia comes when King Jesus reigns.)
Our Identity:	Either oppressed or oppressor based on skin color	God's creation, loved by Him; as Christians, brothers & sisters in Christ
Truth & Morality:	The claim or assertions of oppressed people should be accepted without question	God determines what is right, and His Word is the ultimate truth.
Racism Is:	Racial prejudice plus institutional power	The sin of partiality revealed as racial prejudice
Who Can Be Racist:	White people because only they have power	Anyone because sin can arise in all of our hearts
Primary Emotions:	Guilt, anger	Sorrow and repentance leading to love, joy, and peace
The Path to Unity:	Overturn unjust systems; build collective power	God makes us one with Him and unifies us to each other as we yield to His sanctifying work in our hearts.