

A Biblical View of Prejudice

Ecclesiastes 7:29—"Behold, I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices."

Historical Realities

- Whites have committed atrocities against blacks.
 - Consider the trans-Atlantic slave trade, which shipped 10,000,000 Africans to the New World, not counting the nearly 1,800,000 who died enroute:¹
 - Caribbean—5,100,000
 - Brazil—3,520,000
 - Latin America—650,000
 - North America—366,000
 - European countries facilitated the black slave trade, especially the nations of Portugal, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Spain, and Denmark.
- Blacks have committed atrocities against blacks.
 - African rulers enslaved fellow Africans before the trans-Atlantic slave-trade.²
 - There were 3,000 black slave owners in the United States before the Civil War.³
- Muslims have committed atrocities against blacks.
 - It has been estimated that between 11,500,000 and 14,000,000 black slaves have been sold in the Muslim world.
 - "Mansa Musa was the African ruler of the Mali Empire in the 14th century. When Mansa Musa, a Muslim, took a pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324 he reportedly brought a procession of 60,000 men and 12,000 slaves."⁴
- Muslims have committed atrocities against whites.
 - Muslim pirates raided European coastlands as well as their ships in the Mediterranean and Atlantic in the 1500 and 1600's, stealing perhaps 1,250,000

¹<https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/database#tables>.

² "Slavery was prevalent in many West and Central African societies before and during the trans-Atlantic slave trade. When diverse African empires, small to medium-sized nations, or kinship groups came into conflict for various political and economic reasons, individuals from one African group regularly enslaved captives from another group because they viewed them as outsiders. The rulers of these slaveholding societies could then exert power over these captives as prisoners of war for labor needs, to expand their kinship group or nation, influence and disseminate spiritual beliefs, or potentially to trade for economic gain."

<https://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/africanpassageslowcountryadapt/introductionatlanticworld/slaverybeforetrade>. For a fascinating testimonial written by a descendant of a black slave trader of Nigeria, see <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/personal-history/my-great-grandfather-the-nigerian-slave-trader>.

³ Statistic cited by the David Horowitz Freedom Center.

⁴<https://ldhi.library.cofc.edu/exhibits/show/africanpassageslowcountryadapt/introductionatlanticworld/slaverybeforetrade>.

white Europeans and taking them to northern Africa (the Barbary Coast) as slaves.⁵

- Whites have committed atrocities against First Nations.
 - Sadly, in the United States and Canada, some whites treated the natives despicably.
 - USA President Andrew Jackson’s relocation of the Eastern Woodlands natives (such as Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole) to Oklahoma is one example among too many. 100,000 were moved, 15,000 dying along the way. No wonder it was named “The Trail of Tears.”
- First Nations have committed atrocities against First Nations.
 - “Despite the myth that Aboriginals lived in happy harmony before the arrival of Europeans, war was central to the way of life of many First Nation cultures. Indeed, war was a persistent reality in all regions....”⁶
 - In the United States, the Cree and the Anishinaabe pushed the Lakota west, into conflict with the Cheyenne. The Lakota overpowered the Cheyenne and assumed their territory in the Black Hills. The Cheyenne had previously defeated the Kiowa.
 - “Among most Indian groups east of Mississippi River on the eve of European contact—including the Iroquois and Cherokee—warfare served both social-psychological and demographic functions. Indians waged war against one another to help members of their group cope with the grief experienced at the loss of a loved one or to avenge the death of a relative. Known as ‘mourning wars,’ these conflicts were intended to acquire captives who would in turn either be ceremonially tortured to death or adopted into the group. Although men had responsibility for waging war and conducting the raids for captives, women often decided to initiate wars and typically chose between killing and adopting captives.”⁷
 - History professor Jeff Fynn-Paul explains that ownership of lands among First Nations was perpetually changing before the Europeans arrived: “In North America, most Natives were primitive farmers. This means that (with some exceptions) they had no permanent settlements: they farmed in an area for a few decades until the soil got tired, before moving on to greener pastures where the hunting was better and the lands more fertile. This meant that tribes were in constant conflict with other tribes. It also meant that chiefs were continually vying for power, creating confederations under themselves, and that the question of who owned the land was in a more or less constant state of flux. In

⁵ <https://news.osu.edu/when-europeans-were-slaves--research-suggests-white-slavery-was-much-more-common-than-previously-believed/>.

⁶ <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/popular-books/aboriginal-people-canadian-military/warfare-pre-columbian-north-america.html>.

⁷ <https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/acref/9780195071986.001.0001/acref-9780195071986-e-0618>.

most of North America, the idea that any one piece of land belonged to any one tribe, for more than 50 or 100 years, is therefore highly questionable. In short, if you looked at a map of Native Canada 200 years before Europeans arrived, it would have been entirely different.”⁸

- Whites have committed atrocities against whites.
 - White slaves were not unknown in the United States during the colonial period. Historians Michael Walsh and Don Jordan assert that over 300,000 whites from England, Scotland, and Ireland were shipped to the New World during the 1600 and 1700’s as indentured servants and slaves.⁹

Historian David Eltis rightly notes that “almost all peoples have been both slaves and slaveholders at some point in their histories.”¹⁰

Usually, some in the majority, no matter their skin colour, have abused the minorities. I’m not at all suggesting, “It’s okay because everyone has done it” or “What blacks faced in colonial America was not as bad as what whites faced.” What I’m asserting is twofold—first, prejudice is sinful in all its manifestations and two, prejudice invariably reveals the human condition—mankind is disposed towards abusing others. Human nature is depraved in a fallen world, without exception. Christians should fight this inclination and treat our fellow man with love. Sadly, throughout human history, some who have claimed the name of Christ have not. Do we treat all image-bearers with love?

What is the solution to prejudice? One popular option is Critical Race Theory.

Critical Race Theory

Derek Bell, the late professor at Harvard, is credited as the father of Critical Race Theory (which I will often abbreviate CRT). What catalyzed the development of CRT? One proponent of CRT explains CRT’s origins: “...critical race theory sprang up with the realization that the civil rights movement of the 1960s had stalled and needed new approaches to deal with the complex relationship among race, racism, and American law.”¹¹

In essence, the Critical Legal Studies of the 1970’s birthed Critical Race Theory in the 1980’s. But it also was influenced by radical feminism: “Critical race theory builds on the insights of two previous movements, critical legal studies and radical feminism, to both of which it owes a large debt. It also draws from certain European philosophers and theorists, such as Antonio Gramsci,

⁸ <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-myth-of-the-stolen-country/>.

⁹ Michael Walsh and Don Jordan, *White Cargo: The Forgotten History of Britain’s White Slaves in America* (New York: New York University Press, 2008).

¹⁰ David Eltis, *The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

¹¹ Richard Delgado, ed., *The Derrick Bell Reader* (New York: NYU Press, 2005), 468.

Michel Foucault, and Jacques Derrida.”¹² Interestingly, Gramsci is considered the father of cultural Marxism.¹³ And Marxism is pervasive in CRT philosophy. Karl Marx, the brainchild of Marxism, in a poem that he composed, perhaps reveals the supernatural source of his diabolical ideas:

“...the hellish vapors that rise and fill the brain,
Till I go mad and my heart is utterly changed.
See this sword? The Prince of Darkness sold to me.
For me he beats the time and gives the signs.
Ever more boldly I play the dance of death.”¹⁴

What is the connection between CRT and Marxism? Christian writer, Darrell Harrison (who is black), explains: “Critical race theory leverages Marxist dialectical language in order to advance the proposition that *racism*—and remember that in critical race theory racism is a social construct—is fundamentally the fault of capitalism, which, in critical race theory, is also a social construct. Accordingly, capitalism can be replaced with a more egalitarian system that is grounded in cultural Marxism, so that the ‘oppressed’ and ‘marginalized’ classes—and those classes are intersectional, not merely racial—become the new oppressor class and, consequently, white people become the new oppressed class.”¹⁵

Harrison also observes that “critical race theory views capitalism as the enemy of the oppressed, particularly of black people, and therefore must be replaced with a more intersectional and egalitarian system. And since only white people benefit from capitalism, and predominately at the expense of black people—an idea which in critical race theory is known as zero sum—then, they, too, must be removed from their positions of power and privilege.”¹⁶

Harrison believes CRT is seeking radical societal transformation: “Contrary to popular narrative and opinion, critical race theory is not merely a new way to view history....it seeks to replace Western-Judeo-Christian society with an altogether new society...”¹⁷ Harrison is right. Even CRT supporters Delgado and Stefancic readily acknowledge CRT’s goal of transforming society: “Unlike some academic disciplines, critical race theory contains an activist dimension. It tries not only to understand our social situation but to change it, setting out not only to ascertain how society organizes itself along racial lines and hierarchies but to transform them.”¹⁸

¹² Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*, 3rd ed. (New York: New York University Press, 2017), 5.

¹³ Chris Calton, “What Is Cultural Marxism?” <https://mises.org/wire/what-cultural-marxism>.

¹⁴ Paul Kengor, *The Devil and Karl Marx: Communism’s Long March of Death, Deception, and Infiltration* (Gastonia: TAN Books, 2020).

¹⁵ Darrell Harrison, “Race to the End: The Marxist Eschatology of Critical Race Theory,” ch. 6 in *Right Thinking for a Culture in Chaos*, eds. John MacArthur and Nathan Busenitz (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2023), 97.

¹⁶ Darrell Harrison, <https://g3min.org/library-resources/the-marxist-eschatology-of-critical-race-theory/>.

¹⁷ Harrison, “Race to the End,” 91.

¹⁸ Delgado and Stefancic, *Critical Race Theory*, 17-18.

Michael Harriot represents the standard progressive view of the day regarding prejudice: “Everyone knew that slavery was evil. Everyone knew that Jim Crow was evil. Everyone knew that lynching was evil. Everyone knows that any kind of injustice or inequality is evil. These things persist because most white people don’t actively fight to eradicate them. And most white people don’t actively fight to eradicate inequality and injustice because they usually benefit in some small way. The Southern economy was built on evil slavery. Jim Crow laws maintained a national order with white people firmly planted atop the social hierarchy. Systematic injustice keeps black people in their place, but it also comforts white people to know that the big black bogeymen are being kept behind bars.”¹⁹

Yet CRT unwittingly (?) promotes the very thing it purports to fight—prejudice. Harrison is correct when he says that “critical race theory is simply cultural Marxism by another name. It is an unbiblical ideology that is rooted in hatred and vindictiveness, and that pits image-bearers of God against one another under the false pretense of justice and equality.”²⁰

The word woke is commonplace now. What does it mean? “The ‘unwoke’ are considered socially asleep—unaware or indifferent to racial injustice in society and the church.”²¹ In reality, if you an ethnic majority, unless you promote CRT, you will be considered by many as unwoke and racist.

Whites have both the prejudice and the power, according to CRT. Theologian and pastor, Carl Hargrove (who is a black man himself) explains the irony of CRT: “Even the innocent person who has never shown any degree of *oppression* or *microaggression* against a minority is considered to be a racist because he or she is in the white majority. This is clearly an example of bigotry from a movement that claims to fight an honorable fight against it.”²²

Hargrove continues: “I will never forget being told by a professor that people of color could not be racist because we did not have the power to oppress....[however] the power to oppress others is not a prerequisite for racism because partiality and prejudice are matters of the heart.”²³

To conclude, Critical Race Theory is not the solution to prejudice; thus, as believers, we’ll need to look elsewhere. The “elsewhere” is the Bible. It provides another option, one that gets to the heart of prejudice.

¹⁹ Michael Harriot, “White People are Cowards.” <https://www.theroot.com/white-people-are-cowards-1826958780>.

²⁰ Harrison, “Race to the End,” 100.

²¹ Carl Hargrove, “The Word and Wokeness: Christians and Critical Race Theory,” ch. 5 in *Right Thinking for a Culture in Chaos*, eds. John MacArthur and Nathan Busenitz (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2023), 75.

²² Hargrove, footnote 8, 254.

²³ Hargrove, 75-76.

Foundational Biblical Truth

- 1) We are all image-bearers of God.
 - James 3:9-10—"With [our tongues] we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way."
- 2) We are all descendants of one man.
 - Acts 17:25b-26a—"...He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things; and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth...."
- 3) We are all brothers within the church.
 - Galatians 3:28—"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."