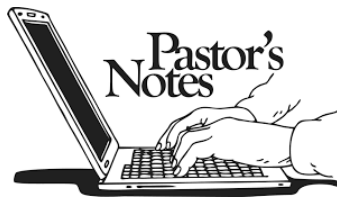


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Critical Race Theory

There has been a lot of media talk about the founding of this great country. We just celebrated Independence Day (July 4th) like we have all our lives. Most people celebrated while not thinking of any controversy over the founding of this country. I haven't been asked as of yet what I personally think of the CRT controversy, but I'm sure someone someday will ask. So I've been gathering some information and thinking about what I would say.

You might think that it's of little importance because there is always some controversy going around. They seem to come and go all the time. But this is of greater importance than some as it is in many states being taught in the public schools. Many national teaching organizations have vowed to get the new curriculum nationwide. Some in federal government seem to be on board with this curriculum and want to make it the law of the land. Some want to take this belief a step further to include reverse discrimination to make up for past racism. Part of this teaching also effects how the beginning of this nation is viewed, as it has been proposed that the nation was started to retain slavery as a practice.

Parents in many states have complained to their local school board and law suits are in process over this issue. Some states have made laws barring the new curriculum from being taught in their state. It would seem our children's and grandchildren's view of themselves, this nation and its founding are at stake. The questions to be answered are: Why was this nation founded in the first place? Are its systems and processes racist? How should each individual American view themselves?

CRT divides everyone into two categories, Oppressor and Victim. Some of the people pushing this have backed away a bit when they found out the average parent was against teaching this to their children. What they said at first is what they really believe and what they will be pushing for in the schools and in government.

The curriculum is called: **Critical Race Theory** and it is an academic concept where the core idea is that race is a social construct, and that racism is not just the product of individual bias or prejudice, but is something embedded in the legal systems and policies of the United States. Supporter Khiara Bridges (americanbar.org/publications) outlines two key tenets of CRT:

- Acknowledgement that racism is a normal feature of society and is embedded within systems and institutions, like the legal system, that replicate racial inequality. This dismisses the idea that racist incidents are aberrations (*deviating from what is normal or desirable*) but instead are manifestations of structural and systemic racism.
- Rejection of popular understandings about racism, such as arguments that confine racism to a few "bad apples." CRT recognizes that racism is codified in law, embedded in structures, and woven into public policy. CRT rejects claims of meritocracy or "colorblindness."

These views get complicated as there are several authors who add some of their own ideas on the subject. Basically the people who propose these views want major (socialist) changes to our government and school instruction. They also want race to become a greater issue than it has been recently when it seemed that for the first time (in my life time) most races were getting along better in this country. Some even propose instituting special taxes and reverse segregation in the nation.

A civil war was fought which ended slavery laws in this nation. One of the saddest places I have visited in my life was an old Civil War cemetery in Tennessee. Just seeing hundreds of graves and knowing they died horrible deaths. I'm sure someone will say the war doesn't matter because there was discrimination later. Roughly 2% of the population, an estimated 620,000 men, lost their lives in the line of duty during the Civil War. (<https://www.battlefields.org>) All those dead and wounded would cry out if they could and say, "Yes it matters". It was the beginning of something that would see our nation join together as Americans and not race. Now some want to reverse the gains and go back to race as the standard by which people are judged.

The truth is God does not ever distinguish between races in the Bible. If you think about it all races came from the same parents (Adam & Eve) anyway. God always deals with the individual; we as individuals will one day stand before God. We people have the tendency to place individuals into groups, and judge them according to the group we have placed them in. God is not going to look on judgement day at what group you belonged to on this earth. It will be us, the individual that will be looked at. Jesus said: **John 7:24** *"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment"*. It is we the individual who will stand before God. **2Corinthians 5:10** *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad"*.

The Gospel of Christ must be received personally; the Gospel does not separate us out into different groups. There is not one Gospel for one group and another for some other group. There is no social gospel just the Gospel of Christ. **Romans 1:16** *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."* The Jewish people were the first to have the Gospel preached to them, then the gentiles which were called Greeks. The same Gospel was preached to both (all) peoples.

One of the controversies concerns reverse discrimination being practiced to atone for past discrimination. This is basically a "let's get them back" mentality. A few teachers have separated their classes into races and are having some of the students stand before class and apologize for the sins of their forefathers. Some colleges have separated their graduates into different races for graduation ceremonies. It has been suggested that promotions be based upon race and not merit or the hard work of the individual. One problem with this way of looking at society is it will never end. Someone will always come up with something to punish another group or individual for and thus discriminate.

The Bible speaks about forgiveness. A world without forgiveness will become one giant battleground. We see signs of that today. If you think about it unforgiveness is one basis for persecution and slavery. It will lead to bitterness in each individual and bitterness will never be satisfied. **Ephesians 4:31-32** *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour (outcry or quarreling), and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice (intention to do evil): 32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

Jesus said even to love our enemies:

Matthew 5:43-46 *"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans (leaders) the same?"*

Matthew 6:15 *"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

Christ even forgave those who placed Him on that cross.

Luke 23:33-34 *"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. 34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."*

What a different country this would be we could see another great revival of the things of God. Faith in Christ is the real cure for the ills that have befallen us and not just another government program. "In God We Trust" it says on our dollar, we need to live that fact.- GE

