

## Introduction

- Marxism. Socialism. Social justice. Critical theory. Intersectionality. Capitalism. Racism. Black Lives Matter. ANTIFA. These are some of the most pressing cultural issues facing Americans today.
- My goal is to help you understand many of these terms and how they are surprisingly tied together.

## Hook

- What's going on in our country today?
  - Why are cities burning?
  - Why is there talk of socialism and marxism here in America?
  - Why is there so much division and anger and enmity?
  - Why is America in a cold war with itself in what some commentators are calling a "cold civil war"?"

## Marxism & Critical Theory

- I want to begin my talk today by discussing Marxism and Critical Theory.
  - That seems like a strange place to start a discussion on cultural issues ... does't it?
    - By show of hands, who can explain to us Critical Theory? Who is familiar enough with CT that they could explain it to the rest of us?
    - How about Marxism? How many of us are familiar with Marxist ideology.
- Critical Theory is a philosophy and worldview that assess and then critiques a society from a Marxist perspective.
  - The reason it assess and critiques a society is to expose - what it believes to be - corrupt power structures.
- Critical Theory is the driving force behind much of the unrest and division that you see taking place today in our country.
  - Critical Theory is an ideology that is behind much of the current social justice movement that is so prevalent in America.
  - Critical Theory is an ideology behind the BLM movement that has exploded onto the scene in recent years and especially the past several months.
  - Critical Theory is an ideology behind ANTIFA.
  - And Critical Theory is also an ideology behind the current socialist movement found in American politics.
- Critical theory originated with the Frankfurt School in Germany in 1923 with the goal of developing Marxist studies in Germany.
  - Karl Marx of course is the German philosopher and social revolutionary. His most well-known work is entitled, *The Communist Manifesto*.

- Karl Marx was an anti-capitalist and sought to replace capitalism with communism, understanding capitalism to be an enslaver and oppressor.
  - Max Horkheimer, a sociologist at the Frankfurt School described a theory as critical so long as it seeks to “liberate human beings from the circumstances that enslave them.”
- After 1933, the Nazis forced the closure of the Frankfurt School, and it was moved to the United States where it found hospitality at Columbia University in New York City.
- Marxism is a worldview that understands the basic evil in the world to be the oppression of the worker by those who hold capital (financial assets). Marxism sees capitalism as oppression of the worker by the rich individual or individuals who own the company, the warehouse, the equipment, etc.
  - [explain]
- Therefore the oppressed must revolt against their rich and powerful oppressors who possess most of the capital. Marxism seeks to eliminate free markets and would instead put the state in the position of creating an economically just society where everyone is equal and lives in a communist utopia (you know, like North Korea)
  - According to Marxism, there are two ways to overthrow capitalism.
  - One way is by a revolution, where the oppressed rise up against the oppressor and ultimately seek to establish a communist state where everything is shared equally.
  - The other way is through socialism. This is a political takeover of capitalism. This uses the means of socialist politicians within a government to slowly bring a capitalist government into socialism and then ultimately into a communist state.
    - By the way, Karl Marx used socialism and communism interchangeably, though today there are certainly some distinctions between the two ideologies.
- Capitalism and Marxism/socialism/communism have been at war with each other for approximately 150 years.
  - And I’m not just referring to the Cold War between the United States and the USSR that took place from 1947 to 1991.
  - Capitalism and Communism are two ideologies that have been trying to overthrow one another since Karl Marx helped originate the communist system (Marx died in 1883 at 64 years old).
- Listen to me now, Critical Theory has been a very strategic weapon used by the Marxist/ socialists/communist against American capitalism.
  - And as we are seeing that it is proving to be a very effective weapon here in our lifetime.
  - Critical Theory moved into many of our elite colleges and universities as early as 90 years ago and has been influencing some of America’s top thinkers, who then became influential threads in the fabric of America.
    - I can still remember reading an article...

- To be sure, the academic influence of Critical Theory is far reaching in our colleges and universities now 90 years later.
- This is why you are currently witnessing American culture becoming more and more saturated with Critical Theory and Marxist thinking, even perhaps seeing the beginning of a literal revolution taking place in some American cities, even as some politicians are coming out of the woodwork and admitting their socialist agendas.
- So much so that this year, Bernie Sanders, a self-described “democratic socialist” almost became the democratic presidential nominee even though he isn’t even a registered democrat. He’s an independent.

Now as we move on to our next topic, what I need you to keep in mind is that Critical Theory views reality through the lens of power, dividing people into oppressed groups on one side, and oppressor groups on the other side.

- Traditional Marxism tends to limit this oppression to the worker as he or she is oppressed by the rich owner of the company.
  - Critical Theory expands this to include anyone who they feel is being oppressed by an oppressor.
- Which leads us to our next subject, which is directly linked to Marxism and Critical Theory...

#### Intersectionality

- Intersectionality flows out of Critical Theory and lays the groundwork for the current social justice movement for not only blacks, but for the LGBTQ+ community.
- Intersectionality is a term first coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, a full time professor at UCLA school of Law and Columbia Law School in New York City where she specializes in race and gender issues (and yes that is the same Columbia as mentioned earlier).
  - When you google Kimberlé Crenshaw’s name, her profile that pops up on the side of the screen notes that she is known for Intersectionality and Critical Race Theory.
- And Critical Race Theory is Critical Theory (that we just learned about) applied to race and other social categories that are oppressed (as we are about to see).
- Intersectionality (oxford dictionary): The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage;
- Intersectionality is a framework for conceptualizing a person by a number of discriminations and disadvantages. It takes into account people’s overlapping identities and experiences in order to understand the complexity of prejudices they face.
- In other words, intersectionality asserts that people are often disadvantaged by multiple sources of oppression including:
  - Race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality and religion.

- Intersectionality recognizes that identity markers do not exist independently of each other, and that each informs the others, often creating a complex convergence of oppression.
- Practically speaking, what does this mean and how does it work itself out?
  - If you are a white, middle to upperclass, straight, Christian male - you are the worst form of oppressor and you must be stopped and your power taken from you.
  - It does not matter if you are a good man. It doesn't matter if you've never had a racist thought in your life. It doesn't matter if you give a large percentage of your income to the poor. You are a part of the worst oppressive group and you must be stopped.
- If you fall outside of these categories then you may then fall into the category of someone who is oppressed. And depending on how many categories you fall outside of, you may be very oppressed.
  - If you are a white cisgendered woman, you are oppressed, but not very oppressed.
  - If you are a black cisgendered man, you are oppressed and more than a white cisgendered woman.
  - If you are a black cisgendered woman you are oppressed, much more than a white cisgendered woman and more than a black cisgendered man.
    - And on and on it goes.
  - If you are a poor, black, lesbian or trans or queer or nonbinary, non-christian, immigrant living in America then you are part of one of the greatest oppressed people groups in our country.
  - According to Critical Theory, if you are on this oppressed scale, then you must rise up against your oppressors and take their power away from them or you are part of the problem.
    - If you remain neutral, you are part of the problem.
- So here's the big picture: Marxism led to Critical Theory. And Critical Theory led to Intersectionality.
  - And these three things: Marxism, Critical Theory, and Intersectionality are working themselves into the fabric of America through two significant movements today:
    - BLM and ANTIFA
- And we will talk more about BLM and ANTIFA here in a little bit but first we need to talk more about Critical Theory as it is applied to **race** (Critical Race Theory) and about Intersectionality.
- A Harvard Law School professor named Derek Bell is one of the originators of CRT (again - that's CT applied to race).
  - He argued back in the 1970s that the fundamental problem in society is white supremacy.
  - Whereas, Karl Marx spoke mostly of economic oppression, Derek Bell blamed white supremacy, which he argued is embedded throughout all of western civilization including our government institutions and laws.

- And like a traditional Marxist, Derek Bell and other Critical Race Theorists argue for a revolutionary approach in which they are calling for a complete transformation of western society.
  - This is why a person can, according to their thinking, justifiably burn down and loot and ransack a city and tear down statues.
  - These are revolutionary tactics that give the oppressed an opportunity to express their anger towards their oppressors.
    - According to this worldview, looting and rioting and burning down buildings and violence towards the police are all justifiable actions according to their revolution.
    - By the way, this is also why they act out even against Mayors and Governors who “support” their “protests” - according to Critical Race Theory, the mayors and governors are a part of the oppressive, capitalist, white supremacy system - they are oppressors too.
- So, Harvard Law School professor Derek Bell is credited as one of the originators of Critical Race Theory (CT applied to race).
  - It is also important to note that Harvard Law School is where Kimberlé Crenshaw developed INTERSECTIONALITY.
- By the way, guess who else attended Harvard Law School while Derek Bell was a professor (originator of CRT)?
  - As a matter of fact, this person is recorded in a video in 1990 introducing and praising Derek Bell before he spoke at a protest by Harvard Law students over the lack of diversity in the school’s faculty.
  - He’s on video stating, and I quote “Open your hearts and your minds to the words of professor Derek Bell.”
  - Do you know who I’m taking about? President Barak Obama.
- Friends, Marxism, Critical Theory, Critical Race Theory, and Intersectionality are real and present cultural issues that are highly prevalent in our society today.
- Which brings us to the BLM movement.

### Black Lives Matter Movement

- Do black lives matter to God? Do black lives matter to Christians? Of course they do. Do black lives matter to you? They certainly ought to.
- Those three words when connected in a normal English sentence are absolutely and profoundly true.
  - We are talking about human beings made in the image of God.
  - Of course black lives matter.
  - And there is nothing wrong with that statement. In fact, it’s a good statement when taken at face value, much like saying that “all lives matter” or “police lives matter” or “unborn babies lives matter.”

- Al Mohler put it this way on his podcast called The Briefing: “It is right for Christians always to affirm that we believe that every single human being at every point of development, under every condition and of every race and ethnicity and language, past present and future is a creature made in the image of God, an image bearer, a human being that possesses full human dignity and needs to be recognized as having by divine right full human rights. That is a very important issue.”
- Christianity should have no problem with the sentence, “Black lives matter.”
- But as we are about to see, Black lives matter is no longer just a sentence in American culture, it’s a movement.
- And what biblical Christianity DOES have a problem with is not the sentence, but the movement, the “Black lives matter movement.”
  - And I’d like to take the next few minutes to show you why biblical Christianity has a problem with it.
- The movement known as Black Lives Matter emerged in the year 2013. It was organized by three African American women.
  - Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi .
  - In a 2015 interview, Patrisse Cullors said that she and her fellow organizers of BLM are “trained marxists.”
    - She says in the video, “The first thing, I think, is that we actually do have an ideological frame. Myself and Alicia in particular are trained organizers . . . We are trained Marxists. We are super-versed on, sort of, ideological theories. And I think that what we really tried to do is build a movement that could be utilized by many, many black folk.”
- In 2014 the BLM movement really began to gain traction following the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.
  - Both of them died in confrontations with police. The protest that followed began to use the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter.
- Now, as you consider Black Lives Matter in 2014 and fast forward over the course of the last six or seven years, the reality is that it has become a rather well-defined political movement.
- And in light of the past 6 months or so, especially with the immense racial tensions the US is feeling, it is especially important now more than ever that we familiarize ourselves with the tenants of the BLM movement.
  - A movement that we are exposed to on a very regular basis.
- If you were to go to the BLM website today you would find a link to a page entitled, “What We Believe”

- And while there are things in their belief statement that we probably wouldn't take issue with, there are others things stated in their belief statement that we take major issues with.
- For example:
  - “We are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status, or location.”
  - We make space for transgender brothers and sisters to participate and lead.
  - We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence.
  - We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.
  - We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise).
- Friends, can you hear the critical race theory/intersectionality bleeding through their belief statement?
- It's not an accident that there is also tied to the BLM movement an open rejection of capitalism in favor of marxist ideals.
  - I've already mentioned that two of it's three originators are self-described “trained marxists.”
  - But it's also important to recognize that the movement that was begun in 2013 as the Black Lives Matter network joined with other similar groups later to establish the “Movement for Black Lives.”
  - When the Movement for Black Lives was organized, it declared itself to be the continuation of the argument of Black Lives Matter.
- The Movement for Black Lives put out a larger document known as “A Vision for Black Lives.” This document is a tab on the main Page of their website.
- Here are some excerpts from that document.
  - “While this platform is focused on domestic policies we know that patriarchy, exploitative capitalism, militarism, and white supremacy know no borders. We stand in solidarity with our international family against the ravages of global capitalism and anti-black racism, human-made climate change, war and exploitation. We also stand with descendants of African people all over the world in an ongoing call and struggle for reparations for the historic and ongoing harms of colonialism and slavery.”
  - Under the section on reparations we read: “Reparations for the systemic denial of access to high quality educational opportunities in the form of full and free access for all black people, including undocumented and currently and formerly incarcerated people to lifetime

education, including free access and open admissions to public community colleges and universities, technical education, technology, trade, and agricultural, educational support programs, retroactive forgiveness of student loans and support for lifetime learning programs.”

- Clearly, by their own admission, the Movement for Black Lives is against capitalism and for Marxist ideology.
  - As a side note, “the vision for black lives” also calls for exoneration for any black person put into jail for drugs or prostitution and reparations be paid to anyone has been to jail or who is currently in jail because of drugs or prostitution and that we immediately end the war on drugs.
- Church, as Christians we are called to evaluate everything by God’s Word in Scripture and by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And with such evaluation I can heartily affirm that black lives matter.
  - But those three words right now, black lives matter, is no longer just a sentence in our society. It is a movement. It is a platform. It is a plan of salvation. And it turns out, as we have just seen, that the BLM movement includes several points that are antithetical to biblical Christianity.
- We have to see the BLM movement as disastrous for our culture and nothing less than an attack on the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom.
- Let’s talk a moment about ANTIFA

#### ANTIFA

- According to wikipedia, Antifa is an anti-fascist political movement in the United States comprising an array of autonomous groups that aim to achieve their objectives through the use of nonviolent and violent direct action rather than through policy reform ...
  - It is important to note that ANTIFA views capitalism as a form of fascism. This is central to the movement]
  - Individuals involved in ANTIFA tend to hold anti-authoritarian, anti-capitalist, anti-fascist and anti-state views, subscribing to a range of left wing ideologies such as anarchism, communism, Marxism ... and socialism.
  - Both the name ANTIFA and its logo with the two flags are derived from the German Antifa movement, which was began by the Stalinist Communist Party of Germany.
    - The two flags on the ANTIFA logo represent Anarchy and Socialism - the two pathways (according to Carl Marx) to communism.

#### So What?

- So what are we to do?
  1. Humbly acknowledge where they are right
    - Is there oppression in America? yes.



- Is there racism, even systemic racism in America? Yes.
- Are there entire groups of people living in America who are oppressed? Yes.
- Is there such a thing as White privilege in America? Yes.
- Does sexism exist? Yes.
- Has the church done a good job of loving and evangelizing and ministering to the LGBTQ+ community? No.
- Should Christians be okay with these things? Absolutely not.
  - Christians, we need to humbly acknowledge that these things exist and work towards overcoming injustices in our society.

2. Fast and Pray

3. Remember that we are at war...

- Ephesians 6:10–13 <sup>10</sup> *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.* <sup>11</sup> *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.* <sup>12</sup> *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* <sup>13</sup> *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

4. Trust the Lord

- Psalm 118:6–7 <sup>6</sup> *The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?* <sup>7</sup> *The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.*

5. Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness

- Matt 6:33

6. Stay informed on what is happening in our society

- Get informed by good resources...

7. Get engaged in local politics (school board, city counsel, etc...)

8. Vote

- Senate race...

9. Engage in Christ like dialogue (GG)

10. Get ready for persecution

- Safe speech vs free speech