

Unite

Part 3 – Three Teams Part B

PRAYER

Week 3 | Three Teams Part B

THE ENEMY'S PLAN IS DIVISION (*especially* the church)

- when we stand together we are unstoppable
- when we are divided we are weak

If you are listening it is because you have a heart to learn and I want to do my best to explore what is happening in our culture right now:

- not talking to extremes
- to those who want to listen and those that want to learn

ILL. 3 Football Teams

- Two teams for 3.5 hours at perpetual warfare
- Two opposing sides that will not quit and will not slow up
- A Third team -
 - on the field but not of the field
 - Operate according to a book of authority from another place
 - easy to spot, they don't wear the jersey of *either* team
 - greatly outnumbered (52 players each team, coaches/staff, fans)
 - not popular with large groups of people based on a given call
 - not there to be popular, there to represent the authority of another place
- When the refs:
 - know the book of authority
 - are faithful to the rules instead of the teams or the fans
 - are concerned with fidelity to the book over popularity
 - stay collected and understand their role
 - operate in their delegated authority
 - THEN they make the right calls and it allows the inevitable conflict between two sides to advance without spiraling into absolute chaos

2 Cornithians 10:3-5

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every

pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Jesus PRAYED FOR US to LOVE ONE ANOTHER

- NOT just so we would get along
- **SO THAT THE WORLD WILL SEE SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL**

**Not wearing either team's jersey is not *compromising* the mission
it is the mission**

God's people are the Third Team

- not wearing either jersey
- Operating under a Book of Authority
- The Bible - Jesus

To be the third team we have to understand what is dividing us
A type of thinking called **Critical Theory**.

IDENTIFYING THE RIGHT PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

- If we get the **problem wrong** we also get the **solutions wrong**.

ILL. Michael Ramsden - Does your Mother know you are stupid?

- The **foundational premise** creates an **inability** to come up with a good answer
 - Yes she does - "I'm stupid"
 - No she doesn't - "I'm stupid"

Foundational Worldview? - Christianity or Critical Theory

- Worldview is the framework you use to engage the world: to understand, live, decide and act.

A prevailing worldview underneath culture right now:

- Not serving anyone well.
- A Worldview Creating DIVISION in the CHURCH - giving us a premise where there are no real solutions for anyone: black, brown, yellow, white, conservative, liberal...

Critical Theory/Critical Race Theory

What is it in a sentence?

- It is like trying to define science in a sentence
- “Contemporary critical theory divides society into oppressed groups and oppressor groups [and frames reality as their struggle for power]...

Week 1:

Origin & Definitions

Key Aspects

Places of **Overlap** with Biblical Worldview - (why it's attractive)

Week 2:

Places of **Conflict** - negatives (why it's a non-solution)

How CRT impacts a view of Biblical morality

Why it is good for all people to understand CRT

Where do we go next?

1. Places of Conflict with Christianity (why CRT is a non-solution)

- A. It offers a different view of our humanity and our primary identity
- B. It offers a different view of what's wrong with the world
- C. It offers a different view of salvation/solution

2. Why Critical Theory is at odds with Christianity in America (society)

- It positions Biblical Morality as an oppressor.
 - If Biblical Morality is an oppressor/source of injustice it is not to be disagreed with but to be “torn down”, “put away” scrubbed from the earth - AND - the tool used for this is the state/government.

3. Why understanding CRT is good for ALL parties

- W - examine reality without fear of compromising Christianity
- W - examine reality without moving into shame.
- POC - see that the Gospel offers better tools to get where we need to go in reforming systems, policies and hearts.
 - identify issues
 - help solve problems
 - help ALL people
 - Not replicate oppression

- **POC - move out of bitterness, anger and pain into forgiveness and healing.**
 - Jesus was the most “wronged” human being in history and prayed “father forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing”. And the Father met Him with POWER to do it and brought salvation to the entire human race THROUGH the injustice.

4. So what do we do next?

- **Commitment to God, Self Awareness, Humility & Repentance**
- **Be a Third Team on the Field**
 - i.) Understand that other worldviews will try to pull us apart at the seams
 - ii.) Educate ourselves
 - iii.) Honor all people, not all ideas
 - iv.) Have conversations about what the actual problems are (IDS)
- **Covenant together with Kingdom first identities**
 - i.) Referees
 - ii.) You are the salt of the earth
 - iii.) Rev. 7 - Secondary identities in tact
 - Revelation 7: 9a, 10b - After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb... and they cried out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”
 - i.) Keep a Kingdom First Identity
- **Fight against injustice, and care for others as defined by the Bible in your sphere of influence, knowledge & authority**
 - i.) Lead Self
 - ii.) Lead Family
 - iii.) Lead Church
 - iv.) Lead in Workplace/Classroom
- **People to work on our Education system (impacted by economics)**
 - i.) equality of opportunity not outcome
 - ii.) equality of opportunity needs to account for starting places and missing support structures
- **People to work on our justice, police and prison systems**
 - i.) Defund or Reinforce vs. Reform
 - ii.) Good police need to police bad police
 - (1) understand what the rules are
 - (2) understand where the lines are
 - (3) accountability & support
 - iii.) community programs “up the river” before crime

- **People to work on retaining the ideals of human value, freedom of speech & freedom of religion found in the United States foundations**
 - i.)
- **Housing Inequality?**
 - i.) **DANGER:** The government begins legislating treatment of people based on group identity (the very issue we are trying to work our way out of). Asking the Government to “get this right” and giving them power to do so is putting more trust in the government than I am comfortable with. This needs to be a part of the discussion.
 - ii.) Make sure legislation creates equal opportunity.
 - iii.) Make sure we don’t legislate racism.
- **Live as brothers and sisters**
 - i.) concrete - the way you say hi to people different than you
 - ii.) The way you listen
 - iii.) Be healers of the breach

Isaiah 58:9-12

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, 10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. 11 The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. 12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

**We don’t fight each other
We fight for each other**