

A person's silhouette is shown in the foreground, looking up at a vast, colorful night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The sky transitions from a warm orange glow on the left to a cool blue and green on the right. The person is standing on a dark, rocky outcrop.

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

A SERMON SERIES

A Divine Look at the World II

Ephesians 5. 1-16

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But fornication and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is fitting among saints.

⁴ Let there be no filthiness, nor silly talk, nor levity, which are not fitting; but instead let there be thanksgiving.

⁵ Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure man, or one who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words,

for it is because of these things that the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷ Therefore do not associate with them,

⁸ for once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light

⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

¹⁰ and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

¹² For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret;

¹³ but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light.

¹⁴ Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light."

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil.

A person's silhouette is shown in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The galaxy's colors transition from warm orange and yellow on the left to cool blue and green on the right. The person is standing on a dark, rocky ridge.

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

A SERMON SERIES




Kingdom
Living Thus
Far

A citizen of the kingdom of God honors Jesus as King with a faith-commitment demonstrated in dependence, worship and obedience, embraces and applies a kingdom worldview to every aspect of life, thereby bringing the kingdom of God near here, there, everywhere




Today's Big Idea

In our day, in addition to rampant and wholesale secularism the citizen of the kingdom of God must deal with the challenge to a kingdom world view presented by **Critical Thinking** and its offspring, **Critical Race Theory**



Today's Disclaimers

1. I am neither a philosopher nor a philosophical theologian
2. It is impossible to treat the subject at hand in one sermon
3. My purpose is to respond to the challenge given us in Scripture to be aware and wary of the world's falsehoods
4. This is a heavy lift for all of us



The Text

Imperatives

- Let no one deceive you with empty words (v. 6)
- Take no part in unfruitful works of darkness, but instead, expose them (v. 11) was
- Awake, O sleeper... (v. 14)
- Look carefully how you walk for the days are evil (vv. 15,16)



*Critical
Thinking:*

A VERY Short
History

Critical Thinking: A Very Short History

The **critical philosophy movement** has its origins in the philosophy of the German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1802).

Kant believed that the primary task of philosophy is not the attainment or justification of knowledge but rather, the **criticism of all theories of reality**

True enlightenment means breaking free from the guidance of others and utilizing ones own reason

Critical Thinking: A Very Short History

Inspired by and founded upon the social, political and economic theories of Karl Marx (1818-1883) **critical theory** holds that human societies develop through class struggle which frees people from oppression.

In Marx's philosophy the ruling class (bourgeoisie) oppressed the working class (proletariat). Those **oppressed** must revolt in order to be free from the **oppressors** and bring about economic freedom and a classless communist society

Critical Thinking: A Very Short History

In the years between the world wars and in the face of the rise of National Socialism (Nazism), the Nazis regime and state capitalism the Institute for Social Research (Frankfurt School) was founded.

Frankfurt School intellectuals furthered the thinking of Kant, Marx and Engels and by advancing critical thinking ideas to promote
“social emancipation”

Critical Thinking: A Very Short History

Critical Race Theory (CRT) developed in 1970s as legal scholars, activists and lawyers grappled with why the victories of the civil rights era had stalled or eroded

In 1980s protests erupt at Harvard over lack of diversity in curriculum, faculty and student body

CRT moves into education as it critiques the perceived inequities in schooling and explores “intersection” of race, gender, segregation, sexual orientation and achievement



Critical Race Theory: Themes

1. Use of **storytelling** to illuminate lived experiences of racial oppression. Telling “one’s own truth.”
2. **Revisionist interpretation** of history and civil rights progress as merely advancing self-interest of whites
3. Focus on “**intersectionality**” where race, sex, class, national origin, sexual orientation all effect and lead to oppression



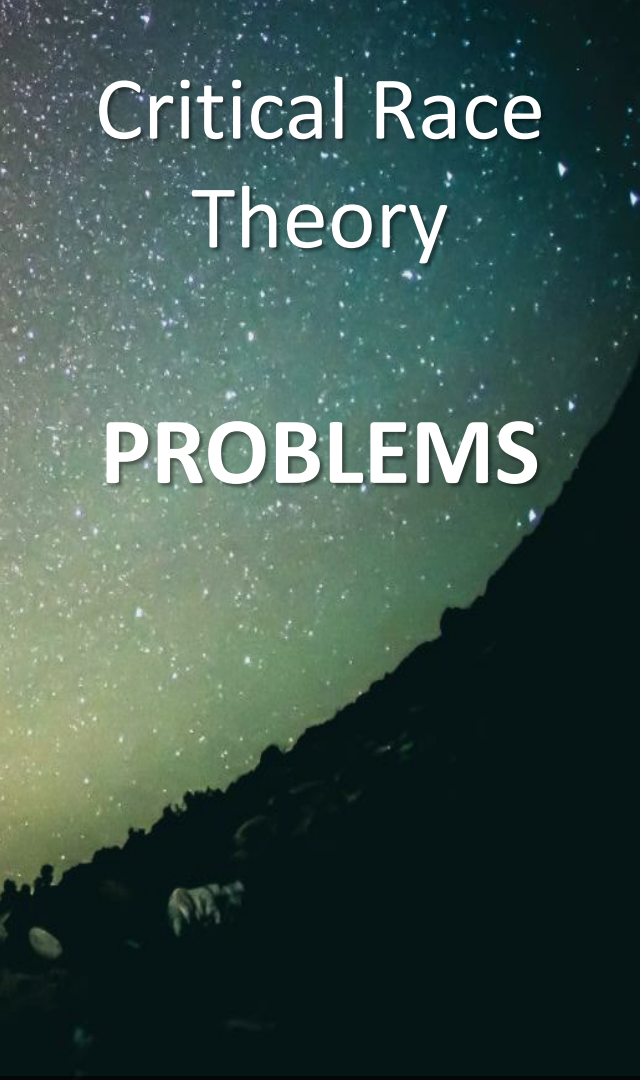
Critical Race Theory: Themes

4. “Standpoint” - a member of a minority has an authority and ability to speak that others do not have because they have not lived the experience
5. What were once viewed as immutable truths are reinterpreted in light of the present “context.” Truth is fungible depending on time and place



Critical Race Theory: Themes

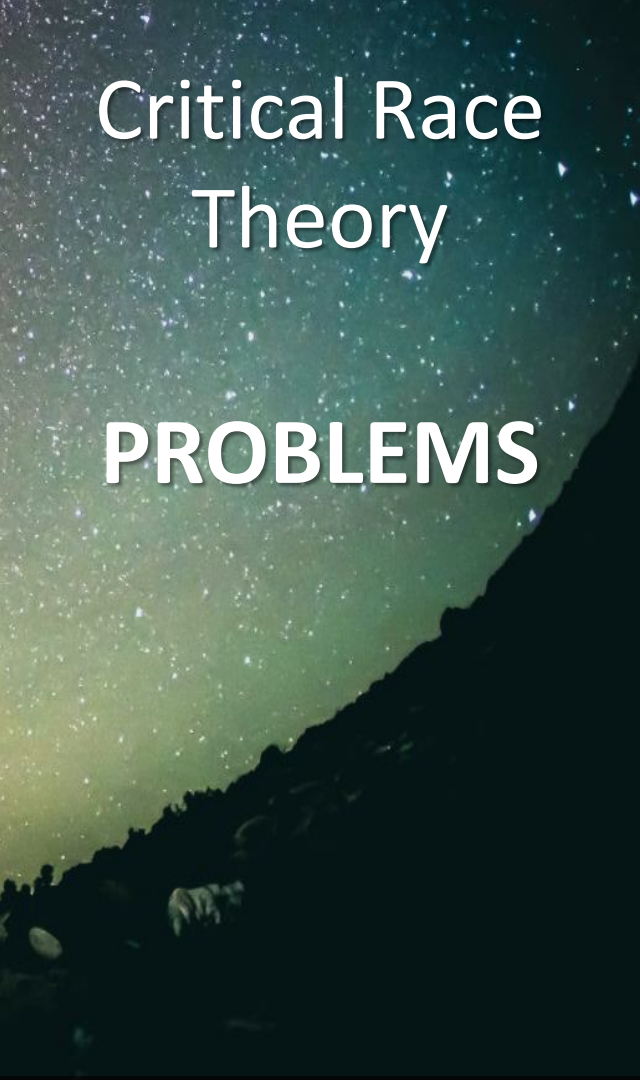
1. Critique/question everything
2. You are oppressed or an oppressor
3. Language has power to oppress
4. History and truth change with context
5. Race, sex, gender, all intersect
6. The oppressor has no moral right/standing to speak
7. The oppressed must push back and take control



Critical Race Theory

PROBLEMS

1. A worldview without God
2. Autonomous man is the measure of all things
3. The individual created in the image of God is lost in group identity
4. A philosophy of words but not the WORD
5. No account given to reality of sin
6. No salvation apart from man's striving



Critical Race Theory

PROBLEMS

7. No provision for individual change just societal change
8. Steeped in self-righteousness
9. One type of power replaced by another
10. No heavenly reality, no eternal kingdom, no hope



How then shall we live?

Kingdom Living in a Crazy World

1. Live in the reality of a transcendent, immanent, sovereign, creator God of mercy, love and grace

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2. Understand that a life without God leads people to think crazy thoughts, do crazy things, promote the crazy

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2. Understand that a life without God leads people to think crazy thoughts, do crazy things, promote the crazy
3. **Embrace the role God has given to His church to be a witness to the kingdom of God. We must stand up and speak up with both courage and grace**

Kingdom Living in a Crazy World

4. Understand that justice, peace and equality for all people accords with the ethics of the kingdom of God and are the proper concerns of kingdom citizens.

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5. **Teach our children about people of other cultures, colors, creeds. Don't make them "projects" but partners. Teach them about the value of all people as created in the image of God. Family involvement with PRISM and Family Guidance is a great start**

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7. **The church must provide viable alternatives in doctrine, lifestyles and social structures to the prevailing godlessness in our society. Be the kingdom of God**

Kingdom Living in a Crazy World

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7. The church must provide viable alternatives in doctrine, lifestyles and social structures to the prevailing godlessness in our society. Be the kingdom of God
8. **Guard your attitude, your speech and your views that are contrary to the norms of the kingdom**

Kingdom Living in a Crazy World

9. Pray

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

9. Pray

10. Kingdom living: it's not a hobby, it's not optional, it's not a part-time job; it's hard, it's relentless and it's the least we can do for our King Who gave up His life so that we could live in His kingdom forever!