

STAND FIRM AGAINST CRITICAL RACE THEORY

By Andy Manning

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. **Acts 20:28** “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.”
2. A pastor’s job is to guard the flock from false teaching. One of the newest false teachings is called Critical Race Theory (aka “wokeness”). It dominates the universities, the public schools, the media, Hollywood, the government, and now it is threatening evangelical Christianity.
3. Is Critical Race Theory a big deal?
 - i. It’s such a big deal that President Trump just signed again executive order against it.
 1. In September 2020 President Trump ended all funding for personnel training programs that used CRT.
 2. One training session highlighted occurred in 2019 at Sandia National Laboratories, where we make nuclear bombs. A three-day reeducation camp was conducted for white males which taught them how to “deconstruct their white male culture,” and forced them to “write letters of apology to women and people of color.”
 3. The Department of the Treasury recently held a seminar that promoted arguments that “virtually all White people, regardless of how ‘woke’ they are, contribute to racism.”
 4. The **executive order** reads, “This ideology is rooted in the pernicious and false belief that America is an irredeemably racist and sexist country; that some people, simply on account of their race or sex, are oppressors; and that racial and sexual identities are more important than our common status as human beings and Americans.”
 5. **Trump said**, “This is a sickness that cannot be allowed to continue. Please report any sightings so we can quickly extinguish.” CRT has infiltrated the university, the public school system, the government, corporate America, the media, and now the church.
 - ii. This is such a divisive issue that it threatens to tear apart the largest Protestant denomination in America.
 1. Last year at the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, the Convention adopted Resolution 9, On Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality. It defined CRT as “a set of analytical tools that explain how race has and continues to function in society.”

Instead of condemning CRT and distancing itself from CRT, it embraced it as tools to help us pursue racial justice.

2. This upset a lot of people, so much that In February of this year a new network was launched among Southern Baptist Churches called the Conservative Baptist Network. The focus is to reject CRT and emphasize evangelism and the sufficiency of Scripture.
3. Just this month (Dec 2020), the presidents of the six SBC seminaries issued a joint statement condemning critical race theory.

II. DEFINITION

1. CRT originated in the 1970s because proponents believed that the gains of the Civil Rights Movement “had stalled... [and] in fact, were being rolled back.”
https://www.mabts.edu/sites/all/themes/midamerica/uploads/pdf/Understanding_Key_Debates.pdf
2. The primary creator of CRT is Derrick Bell, Barack Obama’s favorite Harvard law professor. In 1973 he wrote a book called *Race, Racism, and American Law*. It is now a law school standard, now in its sixth edition. Bell believed the fundamental problem in America was racism, and that the law was structured by whites to stay in power over blacks.
3. CRT divides everyone into two classes, the oppressed, and the oppressors, based on your race. If you are white, then you are an oppressor. If you are black, then you are one of the oppressed.
 - i. [Dr. Neil Shenvi](#) explains how this racism is said to be carried out. “Oppressed groups are subjugated not by physical force or even overt discrimination, but through the exercise of hegemonic power – the ability of dominant groups to impose their norms, values, and expectations on society as a whole, relegating other groups to subordinate positions.”

III. TENETS

1. **The United States, including all of its institutions, is racist.**
 - i. Training materials from the Argonne National Laboratories, a federal entity, stated that racism “is interwoven into every fabric of America.”
 - ii. In 2017, Georgia Democrat **Raphael Warnock** (running for US Senate) preached that “America’s preexisting condition” is “racism.” Warnock said, “America has a preexisting condition. It’s called racism. It’s called classism. It’s called bigotry. It’s called xenophobia. And we need God to heal us of our preexisting condition.”
 - iii. In 2016, just before the presidential election, **Warnock** said that “America needs to repent for its worship of whiteness on full display.”
 - iv. **Jonathan Noyes** ([Stand to Reason](#)) “According to CRT, the fundamental problem with America is its ‘whiteness,’ its caste system based on skin color. The lighter your skin, the closer you are to the top of the system. Since the United States was founded by white men, racism has been woven into the

tapestry of the American experiment from the beginning, and it continues to corrupt every aspect of American life. Our “original sin,” then, according to CRT, is whiteness.”

- v. **Ryan Helfenbein** ([Executive Director of the Falkirk Center for Faith & Liberty](#)) “Proponents of CRT operate from the assumption that in every facet of life, underlying racism exists and motivates the oppressor class. Proponents do not consider a situation on its face, instead they approach it by believing that racism is present whether it is overt or hidden below the surface and try to point out the racist motivations that influence nearly every situation.”
- vi. **Richard Delgado’s & Jean Stefancic’s** book, *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction* provides the following insights: CRT holds “racism is engrained in the fabric and system of the American society.....the individual racist need not exist (in order for) institutional racism [to be] pervasive in the dominant culture.”
 - 1. Commenting on this quote, **Bill Conner** ([Christian Post](#)) wrote “In other words, even if whites, as an alleged dominant group, are not individually racist, racism still exists and will exist due to whites being a dominant culture. The only seeming way to end racism is ending the alleged cultural hegemony, though CRT seems to hold whites as irredeemably racist without means of redemption.”
- vii. According to CRT, the question must never be asked, “Was racism involved in this event?” Rather, the question is always, “How was racism involved in this event?”
- viii. This is why the NFL players kneel for the national anthem. This is why BLM and Antifa rioters feel justified in destroying entire cities in the name of social justice.
- ix. CRT believes the solution to America’s racism is to remove those currently in power, destroy the entire system, and place the oppressed in charge.
- x. **Albert Mohler** explains that CRT “is rooted in a worldview, the worldview of Marxism, a worldview that understands the basic evil in the world, as the oppression of the worker by those who hold capital. And thus, the answer to that is a revolution that would eliminate capitalism, that would eliminate a free market, a free market economy, and would instead, put the state in the position of creating an economically just society, and by coercion, and by state ownership, and by confiscation, in the promise that eventually there would be a communist utopia, which of course never comes.” (Al Mohler, the Briefing, June 14, 2019)
- xi. This is what CRT is all about. Eliminate capitalism, freedom, the free market, and place all power in the hands of black CRT advocates who can remake society into a communist utopia.
- xii. Problems:

1. CRT ignores the great sacrifices that many white Americans have made in the pursuit of racial equality. In the Civil War, over 360,000 Union soldier gave their lives to liberate black people from slavery.
2. CRT ignores the great progress that our nation has made toward racial equality. **Dinesh D'Souza** "In a single decade, from the mid-fifties to the mid-sixties, America radically overhauled its laws through a series of landmark decisions: Brown v. Board of Education, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act. Through such measures, America established equality of rights under the law. Of course, the need to enforce nondiscrimination provisions continues, but for nearly half a century, blacks and other minorities have enjoyed the same legal rights as whites."
3. CRT ignores the evidence that racism against blacks today is no longer a major problem.
 - a. **Herman Cain** "I don't believe racism in this country holds anybody back in a big way."
 - b. **Larry Elder** "Racism can no longer hold you back if you are willing to work hard, and stay focused, and don't make bad moral mistakes."
 - c. As proof, remember that America just elected a black president twice in a row, and most recently elected a black woman as vice president.

2. Disparity equals discrimination.

- i. The classic definition of racism is favoring one group of people over another group of people because of their race. [Dr. Richard Land](#) defined racism as "discriminating against individuals because of innate, inborn, ethnic characteristic of their birth."
- ii. CRT has redefined racism.
 1. CRT emphasizes systemic or structural racism, defined as any system or structure which leads to disparities against black people.
 - a. This goes back to the Marxist definition of equity as equal outcomes between people groups.
 - b. **Sae Kang** (a medical doctor writing for [Christian Post](#)) "Our cultural definition of justice stands in sharp contrast to this biblical understanding. The social justice warriors in our culture shout with a megaphone, "Any form of disparity is injustice. Inequality between people of different race, sexual orientation, gender identity, is due to systemic injustice. Anyone that participates in systems that further the inequality is automatically guilty."

- c. Examples: The SAT; the prison system; income; high school drop out rate; crime levels.
 - 2. Racism is defending any system which leads to disparities.
 - a. This explains why President Trump is called a racist.
- iii. Problems:
 - 1. CRT overlooks the fact that true systemic racism no longer exists in America. It is now illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of race. Racism exists, but it is anecdotal, not systemic.
 - 2. To explain all disparity as discrimination is illogical. For example, 93% of prison inmates are men. Is this because society is sexist against men? No. It means that men commit far more crimes.
 - 3. To explain all disparity as discrimination is to overlook the impact of culture. It is widely known that the biggest problem facing the black community is not racism but fatherlessness. Over 70% of blacks are raised without a father. **President Obama** said, "A kid raised without a father is 5 times more likely to be poor; 9 times more likely to drop out of school; and 10 times more likely to end up in jail."
 - a. What about those who say that the problem of fatherlessness is caused by racism? In the 1930s, before the Civil Rights movement, only 11% of black children were born out of wedlock.

3. All white people are racist.

- i. CRT has a lot to say about the moral evil of "whiteness": **Christopher F. Rufo** "Critical race theory treats 'whiteness' as a moral blight and maligns all members of that racial group as complicit in oppression."
 - 1. If you are white, you are racist because you are a part of the dominant class – the class that makes and controls the systems, structures, laws, and values in society.
 - 2. Because you are benefiting from a racist system, you are racist. This is called "white privilege." **Peggy McIntosh**, the inventor of the term said, "White privilege is like an invisible weightless knapsack of special provisions, maps, passports, code books, visas, clothes, tools, and blank checks."
 - 3. Because you are racist, you cannot see your own racism. This is called "unconscious racial bias," or "white ignorance."
 - a. An important tenet of CRT is called "standpoint epistemology." Your group membership impedes or enables your perception of truth.
 - b. Since you are a part of the dominant class, the racist class, the oppressor class, then you cannot perceive the racism that pervades society. You are blinded by your own self-interest.

- c. On the flip side, black people have special perspective and knowledge about racism that is inaccessible to white people, and this knowledge cannot be evaluated from those outside the community. We must not argue, but simply listen obey. In other words, “minority status provides its bearers with an automatic expertise in matters of race ([https://www.mabts.edu/sites/all/themes/midamerica/uploads/pdf/Understanding Key Debates.pdf](https://www.mabts.edu/sites/all/themes/midamerica/uploads/pdf/Understanding%20Key%20Debates.pdf)).”
 - 4. Because you are racist, you will get upset when you are called out. This is called “white fragility.”
 - 5. Because you are benefiting from a racist system, your natural tendency is to protect the system. This is called “white complicity.” This is the idea that all whites are conspiring together, either consciously or unconsciously, to remain in power.
 - 6. Because you are benefiting from a racist system, the only reason you will try to help a black person is for personal benefit. This is called “interest convergence.”
 - 7. When a white person admits their racism and privilege and joins the CRTs in the fight for social justice, they are “woke.” But you can never completely rid yourself of your racism.
- ii. Problems:
- 1. The statement “all white people are racist” is an example of racism. It is judging someone according to the color of their skin rather than the content of their character. It is as offensive as saying that all black people are lazy.
 - 2. It is impossible for white people to repent of racism. [James Lindsay](#) provides an example. Suppose you work at a Tailor Shop, and a white customer walks in, followed shortly by a black customer. According to CRT, if you serve the white customer first, it’s because you are a racist. If you serve the black customer first, it is because you are racist and just want to be seen as non-racist. There’s no way to win.

4. Black people cannot be racist.

- i. CRT views oppression in terms of power. Since blacks are not in power, they are not in control of society, they cannot be racist.
- ii. [Christopher Rufo](#) “Under the dogma of critical race theory, the neo-Marxist Left now treats members of ‘oppressor’ groups (whites, males, Christians, Jews, conservatives) as inherently guilty by virtue of their group membership; conversely, members of victim groups are considered morally innocent. By this logic, claims of victimization by members of victim groups necessarily must be believed, while members of oppressor groups are already guilty by virtue of their group membership. This formula eliminates

any need for due process, since the mere perception of victimization constitutes proof of same.”

- iii. This is why there is such an obvious double-standard in our culture. Blacks are permitted to do and say things that traditionally were viewed as racist, while whites are vilified for doing the same thing:
 - 1. Beginning in the 1980s, many universities began adopting “speech codes” seeking to limit student speech that black students would find offensive without a corresponding limitation on speech that white students would find offensive.
- iv. In fact, not only is it impossible for blacks to be racist, but blacks are not really responsible for their vices. They are pushed into anti-social behaviors by the oppressive system of white supremacy.
 - 1. In 2019 Eric Mason, pastor and author of the very popular CRT book *Woke Church* blamed black abortions on white people. He said that white people created the environment for mass abortions in the black community.
 - 2. The high crime rate among blacks is the fault of whites.
 - 3. The high rate of out-of-wedlock births is the fault of whites.
 - 4. The high drop-out rate among black students is the fault of whites.
- v. So, let me clarify how racist CRT is.
 - 1. All whites are racist.
 - 2. All blacks are not racist.
 - 3. Whites are responsible for the sins in the black community.
 - 4. Blacks have an enhanced perception of reality and apprehension of the truth that is inaccessible to whites.
- vi. Problems: CRT encourages blacks to hate whites, and whites to hate themselves. Not only are all whites racist and are responsible for the disparities that blacks face, but whites are responsible for the sins that blacks commit.

5. Equality is racist.

- i. To understand CRT you must understand how they define the words “equality” and “equity.” Equality is treating two people according to merit rather than race. It is giving the most qualified person the job. It is equality of opportunity. This is what America is all about.
 - 1. In **Trump’s** recent executive order he described the fundamental principles of the United States as “all individuals are created equal and should be allowed an equal opportunity under the law to pursue happiness and prosper based on individual merit.”
- ii. According to CRT, the ideas of equality and merit were invented by white people to maintain power over black people. Instead of equality, CRTs advocate for equity. Equity involves giving race-based advantages to black

people in the pursuit of equality of outcome. **Brandon Clay and Frost Smith** ([Answers in Genesis](#)) “In CRT, those with privilege should give wealth, power, and influence to those in oppressed groups.”

- iii. Along with rejecting the idea of equality, CRT also rejects the concept of colorblindness for the same reason. The idea of colorblindness is treating people according to their merit rather than their race. CRT avers that the only way to achieve social justice is to treat people according to their race. We must give advantages to black people to reach equal outcomes.
- iv. In stead of giving everyone an equal voice, CRT aims to silence white people. **Brandon Clay and Frost Smith** ([Answers in Genesis](#)) “Proponents of CRT ideology aim to ignore or deemphasize voices in the so-called “dominant” majority... CRT also aims to elevate “voices of color” and other groups of people who have been historically marginalized.”
- v. Problems: The CRT concept of “equity” is to employ racist tactics to achieve anti-racist goals – e.g. affirmative action and diversity initiatives.

6. Math and Science are racist.

- i. According to CRT, math and science, reason and logic, evidence and exegesis were created by white men as tools to legitimize knowledge in order oppress black people. In fact, they are referred to as “The Master’s Tools.”
- ii. Thus, when you argue against CRT with reason, logic, math, science, evidence, research, statistics, they claim that you are being racist.
- iii. **Neil Shenvi** “Members of oppressed groups have special access to truth because of their lived experience of oppression. This insight is unavailable to members of oppressor groups, blinded by their privilege. Appeals for objective evidence or reason my by dominant groups are bids for continued institutional power.”
- iv. Training materials from Sandia National Laboratories, where we make nuclear bombs, stated that valuing “rationality over emotionality” was characteristic of white males.
- v. Problems:
 - 1. This idea along with several others is intended to make it impossible to evaluate and critique CRT.
 - a. The Master’s Tools: Reason, debate, statistics are tools invented by white men to oppress blacks.
 - b. Standpoint epistemology: Blacks have access to special knowledge about racism that is inaccessible to whites.
 - 2. **Ryan Helfenbein** ([Executive Director of the Falkirk Center for Faith & Liberty](#)) “Critical race theory has insulated itself from scrutiny by stating that if you disagree with its claims, that proves you are a racist. Consider this analogy: I walk up to you and say "You are stupid." You would likely protest that you are not stupid. You would

demand evidence for my claim. Following the argumentation of CRT, I would respond, "See, you're so stupid that you can't even see how stupid you are, and you proved my point."

IV. DANGERS

1. CRT is racist by definition and encourages racism.

- i. It says that all whites are racist. That's racist. It says that blacks cannot be racist. That's racist. It advocates for race-based advantages for blacks. It says that blacks have access to truth that whites do not. That's racist.
- ii. The old statement, "Two wrongs don't make a right," must be applied here. In order to overcome racism, CRT resorts to racism. This is sinful and destructive.
- iii. By declaring that all white people are racist, CRT gives people justification to mistreat white people – in word and deed.
 1. It treats "whiteness" as an original sin; a moral blight; a vice. White people should be ashamed of being white, and should repent of their whiteness, should apologize for being white. And blacks are justified in hating whites.
 2. In 2018 Cher and Rosie O'Donnell were having a conversation on Twitter about who should be the Democratic presidential nominee. Cher announced her support for a Joe Biden-Beto O'Rourke ticket, and O'Donnell responded, "No more old white men."
- iv. **Michael Youssef** ([Christian Post](#)) defines CRT as "a far-left grievance ideology that condemns today's people of European ancestry for the sins of previous centuries. Instead of viewing people as individuals, as Jesus did, today's woke theorists segregate people by race and condemn white people as irredeemably guilty of all society's ills."
- v. **Sae Kang** ([Christian Post](#)) "Accepting the secular teaching that all whites, regardless of individual differences, are born into privilege in America, dehumanizes millions of people grouped based on their skin color... What is white privilege but just another form of racial stereotype, not against the people of minority but against the people of majority?"

2. CRT leads to division.

- i. The Bible commands us to promote and protect the unity of the church. **Ephesians 4:3** "making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." But CRT leads to division.
- ii. It causes black people to mistrust and dislike white people.
- iii. It angers white people when they are baselessly accused of racism.
- iv. It causes white people to resent black people when they are discriminated against because of their race (e.g. affirmative action).

3. CRT imposes an unbiblical morality on Christians and churches.

- i. The Bible says we must not add to scripture. **Deuteronomy 4:2** “You must not add anything to what I command you or take anything away from it, so that you may keep the commands of the LORD your God I am giving you.”
- ii. CRT adds new commands to scripture.
 1. You must accept and advocate on behalf of CRT. Failure to do this makes you an evil person.
 2. You must pursue racial diversity. Failure to do this makes you an evil person. If your business is not diverse enough, you are racist. If your church is not diverse enough, it is racist.
 3. You must pay for the sins of past generations of whites (e.g. reparations).

4. CRT distracts from real problems and solutions.

- i. There are real problems in the black community (such as fatherlessness and violent crime). But they are not caused by racism. As long the blame is placed on white people, black people will not be able to solve the real problems in their community.
- ii. **Sae Kang** ([Christian Post](#)) “According to the worldview of Cultural Marxism, the root of societal problems is not ‘our sin’ but “the system did us wrong”. The solution is not ‘repentance from sin’ but to ‘overthrow the hegemonic power structure.’”

V. BIBLICAL SOLUTION TO RACISM

1. We must treat all people as equally valuable, regardless of race.

- i. All people have several things in common: We were all created in the image of God (Gen 1:27). We are all of the same race – the human race – we all descended from Adam and Eve. We are all sinners (Rom 3:23). We are all loved by God, as demonstrated by the death of Christ for the sins of the whole world (John 3:16). We are all equal in value before God. **Galatians 3:28** “There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
- ii. Therefore, we must treat all people equally, regardless of race.

2. We must judge people as individuals, not as a racial group.

- i. CRT insists that your identity is rooted in your race.
- ii. The Bible says that your identity is a human being created in the image of God. That’s how we must treat people – as individuals, not as members of a racial group. **Colossians 3:11** “In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.”
- iii. What does it mean to treat people as individuals? It means treating them not according to race, but according to merit. Sometimes people say that America is a meritocracy – a society based on merit. That is accurate and just. In a classroom, should the teacher base your grade on your race, or on

your test scores? On your test scores. What if this system leads to a disparity against blacks, placing most blacks in the bottom half of the class? Should the teacher give blacks extra points based on their race to get rid of the disparity? No. That would be unjust against whites.

- iv. The Biblical definition of justice is to give people what they deserve. It is “rendering to all persons what is their due (Peter C. Meyers, “The Case for Colorblindness”). What you deserve is not determined by your race. It is determined by your individual character and merit.
 - v. Race must not be a determining factor when in hiring, in college admissions and scholarships, in the Academy Awards, even when we mean well.
 - vi. The solution to discrimination against blacks is not discrimination against whites. It is to treat people equally, as individual human beings, based on merit.
 - vii. We must continue to pursue the mantra of the Civil Rights movement – that people are treated according to the content of their character and not the color of their skin. This includes us as individuals, businesses, schools, and the government.
3. We must love as Christ has taught us to love.
- i. The Bible’s teachings on ethics and morality are sufficient for racial reconciliation. We don’t need CRT to teach us how to treat people.
 - ii. **Mark 12:31** “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
 - iii. **Luke 6:31** “Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them.”
 - iv. **Luke 6:27-28** “27 “But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”