

ORDER OF SERVICE

June 27, 2021

Worship in Fellowship
Worship in Music
Worship in Message
Worship in Giving

Jeremy Mikeska

Christianity Isn't Diverse (Nor Socially Just)

Selected Scriptures

Apology Accepted Series

Life Change: That we wonder at the uniqueness in the members of the body of Christ and joyfully commune as one.

diverse *adjective*

Definition of *diverse*

1: differing from one another: UNLIKE people with *diverse* interests.

2: composed of distinct or unlike elements or qualities a *diverse* population.

merriam-webster.com

Lie

Christianity is a western religion

Christianity is white-centric

Christianity is Marxist

Truth

Acts 2:5-11
Colossians 3:11
Galatians 3:28

Acts 8:26-38

James 4
Romans 8:7

Lie

Christianity is a proponent of Social Justice

Christianity is unloving

Truth

Exodus 20:16
Deut.16:19-20

Ephesians 2:13-22
Acts 2:42-47
Romans 13:8-10
Luke 10:29-37

Revelation 7:9-12

9 After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb! CSB



APOLOGY / ACCEPTED

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

GERMANY



courtesy cbs.com

CAMEROON



courtesy gettyimages.com

USA



courtesy ecowarriorprincess.net.com

CHINA



courtesy equalizersoccer.com

SWEDEN



courtesy cumgasmagazine.com

Voddie Baucham

...David Platt, then head of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, delivered a message from Amos 5, then repented in tears for his white privilege, silence, and inaction. Those inclined toward CSJ found it inspiring. But to others, Platt's message represented a fault line. It was an exercise in eisegesis. In other words, instead of being faithful to the text of Amos 5, he read foreign ideas into the text to make the Bible serve his agenda.

Voddie Baucham

One pastor summed it up well:

‘MLK: Men should NOT be judged by the color of their skin.

T4G: Pastors should be judged by the color of their congregations.’



diverse

adjective

di·verse | \ dī-'vərs , də-'vərs, 'dī-,vərs \

Definition of *diverse*

1: differing from one another : UNLIKE people with *diverse* interests

2: composed of distinct or unlike elements or qualities a *diverse* population



For many, the idea that Christianity is a white, Western religion, intrinsically tied to cultural imperialism, stands as a major ethical barrier to considering Christ.

**– Rebecca McLaughlin,
*Confronting Christianity***

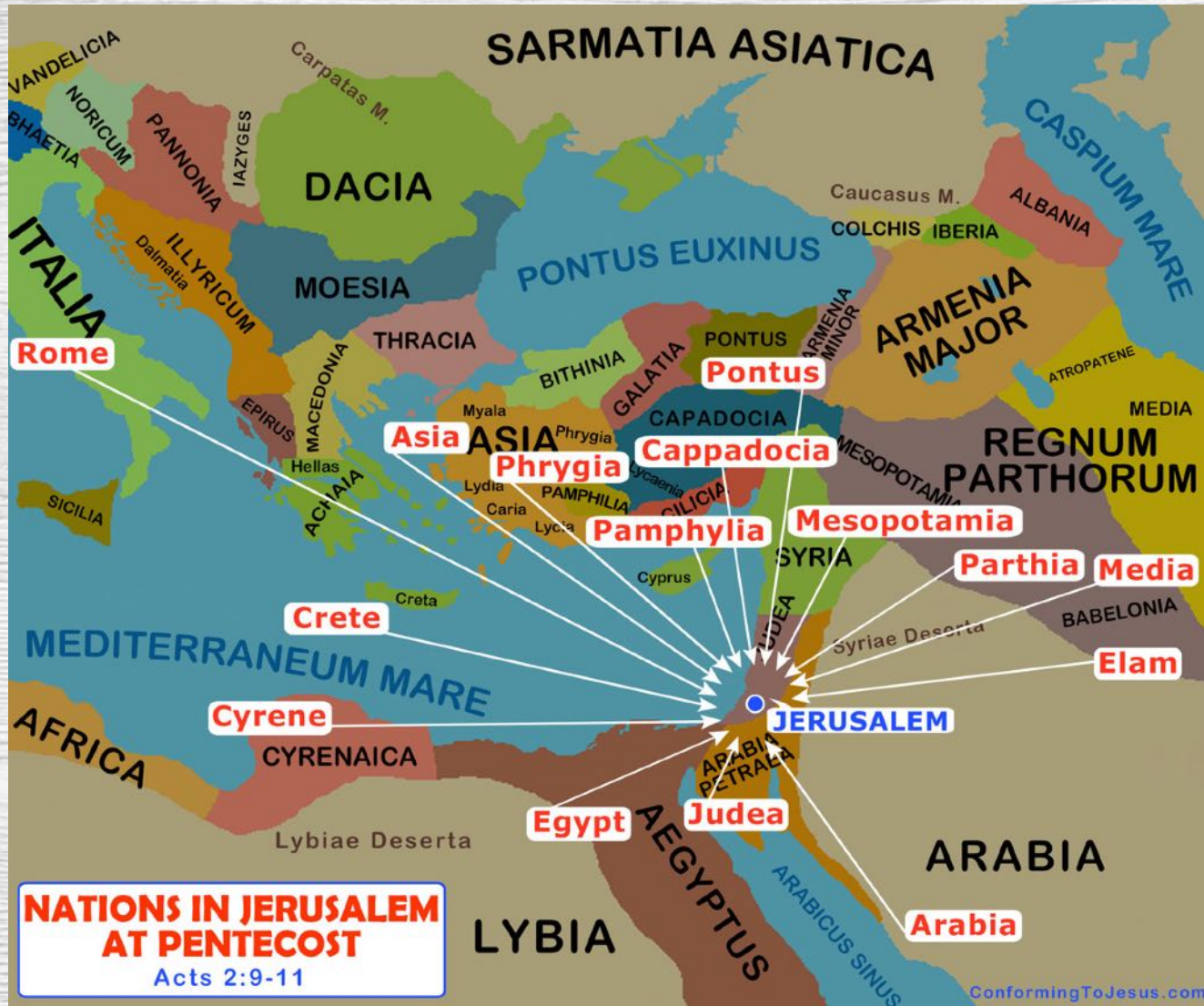


Acts 2:5-8

⁵ Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem, devout people from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When this sound occurred, a crowd came together and was confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ They were astounded and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ How is it that each of us can hear them in our own native language?

Acts 2:9-11

⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites; those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts), ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the magnificent acts of God in our own tongues.” CSB



**NATIONS IN JERUSALEM
AT PENTECOST**
Acts 2:9-11

ConformingToJesus.com

courtesy conformingtojesus.com

Colossians 3:11

11 In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all. ^{CSB}

Galatians 3:28

28 There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. ^{CSB}

Acts 8:26-28

²⁶ An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: “Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is the desert road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem ²⁸ and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud.

Acts 8:29-31

²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go and join that chariot.”

³⁰ When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”

**³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone guides me?”
So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.**

Acts 8:32-33

³² Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this:

**He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb is silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.**

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who will describe his generation?

For his life is taken from the earth.'

Acts 8:34-38

³⁴ The eunuch said to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet saying this about—himself or someone else?”

³⁵ Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning with that Scripture.

³⁶ As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, “Look, there’s water. What would keep me from being baptized?” ³⁸ So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ^{CSB}



APOLOGY / ACCEPTED

McLaughlin

**Couldn't they let a
nice white,
Western, post-
Christian girl be?**

McLaughlin

My friend's experience illustrates our need for an image upgrade in a genuine mind-set change. Many of us associate Christianity with white, Western imperialism. There are reasons for this-some quite ugly, regrettable reasons. But most of the world's Christians are neither white nor Western, and Christianity is getting less white Western by the day. This is partly thanks to the missionary activities of non-Westerners.

McLaughlin

For instance, despite its small population and Christian minority (29 percent), South Korea exports the second largest number of missionaries of any country in the world. As Yale law professor and leading black public intellectual Stephen Carter has observed, there is 'a difficulty endemic to today's secular left: an all-too-frequent weird refusal to acknowledge the demographics of Christianity.'

Carter points out that in the US, black women are by far the most Christian demographic, while ‘around the globe, the people most likely to be Christian are women of color.’ He warns, ‘When you mock Christians, you’re not mocking who you think you are.’

**– Rebecca McLaughlin,
*Confronting Christianity***



Marxism

the system of economic and political thought developed by Karl Marx, along with Friedrich Engels, especially the doctrine that the state throughout history has been a device for the exploitation of the masses by a dominant class, that class struggle has been the main agency of historical change, and that the capitalist system, containing from the first the seeds of its own decay, will inevitably, after the period of the dictatorship of the proletariat, be superseded by a socialist order and a classless society.

-Dictionary.com

James 4:1-3

What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from your passions that wage war within you? ² You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

James 4:4-6

⁴ You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely?

⁶ But he gives greater grace. ^{CSB}

Jeffrey Johnson

...to fix man's behavior issues and the ills of society, Marx reasoned, we must fix these external institutions of power. The problem is not within man, as James declares (James 4:1), but within the institutions of society.

In other words, for Marx, the problems vexing society have nothing to do with mankind being in a hostile relationship with God. They are, rather, the fault of institutions of society. The problem, as they say, is *institutional or systemic.*”

**– Jeffrey D. Johnson,
*What every Christian Should
Know About Social Justice***



Romans 8:7

⁷ The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. ^{CSB}

Critical Race Theory-UCLA School of Public Affairs

CRT recognizes that racism is engrained in the fabric and system of the American society. The individual racist need not exist to note that institutional racism is pervasive in the dominant culture. This is the analytical lens that CRT uses in examining existing power structures. CRT identifies that these power structures are based on white privilege and white supremacy, which perpetuates the marginalization of people of color.

Critical Race Theory-UCLA School of Public Affairs

CRT also rejects the traditions of liberalism and meritocracy. Legal discourse says that the law is neutral and colorblind, however, CRT challenges this legal “truth” by examining liberalism and meritocracy as a vehicle for self-interest, power, and privilege. CRT also recognizes that liberalism and meritocracy are often stories heard from those with wealth, power, and privilege. These stories paint a false picture of meritocracy; everyone who works hard can attain wealth, power, and privilege while ignoring the systemic inequalities that institutional racism provides.

Critical Social Justice-UCLA School of Public Affairs

Another component to CRT is the commitment to Social justice and active role scholars take in working toward “eliminating racial oppression as a broad goal of ending all forms of oppression”. This is the eventual goal of CRT and the work that most CRT scholars pursue as academics and activists.



APOLOGY / ACCEPTED

Voddie Baucham

“Beyond confronting falsehoods in general, our pursuit of justice must also be characterized by a pursuit of truth. Much has been said recently about seeking justice, and I could not agree more. However, we must be certain that we pursue justice on God’s terms. For instance, we must bear in mind that ‘A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed.

Voddie Baucham

Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established' (Deuteronomy 19:15, cf. Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 10:28). This is critical in our quest to adhere to the Lord's admonition that 'You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor' (Leviticus 19:15). How much of our current debate about justice is rooted in these principles?

Voddie Baucham

Today, people are rioting and demanding justice before knowing the facts, and in most cases, without ever considering the aforementioned principles. And here is the key: People are ignoring these principles because the standard of justice upon which their pleas are built does not come from the God of the Scriptures.

Voddie Baucham

While that may be fine for others, those of us who claim to know Christ are held to a different standard.

**-Voddie T. Baucham Jr.,
fault lines**



Exodus 20:16

**¹⁶ Do not give
false testimony
against your
neighbor. ^{CSB}**

Deuteronomy 16:19-20

¹⁹ Do not deny justice or show partiality to anyone. Do not accept a bribe, for it blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. ²⁰ Pursue justice and justice alone, so that you will live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you. ^{CSB}



APOLOGY / ACCEPTED

Seth Grossman

Several weeks ago, the *Los Angeles Times* published an opinion piece entitled “The ferocious last grasp of the religion of Christian America,” which was widely reprinted in other newspapers. The piece is based on the false premise that America in the past embraced a “corrupted” version of Christianity that was built on intolerance, violence, and “white, male, heterosexual dominance.”

It falsely claims that this corrupted "American Christianity" caused the violence at the Capitol and is an evil and dangerous force that is not dying fast enough."

-Seth Grossman,

American Christianity Is Anything But Corrupt,

American Thinker, February 4, 2021

Ephesians 2:13-15

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh, ¹⁵ he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace.

Ephesians 2:16-18

¹⁶ He did this so that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death. ¹⁷ He came and proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit. ^{CSB}

Acts 2:42-45

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Acts 2:46-47

⁴⁶ Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. ^{CSB}

Romans 13:8-10

⁸ Do not owe anyone anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not covet; and any other commandment, are summed up by this commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law. ^{CSB}

Luke 10:29

**29 But wanting to
justify himself, he
asked Jesus, “And
who is my neighbor?
CSB**

Luke 10:36-37

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

³⁷ “The one who showed mercy to him,” he said. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.” ^{CSB}



Courtesy [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)



“Wir sind alle Menschen.”

[Veer zind alleh men shen]

We are all human.



Courtesy Pinterest.com

Ephesians 4:1-6

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope, at your calling—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:7-8

⁷ Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ For it says:

**When he ascended on high,
he took the captives captive;
he gave gifts to people.'**

Ephesians 4:9-12

⁹ But what does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower parts of the earth?'

¹⁰ The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, to fill all things.

¹¹ And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:13-15

¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ.

Ephesians 4:16-18

¹⁶ From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

¹⁷ Therefore, I say this and testify in the Lord: You should no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thoughts. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them and because of the hardness of their hearts.

Ephesians 4:19-24

¹⁹ They became callous and gave themselves over to promiscuity for the practice of every kind of impurity with a desire for more and more.

²⁰ But that is not how you came to know Christ,

²¹ assuming you heard about him and were taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to take off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires, ²³ to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.

Ephesians 4:25-28

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and don't give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal. Instead, he is to do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need.

Ephesians 4:29-32

²⁹ No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. ³² And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. ^{CSB}



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Courtesy Pinterest.com



Courtesy JMikeska

Revelation 7:9-10

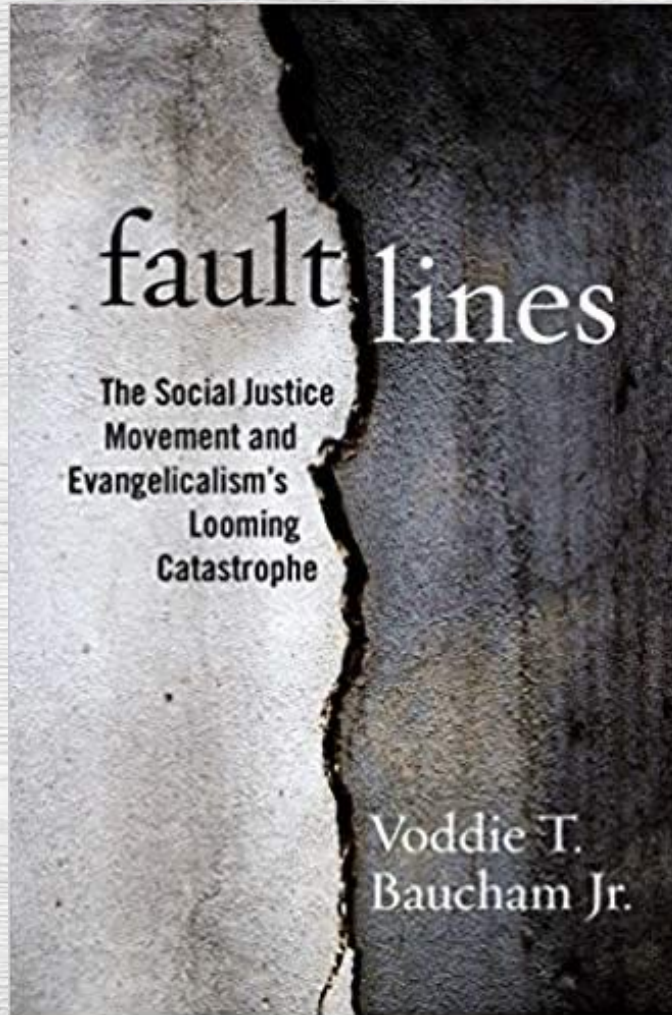
⁹ After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

**Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb! ^{CSB}**



APOLOGY / ACCEPTED



Courtesy Amazon.com