

Editorial / Opinion

Family & Marriage

AMERICAN AND CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON CRITICAL RACE THEORY

By Bill Connor

Over the past few months, parents across the United States have risen up against the teaching of Critical Race Theory (CRT) in school districts their children attend. As we have seen on video, the outcry comes from multiple racial demographics of parents. The political left initially defended the teaching of CRT, however, most began backing off when 22-24 June poll (YouGov and Yahoo) found that of those Americans who knew about CRT, 49% were against exposing students to it, while only 37% of that group favored such exposure. Since that poll, the Left (including Biden administration) has denied students are being exposed to CRT even while evidence refutes that claim. Instead, they now argue opponents of CRT are actually concerned about exposing students to any history involving Slavery or other racism. Since those opposing CRT do not propose restricting the teaching of racism in history, it's become more important to delineate the important differences with CRT. In doing so, I also offer a Christian perspective for opposition to CRT while still tackling racism and teaching all history.

First, it's important to understand the genesis of CRT. The idea for "Critical Theory" derived from the writings of Italian neo-Marxist Philosopher, Antonio Gramsci. Gramsci wrote primarily in the 1920s until his death in prison in 1937. He targeted what he saw as the great obstacle to worldwide Communist Revolution: An alleged cultural hegemony. Gramsci posited that to bring Revolution to a society, the hegemonic pillars of that society (Church, family, etc.)

had to be undermined through sustained criticism, thereby flipping hegemony from alleged oppressor to oppressed. The German Frankfurt school was influenced by Gramsci and began using the term Critical Theory, as early as the late 1930s. Herbert Marcuse, German refugee and member of the Frankfurt school who taught at Harvard in the 1960s, is considered by many as the father of Critical Theory and of "the New Left" in America. His hyper-criticism of the American system was followed by the development of Critical Legal Studies (the US legal system upholds majority power, regardless of apparent objective legal equality). Critical Theory and Critical Legal Theory gave way to CRT. From the beginnings of in the 1980s under the writings of Law Professor Derrick Bell, CRT continued Gramsci's oppressor/oppressed dynamic.

CRT is distinct from the objective teaching of race within history. CRT holds that racism in America is not aberrational, but baked in the system, including the current system. CRT holds that equity (racial groups having equal outcome) is the goal, and not equal opportunity for individuals. CRT holds that the very idea of color-blindness (Think Martin Luther King Jr's dream his children would be "judged by the content of their character, and not the color of their skin") is itself a perpetuator of racism within the alleged racist system. CRT hold that minorities (particularly "intersectionality" minorities with multiple oppressions) have knowledge that majorities cannot have. It goes so far as to assert that for a white to deny racism proves his racism. CRT holds that appeals to objective evidence and reason proving a lack of racism are irrelevant when compared to subjective opinions of minorities. CRT



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holds that majority groups are guilty of alleged disparities, and members hold unearned "privilege". Bottom line: Regardless of the apparent equality and goodness of America, it is actually a systematically racist country that must be fundamentally changed.

Famed African-American Pastor and writer Dr. Voddie Baucham has spoken out for almost two decades of the danger of CRT to Christianity. In earning his PhD from Oxford, he studied CRT as it was rising to prominence at places like Oxford. His warnings about CRT to Christianity were and are prophetic. CRT relies on Christian values to make gains with Christians unaware of the full truth of CRT, and yet is diametrically opposed many of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Christianity teaches love of all men, even enemies, and opposes racism and mistreatment of the poor or disadvantaged. The Bible demands equal treatment of individuals, regardless of race/ethnicity. Christianity teaches repentance for personal sin, including racism. The story of the good Samaritan provides the great example of the importance of colorblindness in race relations, something CRT repudiates. Christianity stresses the importance of the Christian brotherhood over race. Unlike CRT which emphasizes racial group identity first, Christianity teaches the importance of the individual in salvation and repentance. CRT rivals Christian teachings with its own "religious" teachings of racial group guilt and privilege. This includes a mandate of repentance for "group" sins of the past, and yet without the hope of grace or forgiveness. CRT teaches minority Christians to believe that a racist system is responsible for individual sin, of which Christianity requires repentance and then forgiveness from God.

Many American school parents appear to have woken up to the dangers of CRT, and understand it's not about teaching history. It's critically important for Christians to also boldly proclaim that CRT is not what Jesus taught us and has no place in the Church.

What is Marriage All About?



Roger Rollins,
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"Women marry men hoping they will change. Men marry women hoping they will not. So each is inevitably disappointed." - Albert Einstein

"Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." - Bible (Mark 10:9)

Here's what one woman said about her marriage. "I lived with my husband for two years of my own personal turmoil. He completely turned my life upside down. Now we live 4.3 miles apart in separate apartments. We enjoy meals, sleep overs, sex and outings and I get to have a sane life where I can think, rest and create. And yes we are still married. He would love for me to clean up after him and live with his 6 cats. I'm not going to do it. I love him but will not sacrifice myself again."

I ran across a book recently which suggests that we need to redefine what marriage is all about. The proposal is that traditional marriage is just not working any more, and that there are a variety of "marriage" styles to choose from that may be more suitable. We may sympathize with the woman in the opening scenario but there is only one marriage style that meets God's design criteria.

We are all different and when two people join together in a marriage relationship, we bring all those differences into play, and have to learn how to deal with them. In the midst of all these differences we must recognize that God designed us for relationship. Which means, to be connected, first to God and then to one another. Quoting John Donne, "No man is an island,

entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

The challenge in any relationship today is following God's design. If we leave God out of the equation, our definition of a good relationship is one that benefits us the most. God's definition of relationship is radically different. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2:3,4) We are told clearly that in our relationships with others we are to put high value on their interests and needs.

Blogger Sylvia Smith suggests three main points in the Biblical definition of marriage.

- Marriage is Ordained of God. The secular world would have us believe that originally marriage had little to do with love or with religion. Marriage's primary purpose was to bind women to men, and thus guarantee that a man's children were truly his biological heirs. However, the Bible makes it clear that God ordained marriage. In Matthew 19:5-6 it says, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh." In addition, God says, "Marriage should be honored by all..." (Hebrews 13:4)

- Marriage is a Covenant Relationship. The secular world says marriage is a contractual arrangement, containing certain condi-

tions that if not met provide grounds for divorce. God says marriage is a covenant relationship. One way of understanding the difference is through love. In a contractual marriage they agree to love as long as conditions are met. In a covenant marriage the love is unconditional. We agree to love "until death do us part." That doesn't mean there will not be separation, but the reasons and the consequences must be given serious thought and prayer. A covenant marriage relationship is not just two people living together. It involves a spiritual component which invokes God's intervention.

- Marriage is to Help Us Better Ourselves. Marriage is actually good for us. There are lots of health benefits from marriage, but probably the greatest (earthly) benefit is the companionship we have with someone who knows us and yet loves us and wants to be with us. We also have the great opportunity to give of ourselves to someone else. We learn to be less selfish and to care for others more.

The Family & Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689, rogerrollins@gmail.com, <http://www.aikenfamco.com>

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to fairs. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 8 = S)

A. 16 24 4 5 1 8
Clue: Given as rewards

B. 24 4 26 1 8
Clue: Fun modes of transport

C. 9 25 23 1 8
Clue: Form of play or sport

D. 25 26 23 4 8 8 4 13 10
Clue: Allowed entry

Answers: A. prizes B. rides C. games D. admission

The AIR-CONDITIONED OLYMPICS

HOME OFFICE BACK TO HOME STORE CAR

100-DEGREE DASH
HOT, SKIP + JUMP
HURDLES
LONG JUMP

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HILLERCON.COM

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

8	2	3	6	9	1	9	7	4
6	7	7	9	8	2	5	3	1
9	1	5	4	3	7	8	6	2
2	7	9	1	6	8	4	5	3
8	8	6	2	7	4	5	2	9
8	9	1	7	4	3	6	7	8
4	1	3	2	8	7	4	7	9
7	9	8	5	2	3	6	3	8
7	9	8	5	2	3	6	3	8
8	2	7	9	1	3	4	5	6

ANSWER:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70

CLUES ACROSS

- Language group with Iranian influence
- No seats available
- Health insurance organization
- Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- Defunct European economic organization
- Dutch word for "language"
- Hard to penetrate
- When you'll get there
- Iranian city
- Small fishes
- Dry white wine drink
- Turkish city
- U.S.-born people
- Book of Genesis character
- Volcanic craters
- Brand of American automobile (slang)
- Hip hop icon Kool Moe
- Bangladeshi monetary unit
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Family of genes
- Et. indicates further
- Pacific Standard Time
- S. American wood sorrel
- Women's movement
- Chinese hoopster Ming
- Layers of rock
- Patriotic women's group
- Solid water
- Shade of brown
- Very fast airplane
- Put clothes on
- Quality of one's character
- Time zone
- Primates
- Pleasantly
- Metrical feet
- Rogue
- German river
- Relieves from
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Those who resist authority
- Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- Father
- Performed perfectly
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Thin, compact object
- One attempting to find something
- No longer working
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Snakelike fish
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Small drink
- Not wet
- Impudence
- Venezuelan capital
- Free of deceit
- Member of Ancient Hebrew nation
- Competition
- Launch an attack on
- Cavalry sword
- Spiritual leader
- One point east of due south
- Afflicted
- Database management system

SOLUTIONS ACROSS

- DARD
- SRO
- HMO
- ACRID

8. DBMS
9. EEL
10. RABBI
11. SIP
12. DRY
13. SASS

25. PST
26. OCA
27. LIB
28. YAO
29. STRATA
30. DAR
31. ICE
32. TAN
33. SST
34. DRESSED
35. CALIBER
36. CST
37. APES
38. NICELY
39. IAMBIC
40. SCAMP
41. REMS
42. RIDS
43. AAR
44. BIAS
45. ELBA
46. REBS
47. DIS

SOLUTIONS

1. DAD
2. ACED
3. RRNA
4. DISC
5. SEEKER
6. RETIRED
7. OCARINA
8. HARAN
9. VMAARS
10. OLDS
11. DEE
12. TAKA
13. SATI
14. MYC
15. CETERA