

# A Comparison of Worldviews

## Critical Race Theory/Cultural Marxism and Christianity/The Bible

Prepared by Joshua Nelson to accompany “One Creator, One Redeemer: What Is the Basis of Human Unity?” at the “Race, Justice, Mercy, ... & Jesus Christ” student conference, March 15, 2022, sponsored by the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews (video archive: at [www.blc.edu/apologetics/events](http://www.blc.edu/apologetics/events))

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Christianity / The Bible</b>	<b>Critical Race Theory / Cultural Marxism</b>
Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are created in God’s image by an almighty creator.</li> <li>• We are created for His purposes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accidental abiogenesis.</li> <li>• Time + matter + chance.</li> <li>• Atheistic evolution.</li> <li>• Note: These are pragmatic; not included in writings.</li> </ul>
Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are created to steward the gifts we are given by God to the glory of Christ.</li> <li>• The Great Commission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No ultimate purpose.</li> <li>• You are here to consume/enjoy life.</li> <li>• Meaning can be found from joining in the struggle of the collective.</li> </ul>
Morality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined in absolute terms by the arbiter of the universe, who is God.</li> <li>• For our ultimate good.</li> <li>• Our identities are found in serving the Lord (and others) through our designed purposes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible in the extreme.</li> <li>• Original sin is white privilege/supremacy.</li> <li>• Centered in the desires of the self or the collective, can change rapidly.</li> <li>• One of the only rules is that you cannot tell someone else that their choices/truth/morality is wrong.</li> </ul>
Destiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes the sacrifice of Christ as the key to eternal salvation.</li> <li>• God will raise up everyone on judgment day and create a new Jerusalem.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essentially atheistic—this world is all there is.</li> <li>• If there is a god, there are many paths to heaven; all are equally valid.</li> </ul>
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our identity is found in functioning within God’s creation ordinances.</li> <li>• Our identity comes from using the gifts and talents that God has given us within the moral constructs He has provided for our good.</li> <li>• Our identity is defined by our creator, not the other way around.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may choose your own identity.</li> <li>• The identity you choose may or may not be grounded in objective reality (i.e. males can identify as females).</li> <li>• The notion of sin is discarded when it gets in the way of how one chooses to identify.</li> <li>• Identity of the created is self-defined, and declared sacrosanct.</li> </ul>
What is wrong with the world?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am what is wrong with the world, (along with everyone else as we each have rebelled against God).</li> <li>• Mankind as a whole requires redemption.</li> <li>• Individuals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hegemony.</li> <li>• Oppressive structures imposed (intentionally or unwittingly) by the hegemonic powers.</li> <li>• Systems.</li> </ul>
What is the solution to what is wrong?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the whole of mankind, and later his return as the world’s only Savior.</li> <li>• Living our lives in response to Christ’s sacrifice vis-à-vis the biblical outline He has provided for us until such time as He sees fit to call each of us home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional education to alleviate ignorance.</li> <li>• Additional governance.</li> <li>• A ‘root and branch’ upheaval of the current system of power (hegemony), overthrowing that system, and replacing it with a new Marxian system that will lead to a utopian society.</li> </ul>

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe in absolute truth?
  
2. Where does your source of truth come from?
  
3. Please define “strategic equivocation” (the Motte and Bailey Fallacy) in your own words:
  
4. *How would you define the following:*
  - a) Social Justice
  
  - b) Diversity
  
  - c) Inclusion
  
  - d) Equity
  
5. How would you respond if a teenager asked you the question: *Why does the church hate gays?*

# WHAT IS CRITICAL THEORY?

(Adapted from Dr. Neil Shenvi [www.shenviapogetics.com](http://www.shenviapogetics.com))

Critical theory is a set of beliefs or ideas that is foundational to many different disciplines in the humanities: Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Critical Race Theory, Critical Pedagogy, Feminism, Anthropology, Literary Criticism. There are seven basic premises of critical theory.

1. **“The Social Binary.”** This is a worldview component that says all members of a given society fall into the category of “oppressor” or “oppressed.” Critical theory insists that **our individual identity, who we are as individuals, is inseparable from our group identity.** In particular, our individual identity depends on whether we are part of a dominant, oppressor group or a subordinate, oppressed group with respect to some given identity marker like race, class, gender, physical ability, age, and so forth.
2. **“Oppressor groups subjugate oppressed groups through the exercise of hegemonic power.”** Hegemonic power is the ability to impose your values, expectations, and norms on the rest of society. In this way, hegemonic power is distinguished from money, or influence, or mere numbers.
3. **“Different oppressed groups find solidarity in the experience of oppression.”** People with very different identity markers are united by their shared oppression. It doesn’t matter whether you experience oppression because of your race and I experience oppression because of my gender. We’re both oppressed and that can draw us together.
4. **“Our fundamental moral duty is freeing groups from oppression.”** Critical theorists will rarely talk about the moral duties of chastity, marital fidelity, kindness, honesty, and generosity. Their central moral concern, which overshadows or even overrides all others, is ‘liberation from oppression.’
5. **“‘Lived experience’ is more important than objective evidence in understanding oppression.”** Story, narrative, personal testimony, and lived experience are seen as better ways to understand oppression than evidence, statistics, or reasoned argument.
6. **“Oppressor groups hide their oppression under the guise of objectivity.”** Oppressor groups *claim* that their observations are neutral, but this claim is only a strategy to conceal their will to dominate.
7. **“Individuals who are part of multiple oppressed groups experience oppression in a unique way.”** This is the concept of *intersectionality*.

## RESOURCES

- <https://apologeticsworkshop.wordpress.com/2011/06/13/origin-meaning-morality-destiny/>
- <https://shenviapogetics.com/christianity-and-critical-theory-part-3/>
- <https://salvomag.com/article/salvo59/crt-doublespeak>
- <https://newdiscourses.com/> (James Lindsay)
- <https://www.voddiebaucham.org/>
- <http://www.thaddeuswilliams.com/confronting-injustice/>