

W **o** **K** **E**

injustice

**A Biblical Response to
Critical Race Theory**

Bryan Osborne

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What Other People Are Saying ~

“I am astonished that you are...turning to a different gospel” (Galatians 1:6). The early church faced the same problems we do today—false teaching that morphs the true gospel into a different gospel altogether, a gospel Paul says isn’t a gospel at all! Wokeism and social justice are some of today’s pervasive false teachings that threaten the church. In this book, Bryan has done a skillful job exposing this compromise and returning Christians to the truth and authority of God’s Word.

—Ken Ham

CEO/founder of Answers in Genesis,
Creation Museum, and Ark Encounter

Critical Race Theory and its various companions in the “woke” worldview are taking the West by storm, ushering in a new post-Christian era. Bryan has written a gospel-focused, relevant, and enlightening guidebook for the Christian who wants to maintain “transformed” rather than “conformed” thinking (Rom 12:2) in this new world. This is essential knowledge.

—Martyn Iles

Answers in Genesis Executive CEO

WOKE Injustice

The underlying agenda of Critical Theory has been sealed behind the moat of obscure jargon and flown under the banner of justice. Inquiries at her towers are promptly restrained by pawns armed with cancel culture. This highly guarded social movement compels the use of “newspeak” wherein any nonconformity is an oppressor’s admission. Osborne’s *Woke Injustice* carefully extinguishes the heat and defangs the rhetoric of the debate by exposing the unbiblical and ultimately unjust aims of Social Justice. He proves how Scripture offers the only leveling ground, and justification by faith lived out biblically is the only path to any true justice in our lost world.

— Joe Owens
AiG Latin America Director and Speaker

CRITICAL RACE THEORY
undermines the character of individuals by perpetuating
prejudice and injustice, rather than promoting true equality.

...*“For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the
outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”*
(1 Samuel 16:7)

**Character cannot thrive with injustice;
nor can equality be achieved through prejudice.**

Terms like woke, CRT, social justice, equity, etc. fill headlines spelling doom and gloom for those who don't embrace their supposed reality and live out these new "truths." Sadly, many Christians have bowed the knee, made apologies, and denied the truth of God's Word beginning in Genesis. *Woke Injustice* is a toolbox for Christians to equip them to discern wrong thinking, defend biblical truth, and most importantly speak the truth in love. Bryan unpacks the ideas of the cultural left with clarity and hope pointing to the all-sufficient God and His Word.

—Dr. Georgia Purdom
VP of Educational Content for Answers in Genesis, Speaker, Writer

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Dedication and Acknowledgments

Truly and eternally, all the glory belongs to my Creator, God, Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His kindness, grace, and power are profoundly displayed in the creation of this book. My primary hope is that He is exalted through this work.

Anyone who knows me knows that I call my wife my greatest earthly blessing, because she is! Marla, I love you beyond words and you are the most vivid picture of Christ to me and our children on a daily basis. I could not have a better best friend, spouse, and ministry partner. I cannot thank God enough for the blessings He continually pours into our lives through you.

Once again, my incredible children were at the forefront of my mind as I wrote this book. Ian, you are growing up to be an amazing young man and I could not be prouder that you are my son. Macie, you are remarkably beautiful in every way, and I'm ever so thankful that you will always be daddy's girl. I love you both more than you could ever imagine. It is my greatest hope that both of you know, enjoy, serve, and glorify Jesus! That you will find your identity in the only place where it can be truly found — in Christ.

My wife and children are my greatest earthly blessings, and I cannot imagine this book existing without them. God has used them in such a wonderful way to inspire, direct, teach, mold, and motivate me in life and in the endeavor of this work. I praise You, Lord, for who You are, what You have done, are doing, and will do, and for the blessing of my family. May Jesus Christ be glorified to the uttermost!

Introduction

Why It Matters

What's the big deal about critical race theory — CRT? Why does Answers in Genesis care? Why should Christians (and non-Christians) care about an idea that for so long has seemingly only resounded in the halls of higher academia?

Well, for starters, CRT is a new face on an old idea whose purpose is societal division and destruction. CRT graduated from the college classroom long ago and has spread to every corner of our society. Unfortunately, it's featured in schools, corporations, media, government agencies, politics, and many Christian institutions. It goes by many deceptive names and is propagandized by various lofty sounding phrases. As we'll see later, its presence is not benign, nor is CRT a "helpful analytical tool" as some have called it. It is a malignant cancer, spreading animosity and injustice wherever it is found with devastating effects if left unchecked.

The reason CRT is so pernicious is that its driving ideology is utterly anti-biblical. Consequently, CRT undermines biblical authority, sufficiency of Scripture, biblical anthropology (right understanding of people), and gospel sufficiency. CRT's chief function and goal is to instigate division and to tear down and rebuild under a new authority. If that sounds like a bad thing to bring into the church, that's because it is. Yet somehow, various tenets of the CRT dogma have infiltrated the minds of many Christian leaders, churches, and Christian organizations. This is why this issue should profoundly matter to Christians and why we at Answers in Genesis, a biblical authority ministry, care so much about it. If we desire human flourishing, unity, and real reconciliation, we should care. If we desire for God to be glorified through the right understanding, submission to, and application of His Word, we should care.

On a personal note, once I understood CRT's sinister lies, I realized the immense danger it poses to how people, including Christians, view their identity. I wanted to equip myself, my family, my kids, and the body of Christ wherever I could, with the biblical reality of who we are, that we would be able to distinguish biblical truth from the incessant noise of our cultural voices. That we have the proper understanding of our identity as God's image bearers, that our problem is sin, and the gospel is the answer. This is the identity and reality of every human ever, no matter their skin shade. And it is this revelation of Scripture that the Church must cling to and engage the culture with.

What This Book Is Not

To be clear, this book is not an analysis of the racist evils of America's past. No rational, informed person would argue against the historical realities of the heinous injustices of slavery, segregation, discrimination, Jim Crow laws, etc. Unfortunately, those things really happened. They were entirely evil and anti-biblical (though some professing Christians twisted Scripture like the devil in his temptation of Jesus to justify their unbiblical beliefs).

Answers in Genesis has repeatedly addressed many of these atrocious realities in various resources. As I travel and speak, I often discuss some of these horrors as they typically stem from a secular, evolutionary ideology that equates people to worms. I mean, if people are just animals, then why not abuse, enslave, and discard them for your own benefit? Darwin clearly stated that some humans were more evolved than others.¹ And it's all about survival of the fittest, right? Make no mistake, it was Christians that led the abolition of slavery, and many other injustices, in the west and around the world. They were driven by the biblical reality that every human being is made in God's image and thus has indelible, equal, eternal value.

¹ For example, in his book *The Descent of Man* Darwin said, "At some future period ... the civilized races [light skinned] of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace the savage races [dark skinned] throughout the world." Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man* (Chicago, IL: William Benton in Great Books of the Western World, 1952), p. 336.

Introduction

It also cannot be logically or historically denied that those appalling injustices had multi-generational consequences. And of course, no sane person would argue that racism and injustice have been completely purged from America, or anywhere else in the world. This world is an unjust place because it is filled with unjust sinners like you and me. All these historic realities are no doubt extremely important but are not the focus of this book.

What This Book Is

This book is addressing the question, is CRT the answer? Is it the answer to those historic tragedies, their effects, and the racial reconciliation issues of today? Is it at the very least a “helpful, analytical tool”? Is woke justice actual justice? Spoiler alert: as we shall see, the answer to all these questions is a resounding no! But don’t worry, in the mist of all the cultural distortions and lies, there is a right answer. We’ll see that it comes from the place where all right answers are fundamentally found — the authoritative, transformative, sufficient Word of the living God. It is His Word that leads us to the true justice and unity found solely in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Some may ask why this book when there already exist many good books on this issue? Indeed, there are some superb resources that thoroughly



address the issue of CRT. Incredible, in-depth books like *Fault Lines* by Voddie Baucham, which is a stunning dissection of the social justice movement and its impact on evangelicalism. Or *Christianity and Wokeness* by Owen Strachen, which is a powerful exposé of woke ideology. The “Just Thinking Podcast” featuring Darrell Harrison and Virgil Walker is a phenomenal long-form podcast where each episode is like listening to a carefully researched book. In episode 108 they give a remarkable analysis of CRT. I am indebted to each of these, and others, for helping me to think biblically on this subject and I highly recommend them.

But again, each of those great resources dives deep. Like my previous two books, *Quick Answers to Tough Questions* and *Quick Answers to Social Issues*, the aim of this book is to deliver concise, biblical answers. Clear answers that can be shared with your children, a family member, friend, coworker, neighbor, or a congregation. This is done by boiling CRT down to its core components, taking away its fabricated mystique and removing its undeserved intimidation, then applying the Christian worldview to provide a straightforward understanding and rebuttal of CRT. This arms Christians with the necessary, practical answers to combat the insidious “justice” of *Woke Injustice*.²

2 Broadly, to be “woke” means being awake to the (supposed) reality that society systemically oppresses racial and sexual minorities, causing inequities and injustice as defined by neo-Marxism/CRT. As we’ll see, “woke injustice” often calls what is evil good and good evil; advancing injustice in the name of justice.

Laying the Foundation: Worldviews, Neutrality, and Faith

1

To properly analyze and discuss CRT, it is crucial to lay the proper groundwork. Every ideology comes from a worldview built on a foundational authority. But to understand this and its implications to our examination of CRT we must first define what a worldview is.

In short, a worldview is how we view the world (I know, mind blowing right?). It is a collection of our most basic beliefs about reality. It's literally impossible to function without a worldview. Everyone, whether they realize it or not, admit it or not, like it or not, has a worldview. It's all the things we presume to be true as we engage, interpret, and respond to the world around us. These assumptions, and the culminating worldview, are assumed before looking at the world, and become the lens through which all of reality is understood.

To use a classic illustration, if someone has “blue tinted worldview glasses” then everything in the world will look blue to them. If they have “red tinted worldview glasses” then it all appears to be red. It's not that everything is necessarily all blue or all red. Quite the opposite could be true. Rather, that is how it appears and is interpreted by the viewer because of the tint of his lens based on the assumptions that comprise his worldview.

This is why two people can look at the exact same facts and reach such drastically different conclusions. As a ministry that deals directly with the origins debate, we see this all the time. A scientist with an evolutionary worldview will look at the fossil record and conclude billions of years of death and change, transforming primordial soup into all of life's diversity. Another scientist, with a consistent biblical worldview, will interpret the same fossil record as amazing evidence for the global Flood that occurred

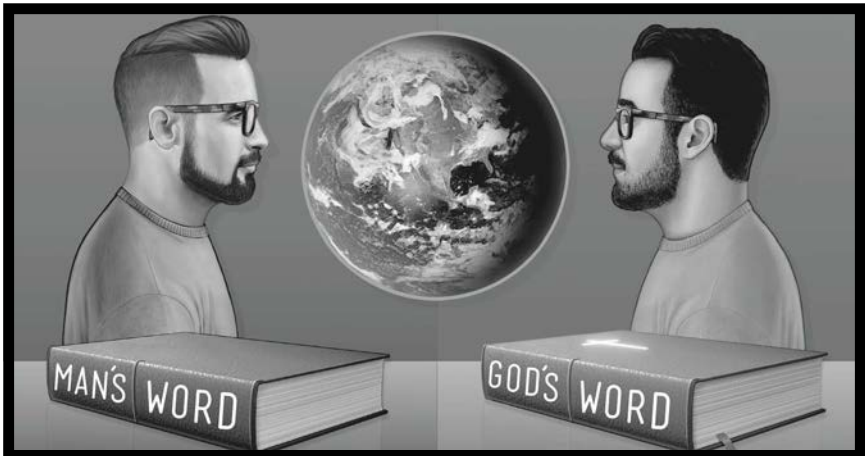
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roughly 4,400 years ago. Same evidence. Two extremely different interpretations. Why? Different worldviews.

The exact same thing is true for all of today's social issues. Different people can look at the same issues of gender, sexuality, racism, justice, racial reconciliation, etc. and get radically different conclusions. Why? You guessed it — different worldviews.

Here's the key: What's ultimately happening is a battle over authority because every worldview is built on, and sustained by, a foundational authority. And friends, fundamentally there are only two authorities to choose from: God's or man's. On any and every issue, either God's Word is your authority or man's word is. Do you put your faith in the contradictory ideas of finite, sinful, broken people? Or do you trust the revelation of the living God who is eternal, infinite, all-knowing, all-powerful, unchanging, perfect, always loving, always truthful, always good, and always just? It is solely from one of these two foundations that every individual must construct their thinking and worldview.

Also understand, when someone rejects God's Word, they're left with man's arbitrary ideas from which they must choose to create their own worldview. Thus, the individual becomes the ultimate authority defining truth for himself, becoming his own god. Trust God or *"you will be like god,"* a lie as old as Genesis 3 (Genesis 3:5).



Laying the Foundation: Worldviews, Neutrality, and Faith

That being said, all worldviews are not created equal. Connecting back to our earlier illustration, this is not a battle between equally valid but differently “tinted” worldviews. Every worldview built on man’s word is utterly corrupted by sin, which blurs and skews the adherent’s view of reality. A biblical worldview built from God’s Word is much more than “tinted glasses”; it is corrective lenses.

Ever since I can remember I’ve been awfully near-sighted but wasn’t diagnosed and prescribed glasses until I was around 10. Before then, the whole world beyond seven feet away was a literal blur. I just assumed that was normal and that’s how it looked to everyone else. I would frequently misinterpret things or miss them altogether because my vision was so poor. Then I got glasses, and everything changed. For the first time I saw the world around me as it really was! I could see individual leaves in trees, the teacher’s writing on the board, people’s facial expressions that communicate so much but that I had largely remained oblivious to. My broken vision distorted my view of the world, and I needed corrective lenses.

That is what God’s Word does for us. Each person is born with a spiritual sight problem called sin. It is the truth of Scripture and a biblical worldview, empowered by the Holy Spirit, which act as corrective lenses, bringing the world into clarity, repairing our sin-cursed vision to rightly see and respond to reality.

But if someone rejects God’s Word, starting with wrong assumptions rooted in the warped vision of man’s ideas, they will likely get the wrong conclusions. This is why so many seemingly intelligent people can be so wrong about issues ranging from sexuality, racism, justice, or the age of the earth. Wrong foundation, wrong worldview, wrong interpretations, wrong conclusions.

And don’t fall for today’s ever so popular lie that you should be neutral. It cannot be overstated — neutrality does not exist. Every worldview not resting on the rock of God’s eternally perfect Word is resting on the shifting sand of man’s fallible, finite ideas. Everyone makes a choice, whether they realize it or not, to submit and live according to one of these

foundational authorities. Scripture says, “*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God*” (Romans 8:7) and “*friendship with the world is enmity [hostility] with God?*” (James 4:4). In Matthew 12:30 Jesus declared, “*Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.*” Scripture is crystal clear — no one can be neutral. Neutrality is biblically impossible. So, to claim someone can be neutral, is to say the Bible is wrong, which is to be anti-biblical and therefore not neutral.

Here are a couple of things to remember when someone asks you to be neutral: **1. they’re not** and **2. you can’t be**. Nor should you pretend to be. It must be recognized that every contested issue boils down to a battle of authority between the Word of God and the word of man. And if a Christian, in the name of “neutrality,” agrees the Bible isn’t needed for truth on any issue, he’s just conceded that man’s word is supreme. By doing that, he’s lost the argument at the foundational level before it ever got started. All of today’s societal disputes, including CRT and “social justice,” are actually “authority battles,” and you cannot defend biblical authority by abandoning biblical authority! *Rather, Christians are to unashamedly hold fast to God’s Word (2 Timothy 2:24–25), taking every thought captive to obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5), always being prepared to give a defense with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15), using Scripture to exhort and rebuke those who contradict, in the hope that people will get saved (Titus 1:9)!*



Laying the Foundation: Worldviews, Neutrality, and Faith

Now the secularists will argue, “You’ve got faith, but we’ve got facts.” But they’re wrong on two counts. First, we’ve all got the same facts — facts that must be interpreted with a worldview. Second, the unbeliever has faith too. Do not miss this — everyone has faith! The question is where do you put it? Again, there are only two options. Either you put your faith in God’s Word or, if you reject that, by default you’re putting your faith in man’s word.

Faith placed in man’s arbitrary, finite word, which assumes no God (or no consistently revealed God), leads to many absurd beliefs. For example, you essentially must believe everything came from nothing, order naturally came from chaos, information came from inanimate matter, and life came from non-life — all of which violates multiple, well-established laws of science. Also consider, if there is no God, how does one explain the existence of non-tangible realities like logic, knowledge, truth, justice, absolute morality, or natural laws? If evolution is true and everything changes over time, why don’t the laws of nature and logic randomly change? If there is no God and no moral absolutes, what is justice and why should anyone care about it?

Man’s ideas are limited, broken, contradictory, and incapable of self-consistently explaining all the facets of reality both material and immaterial. As a result, faith placed in man’s ideas is an irrational blind faith. Whereas the biblical faith is a rational, cogent faith.

Only the biblical worldview can self-consistently explain all of reality. It can explain the beauty in creation and the intricacies of design as the work of our all-powerful, wise Creator (Genesis 1–2). The brokenness and pain of this world is explained by man’s fall into sin and the rightful resulting consequences warned of by the just Judge (Genesis 3). Scripture explains why we long for something beyond this world (Ecclesiastes 3:11), and what God has done to make all things new (Revelation 21:5).

The Bible alone provides a coherent reason for the existence of universal, unchanging, immaterial things, like the laws of logic, laws of nature, and absolute morality. Things that cannot be seen, tasted, or touched but are

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unequivocally real and necessary to function in this world. These things come from, and are sustained by, our eternal, unchanging, omnipresent God who is Spirit and is not limited by His creations of time, space, and matter. Why do humans intuitively know and use these immaterial realities? Why do humans innately desire justice? Because we are made in the Creator's image. The One who made and upholds all of reality for our good and His glory. The bottom line is, although everyone has faith, only the Christian faith self-consistently makes sense of everything.

Now, with the proper foundation laid, we're ready to dive into CRT. As we do, the two primary questions are these:

1. Does CRT come from the foundation of **God's Word** or man's?
2. Will Christians trust that God and His Word are **sufficient** for all of life, godliness, and equipping believers for every good work (2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)?