

Adult Sunday School: Taking Sides
Class Three: Dealing with Racism
Summary Notes
Sunday March 6th 2022

Review major points from last Sunday

- A. Racism is rooted in sin not in God's design for creation and human society. (Genesis 1-2)
 - a. *"Racism is not a biblical term. However, it could be described as some combination of; ethnic favoritism (either advancing or disadvantaging a person or group based on their skin color, physical features, regional accent or cultural heritage), and a hatred in our hearts toward a person or group of people based on their physical feature, regional accent, or cultural heritage."* –Monique Duson, *Reconciled: A Biblical Approach to Racial Unity*.
- B. Racism exists not only on an individual scale (Genesis 3) but also on a societal scale (Exodus 1)
- C. Racism is fueled by fear.
- D. Racism is contrary to the teaching of Scripture
 - a. Leviticus 19.33-34
 - b. Moses forbid the practice of favoritism under law (Deuteronomy 1.17)
 - c. Jesus explicitly forbids "lording over" which categorically excludes practices of racism within the church. (Matthew 20.25-28)
 - d. The early Church (Acts 6.1-7)
 - i. There was a dispute because Greek speaking widows were being neglected in the food distribution.
 - ii. The Apostles did NOT say
 - 1. I'm sure it was just an isolated incident.
 - 2. It's not really that bad.
 - 3. If you keep pushing this, you will hurt the Church.
 - 4. You are being selfish and should be thankful for any help.
 - 5. We are busy with the Word let's not get distracted with social causes.
 - iii. The Apostles quickly moved to address it.
 - iv. We must resist the tendency to dismiss claims of racism
- E. So how do we address racism?

Our Culture's approach

Somebody tell me, how does our culture address racism? What is Critical Race Theory?

- F. Board One: Two Approaches
 - a. Liberal Approach

- i. Civil Rights Movement / MLK jr.
 - ii. Hinged on material things
 - 1. Access to restaurants, jobs, education, government, voting rights, etc.
 - iii. The problem was a lack of equal opportunity
 - iv. The solution was to raise awareness and seek legal changes.
 - v. Was founded on a belief that all people are inherently created equal and some needed to be lifted up.
 - b. Critical Approach
 - i. Utilizes Postmodern principles
 - ii. Especially relativism – belief that truth is not objective but rather socially constructed.
 - iii. Truth – Dominant group ---Language ----power
- G. What is Critical Theory?
- a. We are often told that CRT is just Marxism. – this is not entirely true.
 - b. CRT borrows from Marxism but is born out of Postmodernism.
 - c. Brief History of Post Modernism
 - i. 1500 – Protestant Reformation / Enlightenment
 - 1. Liberation movements – one religious and one secular
 - ii. 1700 – Judeo/Christian values and enlightenment principles lead to the Constitution.
 - iii. 1800- 1900 Modernity
 - 1. We can solve anything
 - 2. We believed that with faith, science, and good government we could bring about the Kingdom of God on Earth.
 - 3. There was deep trust in our institutions to bring about great things.
 - 4. By the middle of the 20th century we had endured; two world wars, millions dead, economies decimated, poverty and famine, nuclear war, and oppression.
 - 5. This was the seed bed for Postmodernism who said instead of building up we need to tear down the power structures of our societies (deconstruct.)
 - iv. Postmodernism
 - 1. Identify power structures inherent in society and deconstruct them, pull them apart.
 - 2. It was dark and confusing and highly academic.
 - 3. It was a reaction to the failures of Modernity.
 - d. Critical Race Theory will borrow from Marxism but grow within Post modernism.
 - i. Borrow the idea of oppressed and oppressor from Marxism
 - ii. But grow out of the idea that the real task is to deconstruct power structures.

- e. Timeline
 - i. 1950-1970 – Postmodernism - Academic
 - ii. 1970 – 2010 – CRT – becomes Mainstream
 - iii. 2010 – present – Social Justice – becomes activist (political)
- f. Do we see Postmodernism is everyday life?
- g. Illustration: In Bible Study – What does this passage mean to you?
 - i. Postmodernism says there is not meaning only readings and what something means to you is all that matters.
- h. Illustration: In Movies
 - i. Speak your Truth / Be true to yourself.