

Series: **Aliens 2.0**

Today's Title: "**CRT & Intersectionality**"

November 7, 2021 – *Selected passages*

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**Objective:** To help people know what the Bible says about CRT & Intersectionality.

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## Opening Prayer

Last Tuesday was election day - and there were some big upsets in different parts of the country - and some of the media outlets and talking heads claimed the upsets were because of **racism**.

The topic of race - especially Critical Race Theory - CRT - was all over the news for a few days.

That's what we're going to talk about today: Critical Race Theory / Intersectionality / BLM.

Our goal is to understand these beliefs / worldviews - and see how they align with what the Bible says about race.

Let's start there...with the Bible.

## **The Biblical truth about race.**

There is only 1 race.

The Biblical truth about race is that God created race.

But He didn't create 'race' in the way the term is used today in our culture and media.

**The Bible is very clear on issues of 'race', and it has nothing to do with the color of a person's skin.**

When the Bible talks of the differences between people and groups of people, it talks about how they come from different nations, different tribes, languages, culture, and people groups.

Nothing in the Bible speaks of the physical appearance of people differentiating them from other people.

- Moses' wife, Zipporah - from Cush, modern-day Nubia - South Sudan - to the south of Egypt (Exodus 2:21; Numbers 12:1 - <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/cush/>)

- The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)

#### **Revelation 4:9**

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...”

**We are all members of the same race - the human race.**

This is the only race there is - according to the Bible.

#### **Acts 17:26-27**

“And He (God) made from one man (Adam) every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him.”

The Apostle Peter was in agreement with Paul on this matter.

#### **Acts 10:34-35**

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right.”

We all have a common origin and bond.

When the Bible speaks of humanity, being made in the image of God, it began with 2 people - Adam and Eve - the first man and first woman.

This is what we read in the opening chapter of the Bible.

**Genesis 1:26-27**

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness."

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The biological and genetic roots of humanity go back to 2 people - Adam and Eve.

How can that be?

How can we have so much physical variety and variability from only 2 people?

Because of the incredible complexity and genetic potential for variety God placed in the human body.

Genetically, there is a great variety of skin shades that can be produced in only 1 generation.

***The point*** - no matter what your skin color or tone - we all have a common origin going back to the very beginning with Adam and Eve.

That's the Biblical reality pertaining to our biological and ancestral roots.

The Christian's new identity.

We certainly have differences within humanity.

Differences of nationality, geography, ethnicity, culture, skin color and tone, and language.

We also have differences of education, wealth, and gender.

Our human, sinful nature looks at people and sees the differences, and then works to separate or segregate according to those differences.

Our identity is often bound up in our external appearances, differences, and lifestyle.

Our nature prefers to be with others who look like us - who have similar experiences, similar nationality, geography, ethnicity, culture, and language.

But where our sinful nature divides, the Gospel of Christ unites.

**Galatians 3:26-27**

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

Other translations: “have put on Christ.”

When you put your faith in Christ Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, your identity changes - from the list we just went over - to being identified as one of God’s children - in His family.

We are now “clothed with Christ” - that is our primary identity!

In the human realm, our differences put us in the front or the back of the line.

They are part of the social pecking order - those who society admires, and those they look down upon.

In Judaism, Jews believed they were more favored by God, and Gentiles (“Greek”) were not.

But Paul makes it clear, as he continues:

**Galatians 3:28**

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

This doesn’t mean those differences are no longer there. It means they don’t give you advantage or disadvantage when it comes to Christ.

But Paul goes on...

**3:29**

“And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”

We are also in the same family - Abraham’s spiritual family who will receive God’s promises to Abraham!!

Our new unity.

Another result of our human differences is a lack of unity.

We view the world through the lens of ‘*us vs. them*’.

But when you put your faith in Christ, your new identity leads to a new unity with other Christ followers - even those who are different than you!

We see this new unity in 2 primary areas.

1. Our creation is rooted in the loving community of the triune God (“let Us make man in our image, after our likeness” - Gen. 1:26)

2. Christian unity is rooted in what Jesus prays about.  
**John 17:21-23**

“...that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

**22** The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one,

**23** I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me.”

**It’s difficult to overstate the importance of Christian unity - as it reflects the unity of the Triune God - and the unity of the Father and the incarnate Son.**

**Our unity is evidence to the world of the reality of Christ.**

So, in considering the topic of ‘race’ (as the term is used in our culture today), we have seen that the Bible teaches:

**1. We are all members of the same race - the human race.**

2. We all share a biological origin in Adam and Eve - and that speaks to the common bond we have in our humanity.
3. As Christians, we have a new identity in Christ. We no longer look to our human differences for our identity - but we look to Christ and our adoption into the family of God - as Abraham's offspring.
4. As Christians, we have a necessary unity that is based in the unity of the Triune God - and in the unity of the incarnate Son with the Father - in which Jesus includes us in that eternal, unifying bond.

### **What is CRT and Intersectionality?**

Let's look at CRT and Intersectionality so we can determine if they are aligned *with* or *against* the truths and principles of what the Bible teaches.

**Critical Race Theory - CRT** - has its roots in **Critical Theory** - which is rooted in Marxism - and in the Frankfurt School (1920's - 1930's), and it became popular in academic circles in the United States in the 1960's and 70's. (<https://iep.utm.edu/frankfur/#SH2b>) (<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/critical-theory/>)

(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/critical-theory>)

Think of Critical Theory as a tree - and one of the branches is Critical Race Theory.

Other branches are: Critical Legal Studies / Critical Social Justice / Critical Art Theory / Intersectionality / Wokeism / Anti-Racism, etc.

To understand Critical Theory, you must have a basic understanding of Marxism.

Karl Marx (1818-1883) is the creator of Marxism - he also wrote the Communist Manifesto.

Marxism sees the world - views a culture - through a lens that sees everyone in 1 of 2 groups: Oppressor / Oppressed.

Each member of society is placed in 1 of these 2 groups. Oppressors are the wealthy, those who own a business or are in positions of power or leadership.

The oppressed are the workers - the people, or the proletariat.

“**Marx** theorized that eventually and inevitably the workers - the proletariat - would take control of the factories, mills, businesses from the owners of those factories, mills and businesses. They would then establish a utopian state (Communism) in which the people / proletariat would control everything and equally share everything. Private ownership would go away - and everything would be shared by all.

**Vladimir Lenin** took Marxism to the next level - and after the Russian revolution, his Bolshevik Party took over - killing up to 3 million people - including poor peasants who were unwilling to surrender their small plot of land.

**Stalin** was next - murdering even more people - more of the proletariat.

**Mao** in China - adopting Marxist and Communist philosophies, outdid them all murdering more than the other leaders.”



According to Marxist theory, the Judeo-Christian understandings of right and wrong are inherent in the oppressors - and therefore must be rejected.

[\(https://standfirminfaith.com/recognizing-critical-theory/\)](https://standfirminfaith.com/recognizing-critical-theory/)

**Critical Theory has Marxist roots - and so do all the branches on the Critical Theory tree.**

## **CRT**

“Critical Race Theory: An introduction” is a textbook used by many law schools today. Here's how it describes CRT:

“Unlike traditional civil rights, which embraces incrementalism and step-by-step progress, critical race theory questions the very foundations of the liberal order, including equality theory, legal reasoning, Enlightenment rationalism, and neutral principles of constitutional law.”

Critical Theory is a worldview, and it rejects almost all of the current order and structures in the Western world.

**CT sees people in 2 groups: Oppressors & Oppressed.**

Critical Race Theory applies this template through the added lens of race.

Some Christians have identified with CRT's goal of liberating the oppressed from injustice and eliminating racism from our society but may not have considered the

deeper implications or roots of CRT. (From Summit Ministries, "The Big Ideas Behind

Critical Race Theory", 6 Reasons Why CRT is Unbiblical, by Jannique Stewart, p. 13)

CRT sees all white people as the 'oppressors' and all other people as the 'oppressed'.

It views and adds value or guilt to people based on what they look like - the color of their skin.

But it goes even further.

If a white person has stood up for equal treatment - fought against racism - believes in the dignity and value of every person - that is not enough.

If they don't admit to being an 'oppressor' - then they are part of the problem.

**CRT sees the entire system in our nation as racist.**

The courts - expectations of public behavior - law enforcement - medical care - and of course, education.

Oregon public schools - a CRT-based teacher training course that math is racist - basis of the entire training course is that teachers are racist if they teach traditional math - and they must learn to teach math in a non-racist manner.

AZ Education Dept. - white babies and toddlers are racist.

"Not My Idea" - a children's book used in dozens of public schools across the country - teaches kids that being white - or 'whiteness' is a bad thing - always

was a bad thing - and has a whiteness contract with the devil on one of the pages, which gives white people the privilege to steal from others, abuse others, and to “mess endlessly” with other people’s lives.

(<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/06/anastasia-higginbotham-not-my-idea-children-police-killings/619087/>)

## **Intersectionality**

Intersectionality is another branch on the Critical Theory tree.

Intersectionality believes that there are multiple factors in people’s lives that ‘intersect’ and increase the oppression in their life.

In this sense, there is a kernel of truth here, and we have seen this play out in church ministries.

Women’s Ministry vs. Single Mothers Ministry.

But Intersectionality takes it to the extreme - as it is used as a badge of honor in Critical Theory circles.

Examples:

**White, heterosexual (cis) male - oppressor - the problem**

White woman - oppressor due to being white - but as a woman she is also oppressed.

A black man or a Hispanic man - oppressed

A gay black man - 2x oppressed

A black woman - more oppressed than a black man because she is a woman.

A black, lesbian woman - deals with even more oppression.

Like CRT, Intersectionality views people through the lens of skin color, and other realities in their life. People are viewed as a group - not as individuals.

### **Black Lives Matter - BLM**

The founders of BLM - Patrice Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi, are self-identified “trained Marxists”.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp-RswgpiD8> - “trained Marxists comment at 7:09)

The founders - and their purpose for BLM is in alignment with Critical Theory - especially CRT - but also the other branches of the Critical Theory tree. BLM is openly Feminist, Pro-LGBTQIA+, Anti-Male and Anti-Family.

Does BLM work to help black people around the world? Yes...but that’s more their public persona - their marketing identity.

The majority of their beliefs and goals are Marxist-oriented and right out of the Critical Theory playbook.

The page is no longer on the BLM website - but it used to list ‘What we believe’.

“We build a space that affirms Black women and is free from sexism, misogyny, and environments in which men are centered.”

“We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.”

“We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking...”

(From the University of Central Arkansas, <https://uca.edu/training/files/2020/09/black-Lives-Matter-Handout.pdf>)

They are against the traditional family because they see it as an aspect of the hegemony - or one of the power structures in the culture.

Contrast CRT, Intersectionality, and BLM with traditional Civil Rights...

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** led the American civil rights movement until he was murdered by an assassin on April 4, 1968.

Dr. King was a preacher - and his fight against prejudice and racism was based in our nation's founding documents along with his belief in God, the Bible, the image of God in each person, and in the dignity of every human being.

He was a brilliant speaker.

His speeches have survived the test of time. You can listen to his speeches today and they still ring true.

His speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. in August of 1963 painted a picture of ethnic / racial unity - and in that speech where he shared his "dream" of what America could / should be - he said,

"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."

But today, Dr. King would be rejected by those advancing and supporting CRT, Intersectionality, and BLM.

They reject the idea of "*color-blindness*" and claim it is covert white supremacy, and the idea of being judged "*by the content of their character*" is rejected as having to fit into the oppressor's definition of character.

I believe it's clear that CRT, Intersectionality, and BLM all share the same values, worldview and philosophy.

They all view people in categories and groups - what used to be called prejudice or racist.

### **Where does Critical Theory - and the different branches of the CT tree - agree or align with the Bible?**

4 areas:

Oppression is evil

Abuse of power is always spoken against - it is sinful - it is abhorrent to God, and He judges those who use their position to hurt others as they help themselves. (See Isaiah 1:17; Zech. 7:20; Mark 12:30; James 5:4)

Racism is evil - it is a sin - must be confronted.

Structures and systems throughout history have promoted evil and sin.

- Slavery in different countries throughout history
- The Holocaust

Hegemonic power does exist, and it can have negative effects on societies norms and values.

e.g., Hollywood, Madison Ave., media, music

### **Where does Critical Theory - and the different branches of the CT tree - not align with the Bible?**

1. They separate people based on physical appearances and societal standing.

**The Bible teaches** we are the same race, share the same biological origins.

**The Bible teaches** Christians have a new identity in Christ and a necessary unity in God and our new identity and new family.

2. They divide people into groups and each of the groups have different commands or obligations they must follow and agree with.

**The Bible teaches** the same commands to all people - all Christians.

**The Bible teaches** human equality, value, and dignity, while upholding the different roles people have in life.

3. They believe authorities and positions of power must be dismantled and overthrown.

**The Bible teaches** that authority is a good thing - ordained by God - for the good of society. The Bible affirms the legitimacy of authority (Rom. 12, Eph. 5:21-6:9, Col. 3:18-4:1, Titus 2:1-10, Deut. 1:17, Prov. 20:11).

4. They believe that groups - specifically white people are guilty of past generation's sins.

**The Bible teaches** that all people are sinful (Romans 3:23) and each person is responsible for their own sin, not for the sin of others - including past generations.



(See: "Wokeism" sermon - week 1 - <https://subsplash.com/cdobaptist/media/mi/+vg329bm>).

## ***Apply it...***

How should Christians respond?

How should we think of these things - and those who identify with these movements and worldviews?

Know the truth and commit to the truth.

Know the truth about our history - about racism - about current events - and most importantly, the truth found in God's Word.

**Psalm 119:104-105**

"Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

God's Word - the Bible - should be our guiding light - the filter or lens we use in life.

Speak truth to falsehood - repent from sin.

We have made wonderful advancements in our nation - but racism still exists - it is still alive - on many fronts.

Speak against it - call it out - repent from it - share the Bible's truth about race / ethnicity.

Confront the abuse of power and position.

Our faith must be a blessing to others.

God saved you not only for your benefit, but so you could be a blessing to others.

**Micah 6:8**

“...O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

This is a spiritual battle.

Our enemy is the evil one - not other people.

**1 John 2:11**

“But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness.”

In that same speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King also said,

“We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence.

Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny.”

- We are all 1 human race - sons and daughters of Adam and Eve.
- A Christian's primary identity is in Christ!
- We are to be unified in our common humanity - and with other Christians - no matter their skin color.
- Judge people based on their personal choices - their individual character.
- Sins of the past generations don't make current generations guilty.

Every person - no matter who or what they are - need the forgiveness of God in their life.

**Romans 3:23**

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.”

God desires everyone to put their faith in Jesus and His sacrifice for your sins.

**1 Timothy 2:5-6**

“Christ Jesus...gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone.”

Closing prayer