

What COVID-19, Black Lives Matter, and 'Woke' America is Revealing About the Church

Responding to Racism – Discerning Problems; Determining Solutions

3 presuppositions:

1) _____.

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

- Psalm 19:7-9

Therefore ...

2) _____.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations ...

- Romans 1:1-5

Therefore ...

3) _____.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- 2 Cor 5:16-20

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ...

- Philippians 3:20

Therefore ...

Some definitions:

Identity Politics is an approach to politics based on one's group identity (the primary actor through which we view the political landscape is not the individual or the party or even the whole nation, but the group). In today's political landscape that basically means one's ethnic group, gender group, gender-identity group, sexual orientation group, religious group.

It comes with a basic worldview which measures life in terms of power generally and the division of groups between oppressor and oppressed specifically. All your decisions, everything you do, is either an act of privilege or a being-imposed-upon – not that you are necessarily conscious of these things.

It views life and truth as socially constructed. The primary political activity of oppressed groups is consciousness-raising and collective action. Things don't have intrinsic meaning or significance or value. They only have the meaning and value groups of humans give to it.

In other words, identity politics is where a post-religion, post-philosophy, post-truth, postmodern world goes to find its source of belief and morality. God is dead; capital-T Truth is, too. Which means, there is scarcely a common humanity to speak of, and there are no morally impermissible groups. Yet of course we still need something to believe, some moral standards to guide our lives. Where do we get them? From our group. Our groups give us meaning, purpose, value, a code.

Finally, the primary political activity of oppressed groups must be consciousness-raising and collective action. So people need to recognize a group in all its dignity and significance. They need their consciousnesses to be raised. They need to be "woke." And that can only happen when the privileged groups—straight white men—stop talking and start listening, and oppressed groups are allowed to not just speak but to define the terms of the conversation. Part of this "speech" includes re-telling history in a way that offers the perspective of oppressed groups. Then, second, collective action needs to follow. Insofar as racial or sexist hierarchies determines who get the best job, best doctors, best schools, best party invitations, those hierarchies need to be recognized and dismantled. Reparations need to be made.

Critical theory (a subset of identity politics) views reality through the lens of power. Each individual is seen either as oppressed or as an oppressor, depending on their race, class, gender, sexuality, and a number of other categories. 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.

Intersectionality is the concept that subjectivity (i.e., that which influences, informs, and biases people's judgments about truth or reality) is formed by mutually interlocking and reinforcing categories of race, gender, class, health, and sexuality.

A serious problem:

Each of the above concepts function, at best, as a _____ and at worst as a _____. (They attempt to answer our most basic questions: Who are we? What is our fundamental problem? What is the solution to that problem? What is our primary moral duty? How should we live?)

These worldviews/religions run contrary to the Bible and Christianity. We acknowledge real problems, but we must seek Biblical solutions.

9 responses:

1) We have to practice _____ must before we attempt _____ . (Matthew 7:3-5, Daniel 9:1-19)

COLLECTIVE and INDIVIDUAL ...

2) We need to ask God to _____ so that we will rightly _____ and then do _____ that display that repentance. (Psalm 139:23-24, Matthew 3:8, Acts 26:20)

3) We need to be _____ and willing to _____ to what our brothers and sisters in Christ are telling us. Their honest words will help us. (Mark 12:31, Galatians 6:2)

4) We must reject _____ solutions to racism like Critical Race Theory and Identity Politics as _____, _____, _____, and ultimately _____.

5) We must realize that strictly _____ solutions to racism are _____, often _____, and sometimes even _____.

6) Regarding Black Lives Matter: AS Al Mohler states, we should "affirm the _____, not the _____."

7) We have to recognize that racism, like every other _____, is a _____ problem that requires a _____ solution. (Mark 1:15-17)

The Kingdom of God is here.

Repent.

Believe the Gospel.

Follow me.

8) We must demonstrate _____ of God here and now.
(2 Cor. 5:17-21)

9) Do _____, and to love _____, and walk _____ with God.
(Micah 6:8)