

CRITICAL RACE THEORY: THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE #5

The Problem of Prejudice

Introduction

Many Americans are waking up wondering what has happened to our country. The truth is the Church has been asleep like the sleeping farmer in Jesus' parable of the Wheat and Tares...

Matthew 13:25

But while men slept, an enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

One of the tares the enemy has sown is called 'Critical Race Theory'.

Theme

Critical Race Theory is an 'unfruitful work of darkness'; an ideology that is polluting our institutions, poisoning our young people, and bringing America to the brink of a race war.

This evil ideology has invaded our schools, our major corporations and the MSM. Critical Race Theory is tearing at the fabric of our nation.

Voddie Baucham

Families are already being torn apart. Churches and denominations are being split over this.

This enemy seems to be everywhere. But the good news is...

Isaiah 59:19

When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

The Psalmist identifies the standard God will give us...

Psalm 60:4

You have given a banner of truth to those who fear You, that it may be displayed because of the truth.

Here is the truth...

The Christian cure for the evils of Critical Race Theory and those who seek to divide and conquer America can only come from Christians who know how to deal with the problem of prejudice, in all its forms.

Tonight I want to lay the ax to the very root issue of racism...

I. The Problem of Prejudice

A. Definitions

1. What is prejudice?

- a. The word is a compound of 'pre' (before) + 'judgment'
- b. Here is the definition:

Prejudice

An unfavorable opinion or feeling formed beforehand, especially of a hostile nature, regarding an ethnic, racial, social, or religious group.

Prejudice

Having a preset idea about others based on assumptions and preconceptions rather than their actions or character.

2. Prejudice is a problem we often fail to see it in ourselves because it functions at somewhat of a subconscious level and functions in many forms.

There Are Many Kinds of Prejudice

Chronological Prejudice on the basis of age

The age-old conflict between the generations, i.e. rebellion in young people

Geographical Prejudice on the basis of where people live or come from

'Yankee' versus 'Confederate'; 'Red State' Vs. 'Blue State'

Gender Prejudice on the basis of male and female

Some men see women as 'lesser' or as only fit for housewifery; some women see men as oppressors; one said, 'all men are 'creeps'

Class or Economic Prejudice on the basis of social standing or standard of living

Some prejudice according to clothing; others look down on common laborers; others resent the wealthy...

3. And then there is the prejudice found in Critical Race Theory... Racial or Ethnic Prejudice on the basis of skin color or nationality.

4. The truth is that the Critical Race Theorists themselves are prime perpetrators of racial prejudice today. Critical Race Theory pre-judges all white people as racist.

Kate Slater, Assistant Dean at Brandeis University

Yes, all White people are racist in that all White people have been conditioned in a society where one's racial identity determines life experiences and outcomes and Whiteness is the norm and default. That includes me! I don't hate White people. I hate Whiteness.

a. What's going on here? The Critical Race Theorists pre-judge all white people as racist against black people at the same time they themselves are practicing racism against white people!

5. Critical Race Theory is a house of cards built on the lie that people are born prejudiced. But as Chuck Swindoll once said, that cannot be true...

Chuck Swindoll

Prejudice is a learned trait. You are not born prejudiced; you are taught it.

6. No one is born racist; someone taught it to them. No one is born a Critical Race Theorist; someone taught it to them. The same principle applies to prejudice in all its forms. But God's word has the cure for it.

B. The Christian Solution

1. The thing to remember is that all forms of prejudice are a pre-judgment of others on the basis of what the New Testament refers to as 'the flesh' instead of the 'spirit'.

a. Paul says that becoming a Christian puts an end to all that.

2 Corinthians 5:16

Therefore, FROM NOW ON, we regard no one according to the flesh.

2. I missed this many times. When Paul says ‘from now on’ it means there has been a change!

a. He might have said, “Up to now I have regarded others according to the flesh, but not from now on”. What does he mean?

b. The context proves he’s talking about how his conversion to Christ changed the way he ‘regarded’ others.

c. The Greek word means to ‘behold’, to ‘consider’ or to judge.

d. In other words, AFTER he became a believer, he made a DECISION about how he would judge other people. In other words...

e. Becoming a Christian doesn’t automatically deliver you from prejudice.

Every born-again believer must make a ‘from now on’ decision to regard, consider, judge (or pre-judge) no one according to the flesh!

3. I remember the Civil Rights battles of the 1960’s when God used Martin Luther King, a Christian minister, to awaken the conscience of our so-called Christian nation with his famous “I Have a Dream Speech”:

Dr. Martin Luther King

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

a. This was a modernized version of what Paul had said: he dreamed of a nation where no one would judge others according to the flesh or skin color..

b. This one speech turned the tide in the Civil Rights war; there was widespread national repentance about racism, even in the Church.

c. Many had a ‘from now on’ moment like Paul himself.

4. Over in Philippians 3, the Apostle Paul himself admitted Christ had delivered him from his former prejudice of how he had formerly judged himself superior to others.

Philippians 3:3-4

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

Philippians 3:5-7

Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

a. After he came to Christ, Paul came to understand the words of Jesus...

John 6:63

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

5. To sum it up: All the evils of racism and prejudice have one thing at the root, judging others 'after the flesh'. And it's not a new problem for God's people. It was in the early church. But not black versus white; it was Jew versus Gentile.

II. The Racial Conflict In the Early Church is Everywhere in the New Testament

A. The Ministry of Jesus

1. Many of the Jews of Jesus' day, especially the Pharisees, were actually racists. Why? Because they judged themselves as superior to other nations on the basis of the flesh in that they could trace their genealogy back to Abraham. The debate is recorded in John 8.

a. In v. 32, Jesus had promised His true disciples would know the truth and the truth would set them free. But...

John 8:33

They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

John 8:37-39

"I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."

John 8:41

They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father."

John 8:42 -44

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil..."

2. The point of the passage is how these Pharisees considered themselves children of God on the basis of the flesh. But Jesus judged their hearts.

B. Racial Issues Continued After the Resurrection

1. After the resurrection, the greatest enemies of the Gospel were the Jews.

a. At Antioch:

Acts 13:44-45

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. (Scholars tell us that the 'envy' was the Gospel offer of salvation to all nations)

b. At Corinth:

Acts 18:5-6

When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed

him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

c. In Thessalonica:

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16

For you, brethren...also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

2. All of these examples tell us that racial prejudice was working among the Jews who refused to believe that God would save non-Jewish people.

3. On the other hand, multitudes of Jews did receive Christ. But even some of them continued to practice racism.

a. As in the Galatian churches, where Paul had to deal with Judaizing teachers who were telling the Gentiles were not truly right with God unless they practiced the Jewish customs.

Galatians 3:26-28

For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

David French

At one stroke, Paul sweeps away race, class, and sex as controlling identities. It's not that you're a 'Greek Christian'. It's that you're all Christian. Our identity rests in Christ and in Him alone.

b. Paul faced the same issue in Rome, where he had to deal with racism to the Romans because of some were teaching that Jewish

Christians were superior to Gentile Christians. (Some still believe this today).

Romans 10:11-13

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

4. The Jews of Jesus' day were like the 'white supremacists' of our day; they saw themselves superior on the basis of race. Even some of the Jews who became Christian continued to boast themselves over their Gentile brethren who were not circumcised.

a. Paul amazing response? He redefined what it meant to be a "Jew".

Romans 2:28-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; whose circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

b. The Jews defined a Jew after a circumcision of the flesh; but God defines a Jew as one circumcised of heart.

c. Later, In Romans 9:6-7 Paul says 'not all Israel is of Israel'; meaning not all Jews are really Jews-meaning people of God. Not all Israel is true Israel in the same way that not everyone in the church is a Christian!

Matthew Henry

This is alike true of Christianity. He is not a Christian that is one outwardly, nor is that baptism which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Christian that is one inwardly, and baptism is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men but of God.

5. Paul wasn't the only Apostle Paul who had to deal with the problem of prejudice. **Before God could send Simon Peter to the house of Cornelius the Gentile, He had to visit him 3 times with a vision to persuade him to go.**

a. In the vision, God commanded Peter to eat animals clean and unclean.

b. Later he receives an invitation to visit the family of a Roman soldier. When Peter arrives...

Acts 10:28

Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

c. A few verses later, after the whole family is saved and baptized...

Acts 10:34-35

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. (God is no respecter of persons). But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

6. I give all these examples to show you how the problems of prejudice and racism have been around since the days of Jesus and how we should deal with it.

III. Close

A. The Only Permanent Solution is the Gospel

1. The problems of the world are not the white race or the black race-it's the human race.

2. Prejudice and racism are expressions of our sinful nature that can't be fixed by passing laws or redistributing wealth.

3. We need to be born again; we need to see ourselves and others as God sees...

1 Samuel 16:7 NIV

The Lord does not see as man sees. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

This is the ideal we shoot for. But...

David French

To state this fundamental spiritual truth is not to deny that a broken, sinful world (including an often broken, sinful church) persists in wrongly elevating race, gender, or class and often making those identities primary and central to their perceptions of others.

David French

But the role of the church is to oppose that false construct. All human beings are defined most principally by the shared reality that they are made in the image of God. And all Christians are defined by Christ.

4. We can't help the world until we find help ourselves. Like practicing the Golden Rule.

Matthew 7:12

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

a. I don't want others to judge me on the basis of my gender, my age or my skin color; so I must not do that to others.

5. There is a place for judgment! But not 'according to the flesh'!

John 7:24

Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Closing Prayer

Title